

HOUSE BILL No. 2468

By Representative Finney

1-6

1 AN ACT concerning children and minors; relating to the revised Kansas
2 code for care of children; caring for children in the custody of the
3 secretary; enacting the Kansas foster youth bill of rights.
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. (a) Consistent with the policy of the state in K.S.A. 38-
7 2201, and amendments thereto, in order to ensure proper care and
8 protection of a child in need of care in the child welfare system, unless
9 otherwise ordered by the court, such child shall have the right to:

10 (1) Live in a safe, comfortable placement, in accordance with K.S.A.
11 38-2255, and amendments thereto:

12 (A) Where such child lives in the least restrictive environment;

13 (B) where such child shall be treated with respect, have a place to
14 store belongings and receive healthy food, adequate clothing and
15 appropriate personal hygiene products;

16 (C) with siblings when possible; and

17 (D) upon proper investigation and consideration in accordance with
18 K.S.A. 38-2242, and amendments thereto, with a relative or someone from
19 such child's community with similar religious beliefs or ethnic heritage;

20 (2) have visits with family;

21 (3) have as few placements as possible;

22 (4) have and maintain belongings by:

23 (A) Making a list of belongings to have when placed out of home;

24 (B) providing such list of belongings to such child's case manager;

25 (C) bringing such belongings when placed out of home; and

26 (D) if going on a visit or to a new placement, have belongings packed
27 and transportable for the visit or move;

28 (5) have access to all appropriate school supplies, services, tutoring,
29 extra-curricular, cultural and personal enrichment activities;

30 (6) attend school daily, in accordance with K.S.A. 38-2218, and
31 amendments thereto;

32 (7) receive a high school diploma, if such child has earned the
33 standard credits in accordance with K.S.A. 38-2285, and amendments
34 thereto;

35 (8) be notified of all hearings held pursuant to the revised Kansas
36 code for care of children, when age or developmentally appropriate;

1 (9) attend, in person or virtually, all court hearings held pursuant to
2 the revised Kansas code for care of children, when age or developmentally
3 appropriate;

4 (10) offer the judge thoughts on any placement or placement change
5 proposed, in accordance with K.S.A. 38-2262, and amendments thereto,
6 when age or developmentally appropriate;

7 (11) have a guardian ad litem represent the best interests of the child,
8 in accordance with K.S.A. 38-2205, and amendments thereto, and contact
9 such child regularly;

10 (12) request a lawyer who will tell the court what such child wants, if
11 different than the determinations of the guardian ad litem, in accordance
12 with K.S.A. 38-2205, and amendments thereto;

13 (13) privacy to send and receive unopened mail and make and receive
14 phone calls;

15 (14) have regular and private contact with and access to case
16 managers, attorneys and advocates;

17 (15) access accurate and necessary information for such child's well-
18 being from case managers and guardians and any person who is by law
19 liable to maintain, care for or support the child;

20 (16) as few changes in case managers as possible;

21 (17) contact a case manager's supervisor if there is a conflict between
22 such child and such child's case manager that cannot be resolved; and

23 (18) when transitioning out of the child welfare system:

24 (A) Be an active participant in developing a transition plan, as
25 defined in K.S.A. 38-2202, and amendments thereto;

26 (B) have services and benefits explained;

27 (C) have a checking or savings account;

28 (D) learn to manage money, when age or developmentally
29 appropriate;

30 (E) learn job skills appropriate for such child's age; and

31 (F) be involved in life skills training and activities.

32 (b) This section shall be known and may be cited as the Kansas foster
33 youth bill of rights.

34 (c) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to the revised
35 Kansas code for care of children.

36 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
37 publication in the statute book.