



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 topics of nurturing care, personal safety, and  
30 | protection from abuse, abandonment, and neglect; normalcy and  
31 | what that means for a child in out-of-home care; education;  
32 | participation in court proceedings; participation in permanency  
33 | planning, transition planning, and other case planning;  
34 | placement, visitation, and contact with siblings, family, and  
35 | other individuals who are important to the child; and access to  
36 | food, clothing, shelter, and health care.

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

51 the child leaves shelter or foster care.

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

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

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

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

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

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