

County of Santa Cruz Children & Youth Bill of Rights

County of Santa Cruz Children & Youth Bill of Rights Aligned with similar efforts at the State and across the State, the County of Santa Cruz is committed to the well-being of all youth and as such accepts the following Children and Youth Bill of Rights. The County of Santa Cruz Children and Youth Bill of Rights encourages leaders and decision makers across departments to keep the needs of young people at the forefront of decisions. Children and youth are vulnerable members of our community that require prioritization and protection. The Children and Youth Bill of Rights provides a foundation that helps our community make children and youth a top priority so that:

- 1** They have a healthy mind, body and spirit that enables them to maximize their potential.
- 2** They develop a healthy attachment to a parent, guardian, or caregiver and an ongoing relationship with a caring and supporting adult.
- 3** They have a safe and healthy environment, including homes, schools, neighborhoods and communities.
- 4** They have access to quality education that promotes future success in school, career and life.
- 5** They have training in life skills that will prepare them to live independently, be self-sufficient and positively contribute to their community.
- 6** They have employment opportunities with protections from unfair labor practices.
- 7** They have freedom from mistreatment, abuse and neglect.
- 8** They voice opinions in matters of interest to them, develop their leadership capacity and engage in their community.
- 9** They feel supported by the larger community and maintain a sense of hope for the future.
- 10** They are encouraged to explore and express their innate curiosity and creativity

