



# LGBTQ+ YOUTH YOU HAVE RIGHTS

In Foster Care? A Group Home?  
Getting DCF Services?  
You have the right to be treated  
with care and respect and to be  
affirmed for who you are.

Have Questions or Need Help?  
Office of the Child Advocate | 617-979-8360  
GLAD ANSWERS | 800-455-GLAD | [gladanswers.org](http://gladanswers.org)

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## **SAFETY & RESPECT**

You have the right to be protected from discrimination, bullying, harassment, violence or threat of violence by staff or other youth.

## **SELF-IDENTIFICATION**

You have the right to say who you are, and to have your identity - including your LGBTQ identity - respected.

## **NAMES & PRONOUNS**

You have a right to be referred to by your expressed name and pronouns.

## **SAFE & AFFIRMING PLACEMENT**

You have a right to placements - foster homes, group homes and residential settings - that are safe and affirming.

## **CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES**

You have a right to wear and possess clothing, accessories, hair styling, personal items, and other means of expression consistent with your identity.

## **FACILITIES**

You have the right to use restrooms, changing facilities or other gender-differentiated facilities consistent with your gender identity.

## **RESOURCES**

You have the right to access LGBTQ-affirming resources in your school and community, including social support groups, books and other materials. Each area office has an LGBTQ liaison who can be a resource.

## **CULTURALLY COMPETENT CARE**

You have a right to access and be provided culturally competent case management and medical and mental health care that are affirming of your identity.