



# Maine Juvenile Justice Resources

*In general, you can call 211 on your phone. Maine 211 can connect you to resources throughout Maine, including resources like food and clothing banks, transportation, shelters, financial and rent assistance, household goods and utility assistance. You can text them your zip code at 898-211 for resources in your area. They are available 24-7 in many languages, and services are confidential.*

## FOR HELP WITH FOOD

Food pantry search database:  
<https://www.foodpantries.org/st/maine>

If you type in your address, you will get resources near where you are. e.g. in Portland,  
[https://www.foodpantries.org/address\\_geo.php](https://www.foodpantries.org/address_geo.php)

Maine Emergency Food Assistance Search Database  
[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ard/tefap/countys\\_ea.html](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ard/tefap/countys_ea.html)  
The information provided is organized by county.

Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine  
<https://www.gsfb.org/get-help/> Main Warehouse & Administrative Offices 3121 Hotel Road Auburn, ME 04210 Phone: (207) 782-3554

## SHELTER INFORMATION

If you are leaving an unsafe home or foster home and there is no place for you to sleep or get support, please visit one of these three youth-serving shelters in Maine. They are all knowledgeable about LGBTQ youth and have various services that can help:

Portland:  
Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter  
38 Preble Street Portland, ME 04101  
207-775-0026  
<https://www.preblestreet.org/what-we-do/teen-services/joe-kreisler-teen-shelter/>

Lewiston:  
New Beginnings  
134 College St. (gen. office) 491 Maine St. (youth shelter) Lewiston, ME 04240  
(207) 795-4070 (both offices)  
[www.newbeginmaine.org](http://www.newbeginmaine.org)

Bangor:  
Shaw House  
136 Union Street Bangor, ME 04402  
(207)-941-2874  
Toll free: 1-866-561-SHAW (7429)

Rumford/Norway:  
Rumford Group Homes  
<https://www.rumfordgrouphomes.org/>  
201 Knox Street Rumford, Me 04276  
(207) 364-3551  
Shelter services available for ages 18 and up.

Coming April 2019 for teen drop-in and overnight:

Rockland:

The Landing Place Homehelp.org/the-landing-place (207) 593-8151

Even if you cannot travel to one of these three shelters, you have the right to access any shelter services free of discrimination and harassment. This includes the right to access shelter restrooms, showers, dormitories, and other facilities consistent with your gender identity, to be referred to by names and pronouns consistent with your gender identity, and to express yourself by wearing gender-affirming clothing.

## DID YOU KNOW?

It is not illegal to run away, and you cannot be arrested, fingerprinted, or put in jail only for running away.

A shelter will call your parents to tell them where you are unless you request otherwise. You must submit your request in writing, and you can only ask for this on your first three nights.

In Maine, there is no crime of "harboring a minor"

If you are in danger of being hurt, a shelter will call the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) instead of your parents. If DHHS believes that you would be harmed at home, or if you don't agree to go home, DHHS may obtain temporary custody and find a safe place for you to live

For more information, please visit [www.kidslegal.org/running-away-youre-not-alone](http://www.kidslegal.org/running-away-youre-not-alone)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR LGBTQ YOUTH IN MAINE

Portland Outright  
[portlandoutright@gmail.com](mailto:portlandoutright@gmail.com)  
(207) 558-2429  
56 North Street, Suite 100 Portland, ME 04101  
<https://portlandoutright.com/>

Outright Lewiston/Auburn  
[info@outrightla.org](mailto:info@outrightla.org)  
Mailing Address: 134 College Street,  
Lewiston ME 04243  
Drop-In Address: 169 Pleasant Street,  
Auburn ME 04210 <http://www.outrightla.org/>

OUT Maine  
P.O. Box 1723 Rockland, ME 04841  
(800) 530-6997  
<https://outmaine.org/>

Equality Maine  
207-761-3732  
[info@equalitymaine.org](mailto:info@equalitymaine.org)

GLSEN Southern Maine PO Box 10334  
Portland, Maine 04104  
207-619-1417  
[glsensomaine@gmail.com](mailto:glsensomaine@gmail.com)

Maine TransNet  
511 Congress Street Portland, ME 04101  
207-370-0359  
[info@mainetransnet.org](mailto:info@mainetransnet.org)

Trans Student Educational Resources  
<http://www.transstudent.org/sites/TSER@transstudent.org>

Trans Youth Equality Foundation  
P.O. Box 7441 Portland, ME 04112-7441  
<http://www.transyouthequality.org/contact@transyouthequality.org>  
(207)-478-4087

For a full list of resources for youth in Maine, visit:  
[www.glad.org/maine-youth-resources/](http://www.glad.org/maine-youth-resources/)

As always, if you need legal information or resources, contact GLAD Answers, our legal info line, at:  
[www.GLADAnswers.org](http://www.GLADAnswers.org) / 800.455.GLAD.

## NON-LGBTQ RESOURCES IN MAINE

Maine Inside Out  
[maineinsideout@gmail.com](mailto:maineinsideout@gmail.com)  
P.O. Box 15168 Portland, ME 04112  
<http://www.maineinsideout.org/>

Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition  
<http://www.maineprisoneradvocacy.org/>  
PO Box 534 Cumberland Center, ME 04021  
[maineprisoneradvocacy@yahoo.com](mailto:maineprisoneradvocacy@yahoo.com)

ACLU of Maine  
121 Middle Street Portland, ME 04101  
[minfo@mclu.org](mailto:minfo@mclu.org)  
(207) 774-5444  
<http://www.aclumaine.org/>

Kids Legal  
P.O. Box 547 Portland, ME 04112  
(207) 774-8246 or 1-866-624-7787 (toll free)  
<https://kidslegal.org/>

Pine Tree Legal  
P.O. Box 547 Portland, ME 04112  
(207) 774-4753  
<https://www.ptla.org/contact-us>

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
489 Congress Street, 3rd Floor PO Box  
17917 Portland, Maine 04112  
Phone – (207) 780-1593  
Fax – (207) 699-2313  
Toll Free Helpline – (800) 497-8505  
[minfo@ilapmaine.org](mailto:minfo@ilapmaine.org) (cannot answer legal questions by email)  
<http://www.ilapmaine.org/>  
(207)-478-4087

Disability Rights Maine  
160 Capitol Street, Suite 4 Augusta, ME  
04330  
(800) 452-1948  
[advocate@drme.org](mailto:advocate@drme.org)  
<https://drme.org/>

Health Equity Alliance  
<https://www.mainehealthequity.org/>  
[info@mainehealthequity.org](mailto:info@mainehealthequity.org)  
304 Hancock Street, Suite 3B Bangor, ME  
04401  
207.990.3626  
25A Pine Street Ellsworth, ME 04605  
207.667.3506  
7 VIP Drive Machias, ME 04654  
207.255.5849

Consumers for Affordable Health Care  
<http://www.maine cahc.org/>  
1-800-965-7476  
(Information on how to sign up for MaineCare, free care clinics, etc.)

## CHANGE OF LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP AND EMANCIPATION

For youth under 16:

If you are under 16 and need someone to support the decisions that are best for you, you may be able to petition for a new legal guardian. Check out these resources for more information on how guardianship works and who to contact for help.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance –  
<https://ptla.org/>

Guide to guardianship process (including forms) - <https://ptla.org/guardianship-minor>

Youth 14 and older have some voice in the proceedings in that they are asked to indicate their consent to a guardianship...

Depending on the circumstances, the youth may also file in court a sworn statement (declaration) about harm caused by the parent(s).

A guardian can enroll the youth in school and make medical decisions, and generally provides for the child's welfare. However, legally (if not always practically), the parent(s) remain financially responsible for the child.

Most county courts have the necessary guardianship forms online and the court "register" – a clerk – may assist those who come into court for help.

For Guardianship forms, see:  
<http://maineprobate.net/downloadforms.html>

For youth ages 16 and older:

The emancipation process makes the youth into an adult for many legal purposes, such as being able to sign a rental contract for an apartment, hire a lawyer, and obtain medical care.

A youth who is 16 years of age or older, and who refuses to live with a parent or guardian, may file a petition for emancipation in the District Court where the parents or guardian live. To prevail, they must prove:

- they possess adequate maturity for decision making;
- have a plan to take care of their basic needs, e.g. where they will live, how they will support themselves, their educational plans; (note: there is no parental child support if the petition is granted)
- it is in their best interests for the emancipation to be granted.

The youth will be appointed an attorney for the proceeding. As with guardianship, the petition may be unopposed or the parents may oppose and argue you should not be emancipated from them.

One of the biggest difficulties with emancipation involves proof that the youth can care for themselves. And given the amount of discrimination against transgender youth in particular, this presents a real bind. If you cannot get emancipated and are under 18, you may still petition for a new guardian for yourself.

A youth may file a petition for guardianship on their own in the county probate court where they live or are present. Someone else (like the relative) may file to obtain guardianship over a youth as well.

Another individual can also file a petition seeking guardianship, either temporarily, or permanently (until age 18).

Pine Tree Legal (our statewide legal services office) has good written materials online describing the process and alternatives: <http://ptla.org/library/449>.

Kids Legal (part of Pine Tree Legal Assistance) has good information online explaining emancipation and describing the process for filing for emancipation at: [www.kidslegal.org/emancipation-maine](http://www.kidslegal.org/emancipation-maine).

Kids Legal is also currently working to add more materials that speak directly to the needs of LGBTQ youth.

*PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS LEGAL INFORMATION AND NOT LEGAL ADVICE. FOR LEGAL ADVICE, CONTACT AN ATTORNEY DIRECTLY.*

*IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE LAWS OR OTHER LEGAL ISSUES, PLEASE CALL GLAD ANSWERS: (800-455-GLAD) OR REACH US ONLINE ([HTTPS://WWW.GLAD.ORG/KNOW-YOUR-RIGHTS/GLAD-ANSWERS/](https://www.glad.org/know-your-rights/glad-answers/))*