

OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY

Policy Summary



Youth Rights

The following is only a summary of OYA policy [II-F-1.0 Youth Rights \(Facilities\)](#). Please refer to the policy for full details and as the official policy record. For other policies, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/oia/aboutoia/pages/policies.aspx>.

Staff will not treat anyone differently because of who they are. Every youth will get the help and services they need to grow, learn, and make positive changes. If a youth breaks the rules, consequences will follow OYA's set procedures.

Youth Rights - will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Equal Treatment – You have the same chance as others to take part in programs, no matter your background or identity.
2. Fair Housing – You will not be placed somewhere just because of your race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or identity.
3. Understandable Info – You will get information about your treatment in a way you can understand.
4. Respectful Treatment – Staff must be respectful and considerate and not use hurtful or abusive language or actions.
5. Time to Move – You have the right to recreation and exercise;
6. Education – You have the right to go to school and keep learning.
7. Fair Discipline – If you break rules, you may get a consequence, but no one should hurt you or talk down to you.
8. Basic Needs – You have the right to enough food, rest, and health care.
9. Hair Choices – You can wear your hair in a manner that includes but is not limited to styles like braids, twists, or locs.
10. Privacy – Your personal information will be kept private, unless someone needs to know info required by law.
11. Mail – You can send and receive mail, unless a safety reason is documented.
12. Religion – You can join in religious activities if you want, but you do not have to.
13. No Forced Praise or Performances – You cannot be forced to thank OYA in public or perform at public gatherings.
14. Communication – You can talk with your lawyer, parent or guardian, and parole/probation officer.
15. File Complaints – If you think your rights were violated, you can file a complaint using a Youth Grievance Form or call the OYA Reporting Line (1-800-315-5440).

How OYA Handles Violations of Youth Rights

If a youth's rights are violated, OYA staff must:

1. Make sure the youth is safe.
2. Report the incident to a supervisor immediately.
3. Document the incident in an official report.
4. Get medical attention for any injuries.
5. Notify law enforcement or other required agencies if necessary.

If abuse is suspected, OYA staff are mandatory reporters and are required to report it.

Commitment to Fair Treatment

OYA takes youth rights seriously and will address any concerns to ensure fair treatment for all.