

26 | to educate the child on identifying and reporting abuse,
27 | abandonment, or neglect.

28 | 2. Information to a child about laws and requirements
29 | relating to the topic of normalcy and what that means for a
30 | child in out-of-home care; education; participation in court
31 | proceedings; participation in permanency planning, transition
32 | planning, and other case planning; placement, visitation, and
33 | contact with siblings, family, and other individuals who are
34 | important to the child; and access to food, clothing, shelter,
35 | and health care.

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37 | The ~~verbal and written~~ instructions and information must use
38 | words and phrasing that each child can understand and must occur
39 | in a manner that is most effective for each child. The written
40 | instructions and information are only required if the child is
41 | of a sufficient age and understanding to receive such
42 | instructions and information. The case manager or other staff
43 | must give each child the opportunity to ask questions ~~about his~~
44 | ~~or her rights and how to identify and report abuse, abandonment,~~
45 | ~~or neglect~~. The case manager or other staff shall document in
46 | court reports and case notes the date the instructions and
47 | information were ~~was~~ provided to the child. The case manager or
48 | other staff must review the instructions and information with
49 | the child every 6 months and upon every placement change until
50 | the child leaves shelter or foster care.

51 (4) The Office of the Children's Ombudsman is established
52 within the department. To the extent permitted by available
53 resources, the office shall, at a minimum:

54 (a) Receive complaints from children and young adults
55 about placement, care, and services and assist in mediating such
56 concerns.

57 (b) Be a resource to identify and explain relevant policies
58 or procedures to children, young adults, and their caregivers.

59 (c) Provide recommendations to the department to address
60 systemic problems that are leading to complaints from children
61 and young adults.

62 (5) The department shall consult with children and young
63 adults who are currently or have formerly been in out-of-home
64 care when creating or revising any print or digital written
65 information used in implementing this section and use any
66 responses or feedback to ensure that such print or digital
67 written information is understandable by and appropriate and
68 useful for the children and young adults of the ages for which
69 such print or digital written information is intended.

70 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.