

Youth in Out-of-Home Care Project

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If you or someone you know
needs help, call toll free:

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Lambda Legal's Youth in Out-of-Home Care Project works to affirm and uphold the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and gender-nonconforming (LGBTQ+) youth in child welfare, juvenile justice, and homeless systems of care. We also fight discriminatory laws and policies that seek to bar qualified LGBTQ+ adults from becoming foster and adoptive parents. We partner with attorneys, judges, advocates, social workers, case managers, lawmakers, and youth themselves to ensure that care systems provide safe, competent, and affirming services to all who access them.

What We Do

- Litigate and advocate on behalf of LGBTQ+ youth in care to ensure that they receive accepting and affirming services from those charged with upholding their safety
- Partner with organizations like the Child Welfare League of America to improve services to LGBTQ+ youth in out-of-home care
- Increase training of adults who work with LGBTQ+ youth in care systems
- Connect supportive child welfare professionals and advocates to build momentum for change
- Move public and private agencies toward full recognition and competence in meeting the needs of LGBTQ+ youth in out-of-home care
- Monitor and influence public policy that affects the rights of LGBTQ+ youth in out-of-home care or LGBTQ+ prospective foster or adoptive parents at the state and national levels
- Fight legislation that seeks to allow private child welfare agencies receiving adoptive parents based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.



LGBTQ+ youth and youth living with HIV in child welfare, juvenile justice, and homeless systems have rights:

- to be safe from harassment
- to be free from discrimination because they are LGBTQ+ or living with HIV
- to have people accept them for who they are, not try to change them
- to have adults stick up for them
- to be treated like everyone else