

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 351 (SB 151)

2021 Regular Session

Barrow

Enacts a "Foster Youth's Bill of Rights" to be implemented through the policies and practices of the Department of Children and Family Services for certain youth in foster care in the state.

Enumerates rights for youth in foster care who are ages 14-18 involving privacy; participation in planning for care including attending court hearings and case plan meetings; a stable and supportive setting free from neglect, abuse, exploitation, or discrimination; having medical and mental health needs met on a regular and timely basis; meeting with the youth's caseworker, attorney, and CASA volunteer; access to materials necessary for school and to further the youth's education; extracurricular activities; the youth's cultural, religious, and ethnic traditions and belief systems; participation in the Independent Living Skills Program within the youth's region; and the expression and voicing of the youth's needs, concerns, and desires about foster care.

Provides that it shall be known as "The Louisiana Elite Advocacy Force Act" or "The LEAF Act".

Effective upon signature of the governor (June 17, 2021).

(Adds R.S. 46:286.16)