

Championing Disability Rights for Children in Foster Care



From Council for Children's Rights <info@cfcrights.org>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <info@cfcrights.org>
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We've moved! Our office is now located at 601 E 5th Street Suite 450.

Championing Disability Rights for Children in Foster Care

Council's dual approach to fulfilling our mission includes both direct services to individual children, as well as fighting for reform in the systems that serve children. Our systems advocacy approach is critical to not only the children we serve, but for all children in similar situations.

In April, a federal judge issued an important win for our state's children in foster care with disabilities. These children are often warehoused in psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTF) for long periods of time, instead of being provided with housing and community resources allowing them to move forward.

The ruling by US District Court Judge William L. Osteen Jr. means that NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) can no longer dismiss the class action case and deny these children their day in court.

The complaint, filed in December 2022, states that children routinely sent to PRTFs face trauma instead of treatment. This trauma includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual assault. In his decision, the Judge acknowledged that the services these children in PRTFs receive are "at best, inadequate, and, at worst, highly abusive." These conditions especially hurt children of color because they enter the foster system and are sent to these facilities at higher rates.

Council highly values the partnership we hold in the community to confront systems that negatively impact children and champions the work of agencies in our state who are also fighting for systemic reform.

Each and every day, we see the critical need for this systemic reform. Many of the youth we serve in our Mental Health Program are children in foster care who are failing to thrive in a psychiatric residential treatment facility.

In the last year, we served over 1,110 children in our Mental Health Program alone. Our work not only fights for their individual rights, but also advocates for change within the system that will allow children to remain in their communities and not locked in a facility.

Thank you to our partners for this advocacy!

[Click here to read more about this story](#)



May is Mental Health Awareness Month and National Foster Care Month!

Mental health matters year-round.

Council's holistic approach addresses each of our clients' mental health needs in addition to their physical health.

Our systemic work acts to ensure every child experiences equitable opportunity, no matter their background.

Donate to Council

Your Support Helps Our Children Blossom



Every child deserves compassion, respect, & equitable opportunity. Our work addresses systemic issues in the hearts of our schools, families, & communities. Each day, we work to provide a path where every child can move towards a **bright & blossoming future**.

When you support Council, you provide valuable resources that help us build a more equitable community for all children, not just those we serve. Because of your support, our legal services are 100% free.

Will you join us in providing a blossoming future for children?

Donate Today for a Better Tomorrow

Get Involved with Council



Burritos with Benefit:

Monday, May 20th

Chipotle - 2109 South Boulevard

5:00-9:00 pm in store & online

Online order code: **XYBA8XC**

25% of Chipotle South Boulevard's sales will be donated to Council!

**valid only at this location!*

Spread the Word: Please help us share our mission with your friends and family by forwarding them this newsletter. We are also looking for community members and philanthropists to help accelerate our fundraising efforts. If you're interested in learning how you can get involved, email advancement@cfcrights.org.

Volunteer: We have [multiple opportunities to volunteer](#), most notably with our Custody Advocacy Program (CAP). You do not need to be a lawyer or have legal experience to volunteer. Email volunteer@cfcrights.org for more information.

Give: You can [donate online](#) or by sending a check to: ATTN: Council for Children's Rights, **601 East 5th Street, Suite 450, Charlotte, NC 28202**. Email advancement@cfcrights.org with any questions and to learn more.

****Please note our new address! Effective May 13, 2024***

We've moved! Our office is now located at 601 E 5th Street Suite 450.



Council for Children's Rights | 601 East 5th Street, Suite 450, Charlotte, NC 28202
www.cfcrights.org

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