

Hill v. Erickson

These rights have been established, in part, due to a lawsuit brought on behalf of all teen parent wards in Illinois. That case is called *Hill v. Erickson* and you are considered a member of the class of people on whose behalf the Hill case was brought. The attorneys in that case are at The Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and are happy to answer any questions you have or to give you some assistance.

You have options.

If after reading this notice you believe you and your child require additional or different services or assistance, you require a different placement or your rights as described above have been ignored, contact your caseworker and request the specific service you wish.

Additional Resources

If your caseworker is unable to help you, you have other choices for requesting assistance. You can choose to contact the DCFS Advocacy Office for Children & Families or the DCFS Youth Hotline at **1-800-232-3798**, or you can call one of the following legal advocates for assistance.

The Law Project of the Chicago
Coalition for the Homeless
1-800-940-1119

Mary Sue Morsch, Teen Parent
Consultant
marysue.morsch@illinois.gov
1-847-849-6874

Caroline Kim, Office of the
Cook County Public Guardian
1-312-433-4300

Notice to Teen Parents



The Law Project of the
Chicago Coalition for the
Homeless

1-800-940-1119
www.chicagohomeless.org



If you are in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services and are pregnant or parenting, male or female, you have the following legal rights:

- The right to a stable and safe place to live with your child
- The right to remain in your school and obtain your diploma
- The right to prenatal care
- The right to medical and dental care for you and your child
- The right to receive an education or job training
- The right to day care and help accessing preschool for your child or children
- The right to information and services to prevent pregnancy or make decisions about pregnancy or parenting
- The right—if you do not have physical custody of your child—to take an active role in the care and support of your child
- The right to receive counseling to help you with any problems you may have

- The right to have assistance in learning to be a better parent and in learning to live on your own
- The right to special educational services such as tutoring at home, devices to improve your hearing or speech or special instructions if you need it
- The right to receive transportation to school or to the doctor or other services
- The right to receive shelter, food, clothing and other services from DCFS until you turn 21
- The right to be free of discrimination on the basis of race, sex or handicap
- The right to get assistance in applying for college or taking college admission tests



- The right to a “transition plan”—a plan which is created by you and your case-worker to assist you in leaving DCFS care and which ensures that you will have affordable housing; job skills and health services when you leave

You do not have to:

- Live in a shelter
- Leave school because you are pregnant
- Leave your baby with relatives while you are in DCFS care
- Stay out of school to watch your child
- Stay in mental health facility even when you do not need mental health hospitalization
- Give up your baby in order to obtain a stable place to live
- Stay in a mental health facility just because your caseworker has no place for you to stay
- Stop receiving services when you turn 18