

**EMPOWERING
FOSTER
YOUTH
WITH RIGHTS**

AGENDA

WHAT WE'RE GOING TO COVER

- **OFCO Overview**
- **Foster Youth Rights**
 - *AB-175*
 - *Review Your Resources*
 - *Know Your Rights Activity*
- **Extended Foster Care (AB-12)**
 - *Eligibility*
 - *Re-Entry*
- **Test Your Knowledge**
- **Debrief/Q&A**

INTRODUCTIONS

Who we are.



CALIFORNIA
FOSTER CARE
OMBUDSPERSON
YOU HAVE RIGHTS!

WHAT'S AN OMBUDS?

An ombudsperson is an **impartial, independent** person with the authority and responsibility to **receive, investigate**, and/or **informally address** and **resolve complaints** about government actions and when appropriate make systemic recommendations based on findings.



OUR ROLES

Resolve complaints about foster care rights and issues related to care, placement, and services.

Train on Foster Youth Rights and Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS).

Provide Foster Youth Verification Letters for emancipated foster youth.

Share resources and information about local service providers.

Recommend policy and practice changes to improve the child welfare system.

Report annual findings to the Legislature and stakeholders.

OUR LIMITATIONS

We can't change **court decisions** and/or **case plans**.

We have no authority regarding **personnel issues**.



THE COMPLAINT PROCESS



Our Office cross-reports to other agencies.



Our Office receives confidential complaints.



Youth complaints are first priority.
We respond to them within
1 BUSINESS DAY



Other complaints are screened and assigned.

START HERE



Foster Youth Rights



AB175

AB175 was signed on October 2, 2019 updating the Foster Youth Bill of Rights and clarifying our office role as providing training and technical assistance.

The bill goes into effect in January 2020.



REVIEW YOUR RESOURCES

Left side: Extended Foster Care (AB 12) and Education Resources

Right side: Foster Youth Rights Resources

HINT

You'll need this information for the next activity!



HEADS UP!

Social workers must review these rights with youth

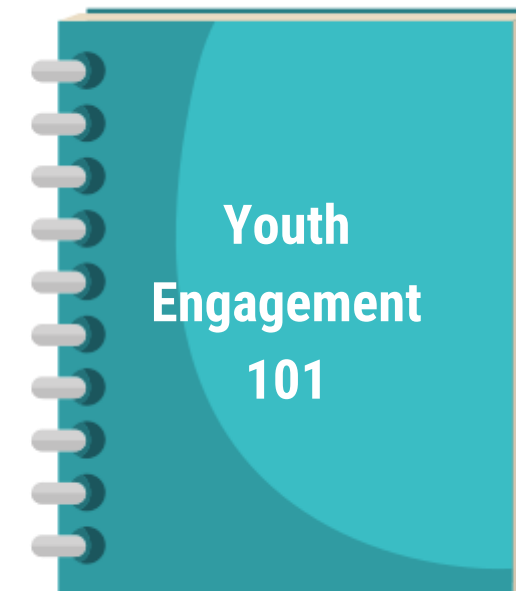
every six months and

before every placement change!



KNOW THE RIGHTS!

Listen to the following scenarios, and **raise the resources** that you can use to advocate for your rights.



A youth wants to get birth control.

A youth shares with you that their medication is making them feel tired and not like themselves. They want to change it but they don't know how to do that.

A youth wants to call the Foster Care Ombudsperson's Office, but their group home staff tells them that they can't call without them listening to the conversation.

A youth changes school in the middle of the year. The new school does not accept the partial credits and wants the youth to retake the classes they didn't finish.

A youth's first language is Spanish.

A youth is turning 18 and wants to know what resources they are eligible to receive.

A youth is turning 19 and left extended foster care but wants to re-enter.

Extended Foster Care



AB 12 = EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

California Fostering Connections to Success Act (AB 12)

- **Extends foster care** from 18 → 21
- **May be eligible under AAP, Kin-Gap, NRLG Programs**
- **GOAL= Youth successfully transition into adulthood**
 - Extended foster care is voluntary!

ELIGIBILITY

Meet at least **ONE** of the following requirements:

- 1) You are finishing high school or getting your GED
- 2) You are enrolled in college part-time or in a vocational school
- 3) You are working a job at least 80 hours per month
- 4) You are in an employment program that will help you get a job
- 5) You are unable to do one of the above requirements because of a medical condition

Sign an agreement to live in an eligible placement

Meet with your county social worker or probation officer monthly

Attend a court hearing or administrative review every 6 months

Agree to meet the goals of your Transitional Independent Living Case Plan

RE-ENTRY

Anytime before your 21st Birthday **if you change your mind!**

Still meet one of the 5 criteria.

- Contact Child Welfare Office
- 388(e) Petition: Complete the JV-466 & the SOC 163
 - File it in the court where their case originated



GAME TIME!

It's time to test your knowledge!

Use the red, green, and yellow papers in your folders to answer the following questions.

Each color represents an option.

Answer each question by raising your color and answer of choice.



Our office does...



(GREEN) resolve complaints about foster youth rights



(RED) change court decisions

Our office does...



(GREEN) resolve complaints about foster youth rights



(RED) change court decisions

Foster youth have the right to go to their school of origin..



(GREEN) True.



(RED) False.

Foster youth have the right to go to their school of origin..



(GREEN) True.



(RED) False.

Foster youth have the right to...



(GREEN)) a hearing before the juvenile court for a suspension over 5 days and before an expulsion.



(RED) a hearing before the school board for a suspension over 5 days and before an expulsion.

Foster youth have the right to...



(GREEN)) a hearing before the juvenile court for a suspension over 5 days and before an expulsion.



(RED) a hearing before the school board for a suspension over 5 days and before an expulsion.

If a foster youth applies to a California State University or California Community College...



(GREEN) they have the right to have their application fee waived.



(RED) they must receive the maximum amount of the Chafee Grant.

If a foster youth applies to a California State University or California Community College...



(GREEN) they have the right to have their application fee waived.



(RED) they must receive the maximum amount of the Chafee Grant.

A foster youth can receive...



(GREEN) partial credits only at the school's discretion.



(RED) partial credits for all the classes that they were passing at their last school.

A foster youth can receive...



(GREEN) partial credits only at the school's discretion.



(RED) partial credits for all the classes that they were passing at their last school.

If foster youth want birth control, they...



(GREEN) must get approval from their caregiver or social worker first.



(RED) can access it at any age and without approval.

If foster youth want birth control, they...



(GREEN) must get approval from their caregiver or social worker first.



(RED) can access it at any age and without approval.

Foster youth get...



(GREEN) priority enrollment for preschool and afterschool programs.



(RED) priority enrollment only if they are enrolled at the start of the school year.

Foster youth get...

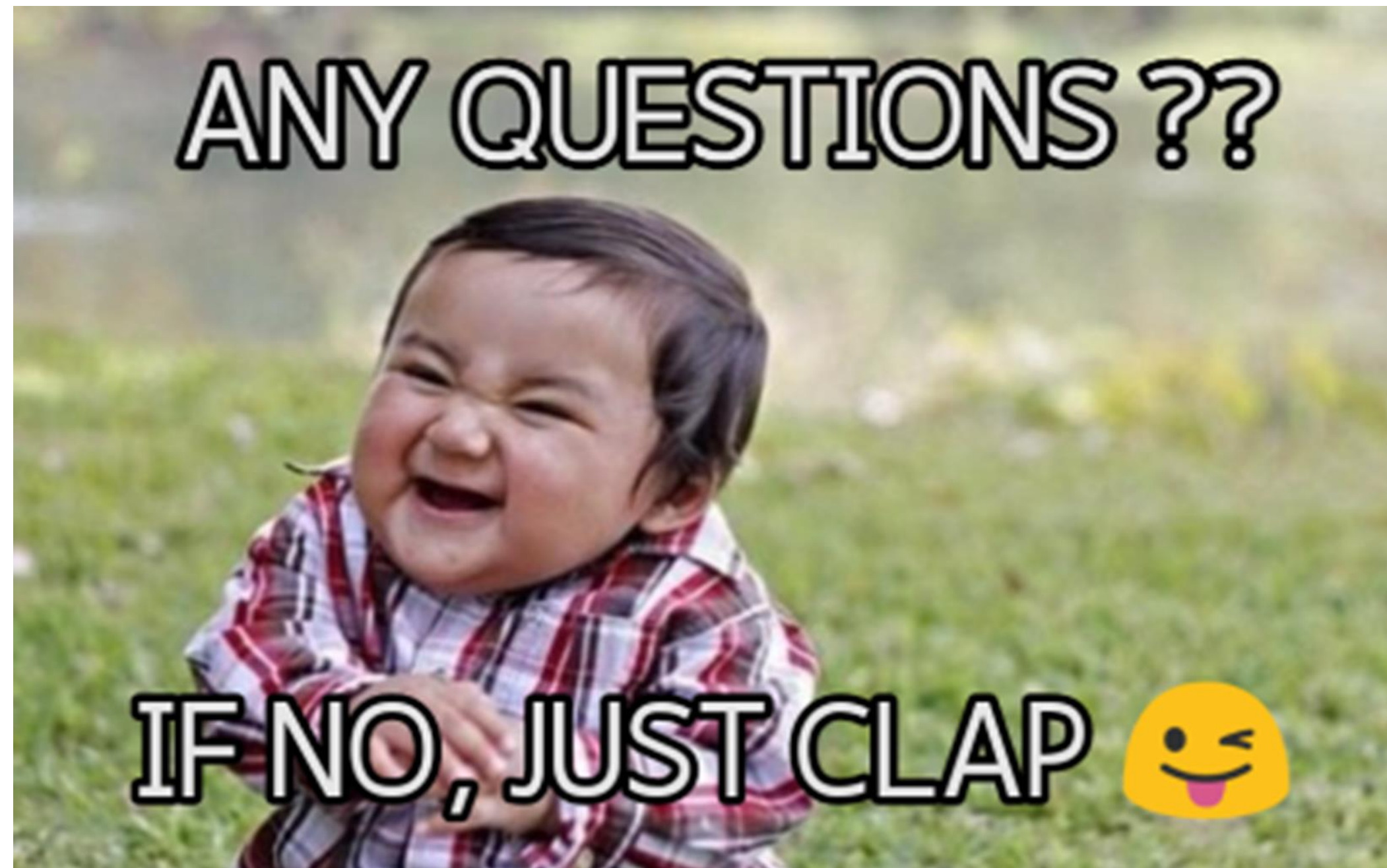


(GREEN) priority enrollment for preschool and afterschool programs.



(RED) priority enrollment only if they are enrolled at the start of the school year.

Debrief:



THANK YOU!

Call us at any time.

1 - 877 - 846 - 1602



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#FosterYouthRights

#OFCO