



Oregon Foster Youth C O N N E C T I O N

HB 2216 – Sibling Bill of Rights [Amendment]

After talking to OFYC Members, the Department of Human Services Child Welfare, Legislators, and other stakeholders we have identified a few changes.

House Bill 2216 has a -2 amendment addressing these changes:

- To include the definition of sibling, as already in statute
- To have “electronic communication” in place of “social media access”
- To have caseworkers educated in the importance of sibling relationships, in addition to foster parents
- To have rights explained to each sibling and available for them to read, at least annually
- To have rights “as safe and appropriate” for each individual sibling
- To have an explanation if siblings cannot be placed together or have limited contact
- To have “active engagement and participation” of the sibling in the creation of the Sibling Contact Plan and adoption plans.
- To ensure siblings have these rights even if their parent’s rights have been terminated
- To remove the “mandated” relationship after adoption, but to ensure a conversation about the importance of sibling relationships in adoption and guardianship plans
- To be allowed to testify at guardianship proceedings, as safe and appropriate

The Oregon Foster Youth Connection - is a youth-led group of current and former foster youth working to improve the foster care system through advocacy, activism and leadership.