

YOUR RIGHTS AS A KID

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Children under age 18 have certain individual “legal” rights, but they are limited. Mostly, it is the fit parents who have the “right” to make decisions for them. It is assumed that parents know what is best for their children. The courts often look at “rights” different than children or parents. In this flyer the term “rights” just means: what is reasonable to expect from someone who cares about you.

1

I have the right to refuse to carry messages from one parent to the other.

2

I have the right to leave the room when my parents argue. If that's not possible, I have the right to ask them to please not argue in front of me.

3

I have the right to not listen to anyone who says mean or disrespectful things about my parents.

4

I have the right to love both of my parents equally and not take sides.

5

I have the right to refuse to spy on a parent or grandparent or other family member.

6

I have the right to refuse to lie to a parent or family member.

7

I have a right not to worry about family money problems.

8

I have the right to love and honor (and spend time with) each of my parents and all of my relatives, even when they don't get along with each other.

9

I have the right not to worry that my parents will take away their love from me or stop seeing me if I don't do everything they say.

10

I have the right to be loved no matter what.

Ricci, I (2006). *Mom's house, dad's house for kids*. Simon & Schuster.

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