

How We All Can Support Participation in Enrichment Activities for Youth in Foster Care

Attorney

- Speak with the resource parent
- Speak with the caseworker
- Request a CFT meeting
- Request flexible funds from the foster care agency to help pay for transportation and equipment
- Request that the court order participation at a review hearing
- File a petition or motion in court

Resource Parent

- Evaluate the benefits of participation using the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard
- Request a CFT meeting
- Speak with the attorney and/or caseworker
- Ask about available funding and other support
- If the attorney files a motion, write a letter about the impact of the activity on the youth
- Contact Foster Care Ombudsman

CASA

- Include support and recommendations in any court reports
- Raise the issue at CFT meetings
- Speak with the attorney and/or caseworker
- Research programs, available funding, and other services to support participation
- If the attorney files a motion, write a letter about the impact of the activity on the youth
- Contact Foster Care Ombudsman

Six Ways Advocates Can Use Current Law to Promote Participation in Enrichment Activities for Youth in Foster Care

- 1. TALK TO YOUTH AND CAREGIVERS** about enrichment activities and facilitate these conversations in case planning meetings. Caregivers and youth may not be aware of the law and need support to identify activities. Case planning meetings are a great opportunity to explore opportunities and troubleshoot any barriers.
- 2. DOCUMENT THE ACTIVITIES AND NEEDED SUPPORT** to participate in the activities in the youth's case plan. Documentation should include identification of costs for equipment, uniforms, or supplies, as well as transportation needed for participation.
- 3. MAKE FORMAL REQUESTS** of the child welfare agency, probation department and service providers to support participation in enrichment activities. Here are some tools to help you make a request.
 - Template letter to the [agency](#).
 - Template request for a [private provider agency](#).
- 4. INCLUDE FUNDING** for enrichment activities in a child-specific request for exceptional needs. These funds are available to support maintaining or developing appropriate family based settings for youth with complex needs. The package that is developed for an individual youth can include enrichment activities. Advocates can ask the county to develop a plan to request funds using the process found in [ACL 21-119](#) and the revised template request can be found here: [ACIN I-03-23](#) (January 31, 2023).
- 5. FILE A COMPLAINT** with the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson. The Ombudsperson's office can investigate and informally resolve complaints impacting youth in foster care, increase awareness about the right to participate in enrichment activities, and make recommendations to help support systemic change. You can file a complaint online: <https://fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/file-a-complaint/>. Here is a [tip sheet](#) to help you file a complaint.
- 6. FILE A MOTION** to request that the court order the agency to provide necessary support to ensure the youth can participate in enrichment activities. You can find a template motion here, with law to support your request: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aAtWqnbln1k18rsnGf_CRGEIGI_l62Wb/edit#