



All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Are you an LGBT teen?

Do you have questions about how the law protects you?

Here is some information about your rights.

Home

I came out to my parents and got kicked out.

You can get help from DCF.
(Department of Children and Families)

If you are under 18 and on your own because you got kicked out or because of abuse or neglect, call DCF for help at 1-800-842-2288. You can call any time, day or night.

DCF can help even if you are undocumented.
They will not call Immigration.
(ICE, immigration enforcement)

I am moving around a lot and don't have a permanent place to live.

To learn about your rights, check our brochure called "Moving Around." Go to speakupteens.org and click on the tab that says "Helpful Resources." Scroll down the page to the heading that says "Homeless? Couch Surfing?"

This brochure is intended as reference only and should not be interpreted as legal advice. If you need specific information about the law, please call 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719.

School

People at school call me names or threaten me.

This is bullying. The law says the school must protect you.

If bullying affects you at school, the school has to protect you even if it happens off school grounds. They also must protect you from bullying through texting, Facebook or other online media.

Teachers must submit a written report if they know about bullying, and the school must invite the parents or guardians of the students involved to at least one meeting.

There are also things you can do:

- Report bullying to a school employee anonymously and the school has to investigate.
- Ask for a copy of the school policy on bullying so you know how they should protect you.
- Have your parent or guardian file a written report with the school and the school must investigate.

If the school does not investigate your report, here are some things your parent or guardian can do:

- Call the State Department of Education
- File a complaint with the local school board, the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, or the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights

Websites and phone numbers are on the back of this brochure.

A teacher, coach or principal is discriminating against me because of my sexual orientation or gender identity.

Schools have to protect LGBT students from harassment and discrimination in the same way they protect all other students.

If you report being bullied at school, you cannot be told that you caused this by being LGBT or dressing in a way that matches your gender expression.

If you think you are discriminated against because you are LGBT you can:

- File a complaint with the school's Title IX coordinator (ask who this is)
- File a complaint with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, or the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights
- Bring a lawsuit in state or federal court

Call us if you need help with this.

I am not allowed to use the girl's bathroom even though my gender expression is female.

Access and privacy in public facilities, like bathrooms and locker rooms at school, is an area where the law is changing. Call us if you need an advocate to help you with this.

Foster Care

My foster parents say it is wrong to be LGBT.

DCF has to make sure LGBT youth are treated fairly and equally. DCF and foster parents must be sensitive and helpful.

Call your lawyer, the DCF Ombudsman (1-866-637-4737) or our office if you think you are discriminated against because of your sexual orientation or gender expression.



Detention

I am undergoing gender transformation and I am afraid I will not be able to express my identified gender in detention.

Juvenile detention cannot discriminate against LGBT youth. This includes gender expression.

You cannot be isolated from other youth because of gender expression, but the detention facility may assign you a single room if you or the staff believes there is a threat to your safety. Juveniles in detention usually shower alone.

Talk to your lawyer or call our office if you are discriminated against because of your sexual orientation or gender identity.

Check our book called "Legal Rights in Detention" at kidscounsel.org/detentionrights.



Need Help?

If you are bullied or discriminated against because of your sexual orientation or gender expression, there are laws to protect you.

Call us at 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719

Important information

Center for Children's Advocacy
speakupteens.org

State Department of Education (information on bullying)
sde.ct.gov and type "bullying" into the search box

Gay Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) glsen.org

True Colors ourtruecolors.org

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders glad.org

Lambda Legal Education & Defense Fund lambdalegal.org

To file a Discrimination Complaint

Commission on Human Rights & Opportunities ct.gov/chro

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights
ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html

Center for Children's Advocacy
speakupteens.org and kidscounsel.org

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LGBT
Teens

What are my rights?