

01



Parents have a fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their children without government interference when children aren't being harmed.

02



You have a right to an attorney as a parent or legal caregiver, if you cannot afford one, once a Petition has been filed in Court.

03



You have a right to know the specific complaint or allegation made against you or your family member. You may, but do not have to, answer questions about the allegations that are being investigated.

04



You have a right to be treated with dignity and respect without any form of discrimination. You have a right to have your culture, language, and religion respected.

05



You have a right to refuse a drug test or deny entry into your home without a Court Order. You have a right to protect private health information, and to request your attorney before discussing a criminal case.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ENTERS YOUR LIFE

TO HELP KEEP YOUR FAMILY TOGETHER IN MONTANA

06



You can ask CFS how you can address concerns to keep your children with you. You may be able to create an in-home safety plan to keep your family together and prevent removal of your children.

07



Do your best to stay calm and be respectful, even though the conversations with CFS may be upsetting. Remember, it is their job to keep children safe, and you care about your children's safety, too.

08



Remember that your children are even more traumatized by removal than you are. Accept any contact offered to you by CFS and show up. They need you.

09

You may request a pre-hearing conference with your attorney and CFS before your first required court hearing, held within 5 business days after a petition is filed.



10

Call your attorney, appear at your court dates, and let your attorney speak for you in Court. You can work as a team for you and your children.

