



Who is making decisions about me?

Resource parents and placement staff can sign permission forms to participate in school or social activities including sports, school dances, jobs, concerts, sleepovers, sleepaway camps, band and/or other activities. You do not have to wait for the agency to make decisions about what you want to be a part of. Your input matters, so speak up about your important interests and wishes.

Your caregiver has to think hard about making decisions for social, cultural, extracurricular and enrichment activities. They have to balance what you like to do, how to keep you safe and how to make sure you are healthy.

WHAT DECISIONS CAN THEY MAKE?



Social

Social activities allow you to be with your friends, family or classmates. It helps you be involved in your school, neighborhood and home. These activities include fairs, social media, talking on the phone, texting/messaging and trips.



Cultural

You can participate in cultural activities that help you understand where you came from and where you are going. These activities include: traditions, family reunions, ceremonies and going to museums.



Extra-curricular

These are activities that may or may not be school related but are healthy for you to be a part of. These activities include dances, art projects, music lessons, community events, sports and field trips.



Enrichment

There are activities that help you learn how to become an adult. Some of these activities are getting your driver's license, opening up a bank account, getting a job, or attending IL life skills groups, conferences and workshops.

WHAT DECISIONS CAN'T THEY MAKE?



Religion

You do not have to attend or participate in any religious ceremony or education with your resource parents and placement staff. You can participate in activities in the same building.



Education

Your resource parents and placement staff can help you in school and be successful in life, but they cannot make decisions about your education alone.



Healthcare

This includes any physical or emotional treatment that is different than you normally would get.

WHAT DECISIONS CAN'T THEY MAKE?



Remember: You can, at the ages of 14-18, make decisions about getting mental health examinations and treatments without your parents' or caregivers' permission.



Resource parents and placement staff cannot make decisions about the use of psychotropic medication to treat emotional and mental health.



Remember: If you are under the age of 18, you can get birth control without your parents' or caregiver's permission or involvement. You can also get tested for pregnancy, and get medical and health "services to treat pregnancy, including prenatal care."



Resource parents and placement staff cannot make decisions about any activity that is different than your court order or your case plan. This is why it is important for you to attend your court hearings and to be active in your team's case planning meetings. You have a voice and your team wants to hear it!

Even though you can make decisions about your mental or sexual health, doesn't mean you have to do it alone. Your resource parent, staff or supportive adult can help you find the right information to make healthy decisions!

WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE THEIR DECISION?



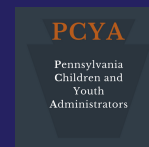
Resource parents and placement staff and their children do not always agree. If you have a disagreement, voice your opinion. Give them the reasons you disagree, and find out why they made their decision. This might help them understand you, but they may not change their minds. Parents make decisions for a lot of reasons.



If you still disagree and you would like to talk to more people about it, you can talk to your caseworker, Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), lawyer, judge or another supportive adult. You can also file a grievance with your county child welfare agency or private provider.



You are allowed to bring two supportive people to your team and case planning meetings that are not your current caseworker, resource parent or placement staff. Supportive people can give you advice and feedback on how to speak up for yourself and the activities you want to participate in. Some examples include teachers, your best friend, mentor, coaches, neighbors, supporters, significant other, a friend's parent and/or religious leader.



Want to know more about your rights as a youth in foster care? Check out the Know Your Rights Manual at: <http://www.independentlivingpa.org/rights.htm>



Who is making decisions about me?

Resource parents and placement staff can sign permission forms to participate in school or social activities including sports, school dances, jobs, concerts, sleepovers, sleepaway camps, band and/or other activities. You do not have to wait for the agency to make decisions about what you want to be a part of. Your input matters, so speak up about your important interests and wishes.

Your caregiver has to think hard about making decisions for social, cultural, extracurricular and enrichment activities. They have to balance what you like to do, how to keep you safe and how to make sure you are healthy.

WHAT DECISIONS CAN THEY MAKE?



Social

Social activities allow you to be with your friends, family or classmates. It helps you be involved in your school, neighborhood and home. These activities include fairs, social media, talking on the phone, texting/messaging and trips.



Cultural

You can participate in cultural activities that help you understand where you came from and where you are going. These activities include: traditions, family reunions, ceremonies and going to museums.



Extra-curricular

These are activities that may or may not be school related but are healthy for you to be a part of. These activities include dances, art projects, music lessons, community events, sports and field trips.



Enrichment

There are activities that help you learn how to become an adult. Some of these activities are getting your driver's license, opening up a bank account, getting a job, or attending IL life skills groups, conferences and workshops.

WHAT DECISIONS CAN'T THEY MAKE?



Religion

You do not have to attend or participate in any religious ceremony or education with your resource parents and placement staff. You can participate in activities in the same building.



Education

Your resource parents and placement staff can help you in school and be successful in life, but they cannot make decisions about your education alone.



Healthcare

This includes any physical or emotional treatment that is different than you normally would get.

WHAT DECISIONS CAN'T THEY MAKE?



Remember: You can, at the ages of 14-18, make decisions about getting mental health examinations and treatments without your parents' or caregivers' permission.



Resource parents and placement staff cannot make decisions about the use of psychotropic medication to treat emotional and mental health.



Remember: If you are under the age of 18, you can get birth control without your parents' or caregiver's permission or involvement. You can also get tested for pregnancy, and get medical and health "services to treat pregnancy, including prenatal care."



Resource parents and placement staff cannot make decisions about any activity that is different than your court order or your case plan. This is why it is important for you to attend your court hearings and to be active in your team's case planning meetings. You have a voice and your team wants to hear it!

Even though you can make decisions about your mental or sexual health, doesn't mean you have to do it alone. Your resource parent, staff or supportive adult can help you find the right information to make healthy decisions!

WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE THEIR DECISION?



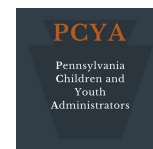
Resource parents and placement staff and their children do not always agree. If you have a disagreement, voice your opinion. Give them the reasons you disagree, and find out why they made their decision. This might help them understand you, but they may not change their minds. Parents make decisions for a lot of reasons.



If you still disagree and you would like to talk to more people about it, you can talk to your caseworker, Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), lawyer, judge or another supportive adult. You can also file a grievance with your county child welfare agency or private provider.



You are allowed to bring two supportive people to your team and case planning meetings that are not your current caseworker, resource parent or placement staff. Supportive people can give you advice and feedback on how to speak up for yourself and the activities you want to participate in. Some examples include teachers, your best friend, mentor, coaches, neighbors, supporters, significant other, a friend's parent and/or religious leader.



Want to know more about your rights as a youth in foster care? Check out the Know Your Rights Manual at: <http://www.independentlivingpa.org/rights.htm>