

Chapter 418

(Senate Bill 787)

AN ACT concerning

Children in Out-of-Home Placement – Rights

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Services to develop a certain Foster Youth Bill of Rights; requiring the Social Services Administration of the Department of Human Services to provide to a child in an out-of-home placement who is at least a certain age information regarding the rights of a child in an out-of-home placement; making certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to the rights of children in out-of-home placements.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Family Law
Section 5–525(k)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Family Law
Section 5–525(l)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Family Law

5–525.

(k) (1) At least one time each year, the Administration shall provide **TO** a child in an out-of-home placement who is at least 13 years old information regarding benefits available to the child on leaving out-of-home care.

(2) The information provided under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include information regarding tuition assistance, health care benefits, housing, job training and internship opportunities, and the right to reenter care and procedures for reentering care under subsection (b)(3) of this section.

(3) The Administration may provide **TO** the child the information required under paragraph (1) of this subsection:

(i) at a permanency planning hearing or review hearing held in accordance with § 3-823 of the Courts Article; or

(ii) by certified mail.

(L) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A FOSTER YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS DELINEATING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS.

(2) AT LEAST ONE TIME EACH YEAR, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE TO A EACH CHILD IN AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT WHO IS AT LEAST 13 YEARS OLD ~~INFORMATION REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD IN AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT~~ A COPY OF THE FOSTER YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS DEVELOPED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2018.