

Resources for Professionals Serving LGBT Youth in Out-of-Home Care

National Organizations

Organizations Providing Legal Information and Resources on LGBT Youth

Equity Project

www.equityproject.org

Since 2005 the National Juvenile Defender Center, Legal Services for Children, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights have been collaborating on the Equity Project, an initiative to ensure that LGBT youth in juvenile delinquency courts are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness. The Equity Project examines issues that impact LGBT youth throughout the entire delinquency court process - from arrest through post-disposition - identifying obstacles to fair treatment and developing recommendations to prevent discrimination.

Email: info@equityproject.org

Lambda Legal

www.lambdalegal.org

Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

120 Wall Street, Suite 1500

(National Headquarters)

New York, NY 10005

Phone: 866-LGBTTeen (toll free), or 212-809-8585

National Center for Lesbian Rights

www.nclrights.org

NCLR's Youth Project advances the rights of LGBT youth through education, public policy, and precedent-setting casework. By bringing the issues faced by LGBT youth front and center, we are changing the legal landscape for all youth, and ensuring health and safety for the next generation of all young people. NCLR was the first LGBT legal organization to introduce a Youth Project. Since 1993, NCLR's Youth Project has worked to ensure that all LGBT young people are safe and can live openly with the support they need to reach their full potential.

870 Market Street, Suite 370

San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: 415-392-6257

Email: info@nclrights.org

LGBT Youth and the Child Welfare System

Casey Family Programs, Life Skills Assessment, LGBTQ Supplement

www.caseylifeskills.org

Casey Family Programs' Life Skills Assessment is a free and easy-to-use tool to help young people prepare for adulthood. The Assessment includes an optional supplement developed specifically for LGBTQ youth. It provides instant feedback. Customized learning plans provide a clear outline of next steps, and the accompanying teaching resources are available for free or at a minimal cost.

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)

www.cwla.org

CWLA is an association of nearly 1000 public and private nonprofit agencies that assist over 3.5 million abused and neglected children and their families each year with a wide range of services.

2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 250

(National Headquarters)

Arlington, VA 22202

Phone: 703-412-2400

Organizations and Websites for LGBT Youth and Their Families

Ambiente Joven

www.ambientejoven.org

Ambiente Joven is a project of Advocates for Youth and is dedicated to the gay, lesbian and transgender Latino/a youth community in the U.S. and Latin America, with the goal of providing information about sexual and mental health, as well as general cultural information.

CenterLink

www.lgbtcenters.org

The National Association of LGBT Community Centers' website features the capability to search for LGBT community centers in your city or state. Centers are the primary point of contact for people coming out and seeking LGBT health services, community information and referrals.

1325 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20005

Phone: 202-824-0450

Fax: 202-824-0453

Children of Lesbians & Gays Everywhere (COLAGE)

www.colage.org

COLAGE is the only national and international organization in the world specifically supporting young people with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender parents.

1550 Bryant Street, Suite 830

San Francisco, CA 94103

Phone: 415-861-5437

Email: colage@colage.org

Family Acceptance Project

<http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/>

The Family Acceptance Project (FAP) is a community research, intervention, education and policy initiative that studies how family acceptance and rejection affects the health, mental health and well-being of their LGBT children. FAP is developing evidence-based interventions to help ethnically diverse families decrease rejection and increase support of LGBT children and adolescents to decrease health and mental health risks and promote their well-being.

FAP develops educational materials and resources for families and providers to help families support their LGBT children, and publishes research on LGBT young people and families.

Caitlin Ryan, Director

Family Acceptance Project

San Francisco State University

432 Capp Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

Email: fap@sfsu.edu

Family Equality Council
www.familyequality.org

The Family Equality Council works to ensure equality for LGBT families by building community, changing hearts and minds, and advancing social justice for all families.
PO Box 206
Boston, MA 02133
Phone: 617-502-8700
Fax: 617-502-8701

GLBT National Help Center
www.GLBTRationalHelpCenter.org

The GLBT National Help Center is dedicated to meeting the needs of this community and those questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. The hotline offers free and confidential peer-counseling, information and local resources for cities and towns throughout the United States. The hotline offers counsel to callers of all ages about coming out issues, relationship concerns, HIV/ AIDS anxiety, safer-sex information and more.
2261 Market Street, PMB #296
San Francisco, CA 94114
Phone: 888-843-4564
Email: info@glbtrationalhelpcenter.org

National Youth Advocacy Coalition
www.nyacyouth.org

The National Youth Advocacy Coalition is a capacity building organization that advocates for and with LGBTQ young people in an effort to end discrimination against these youth and to ensure their physical and emotional well-being. NYAC builds the capacity of organizations that serve LGBTQ youth through technical assistance, resource sharing, and youth engagement.
1638 R Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC, 20009
Phone: 800-541-6922
Email: nyac@nyacyouth.org

OutProud
www.outproud.org

OutProud, the National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Youth, serves the needs of these young men and women by providing advocacy, information, resources and support. Its goal is to help queer youth become happy, successful, confident and vital LGBT adults.
369 Third Street, Suite B-362
San Rafael, CA 94901-3581
Email: info@outproud.org

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
www.pflag.org

PFLAG promotes the health and well being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.
1726 M Street NW, Suite 400 (National Office)
Washington, D.C. 20036
Phone: 202-467-8180
Email: info@pflag.org

The Trevor Project

www.thetrevorproject.org

The Trevor Project operates the only nationwide, around-the-clock crisis and suicide prevention helpline for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. If you or a friend are feeling lost or alone call The Trevor Helpline. There is hope, there is help.

9056 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 208

West Hollywood, CA 90069

Phone: 310-271-8845

Hotline: 866.4.U.TREVOR

Email: info@thetrevorproject.org

Youth Guardian Services

www.youth-guard.org

Youth Guardian Services is a youth-run organization that provides support services on the Internet to LGBTQ and supportive youth.

101 East State Street, #299

Ithaca, NY 14850

Phone: 877-270-5152

YouthResource

www.youthresource.com

YouthResource, a website created by and for LGBTQ young people 13 to 24 years old, takes a holistic approach to sexual health by offering support, community, resources and peer-to-peer education about issues of concern to LGBTQ young people.

2000 M Street NW, Suite 750

Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-419-3420

LGBT Youth in Schools

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network

www.glsen.org

GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, is the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students. Established nationally in 1995, GLSEN envisions a world in which every child learns to respect and accept all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

90 Broad Street, 2nd Floor

New York, NY 10004

Phone: 212-727-0135

Email: glsen@glsen.org

Safe Schools Coalition

www.safeschoolscoalition.org

The Safe Schools Coalition is a public-private partnership in support of LGBT youth to help schools — at home and all over the world — become safe places where every family can belong, where every educator can teach and where every child can learn, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

10501 Meridian Avenue N.

Seattle, WA 98133

Phone: 206.632.0662, ext. 49

Email: questions@safeschoolscoalition.org

Information about Transgender People

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health

www.wpath.org

WPATH is a professional organization devoted to the understanding and treatment of gender identity disorders with 500 members from around the world, in fields such as medicine, psychology, law, social work and counseling.

1300 South Second Street, Suite 180

Minneapolis, MN 55454

Phone: 612-624-9397

Email: wpath@wpath.org

Selected Bibliography

Hidden Injustice: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth in Juvenile Courts

Legal Services for Children, National Juvenile Defender Center and National Center for Lesbian Rights (2009)

Hidden Injustice represents the first effort to examine the experiences of LGBT youth in juvenile courts across the country. The report is based on information collected from 414 surveys and 65 interviews with juvenile justice professionals, including judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, probation officers, detention staff, and other juvenile justice advocates; focus groups and interviews of 55 youth who possess relevant firsthand experience; and an extensive review of relevant social science and legal research findings. The report contains extensive recommendations directed towards judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, probation officers, detention facility administrators, policy makers, and advocates. In addition, the report makes eleven core recommendations to enhance the overall capacity of the system to work effectively with LGBT youth.

Download full publication: www.equityproject.org

To order (Free of charge): Order online at

http://www.ncrights.org/site/PageServer?pagename=issue_youth_hiddeninjustice_orderform

Supportive Families, Healthy Children: Helping Families with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Children

Family Acceptance Project, Marian Wright Edelman Institute, San Francisco State University, Caitlin Ryan, 2009.

This is the first of several basic educational materials to share findings from the Family Acceptance Project to help families support their LGBT children. This first version is written in English, Spanish and Chinese at a 10th grade reading level. Follow up versions will be written in easier to read formats at lower literacy levels.

Download publications: <http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/publications>

To order: Contact FAP at fap@sfsu.edu for information on ordering publications in bulk.

Opening Doors for LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care: A Guide for Lawyers and Judges

American Bar Association, Laver & Khoury, 2008

This guide aims to increase the legal community's awareness of LGBTQ youth in foster care and the issues they face. It provides tools for lawyers and judges to aid their advocacy and decision making on behalf of LGBTQ youth. Special attention is given to helping lawyers and judges understand the unique needs and risk factors of LGBTQ youth, forming positive attitudes and beliefs about LGBTQ youth, developing strong attorney-client relationships, and using effective advocacy strategies.

To order: Call the ABA Service Center at 800.285.2221. Or go to the ABA web-store at

<http://www.ababooks.org> (ISBN: 978-1-60442-073-9, ABA CATALOG #: 5490444)

Website: <http://www.abanet.org/child/lgbtq.shtml>

The Equity Project Resource CD: Ensuring Fairness & Respect for LGBT Youth in the Justice System

The Equity Project Staff and Advisory Committee, Resource CD, 2007

The Equity Project Resource CD provides a compilation of almost 100 resources relating to LGBT youth in the juvenile justice system, including training materials, sample pleadings, model and adopted policies, tools for advocating for transgender youth, and more. It is an essential tool for every juvenile defender and for others working in the juvenile justice system who are committed to fairness and respect for all young people.

Download Resource CD - Table of Contents:

http://www.equityproject.org/pdfs/Table_of_Contents_Equity_Project_Resource_CD.summit.pdf

To order Resource CD: Send an email to info@equityproject.org

Promising Practices in Adoption and Foster Care: A Comprehensive Guide to Policies and Practices that Welcome, Affirm and Support Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Foster and Adoptive Parents

Human Rights Campaign Foundation All Children – All Families Initiative, 2007.

Offering examples of effective agency practices, the Guide is the first comprehensive, practical tool aimed to help agency leaders actively improve policies and practices that affect their work with LGBT prospective adoptive parents. The Guide features sample policies and materials, along with tips from leaders of welcoming agencies, researchers in the field and LGBT adoptive and foster parents.

To order: Order online at <http://www.hrc.org/issues/7609.htm>

CWLA Best Practice Guidelines: Serving LGBT Youth in Out-of-Home Care

Child Welfare League of America, Wilber, Ryan, & Marksamer, 2006

This easy-to-use resource contains the first-ever set of comprehensive professional guidelines for how child welfare and juvenile justice professionals can best serve LGBT youth in state care. The *Best Practice Guidelines* developed out of recommendations from the Model Standards Project, a collaboration between Legal Services for Children and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Download full publication, executive summary, and Power Point presentation:

www.nclrights.org/youth_pubs

To order: Order online at <http://www.cwla.org/pubs> or call CWLA at 1-800-407-6273.

Out of the Margins: A Report on Regional Listening Forums Highlighting the Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth in Care

Child Welfare League of America and Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, Woronoff, Estrada & Sommer, 2006

The CWLA/Lambda Regional Listening Forums provided an opportunity for LGBTQ youth in care, and the adults who work with and care for them, to share their experiences and work together to identify strategies for bringing about lasting change within the child welfare system. *Out of the Margins* consolidates the responses of the more than 500 youth and adult participants from 22 states who attended the Forums and offered personal stories of actual experiences and concrete solutions for building the capacity of the child welfare system to better meet the needs of LGBTQ young people.

Download full publication: www.cwla.org/programs/culture/outofthemargins.pdf

To order (Free of charge): Order online at <http://www.lambdalegal.org/our-work/issues/youth/out-of-home-care/> or call Lambda Legal at 212-809-8585.

LGBTQ Youth in Child Welfare: A Special Issue of CWLA's Child Welfare Journal

Child Welfare League of America, 2006

For this special issue of the *Child Welfare* journal, CWLA has brought together a diverse array of practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and others to provide an LGBTQ-affirming perspective to the complex issues of gender and sexual orientation in child welfare, assisting agencies, caseworkers,

foster parents, and policymakers in stripping away the rhetoric and providing culturally competent practices and strategies that truly meet the needs of LGBTQ youth.

To order: Order online at <http://www.cwla.org/pubs/> or call CWLA at 1-800-407-6273.

Getting Down to Basics: Tools to Support LGBTQ Youth in Care

Child Welfare League of America and Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, 2006

This tool kit offers practical information on helping to ensure that LGBTQ youth in care receive the support and services they deserve. Consisting of 18 colorful pull-outs, it serves as an ideal starting point for administrators and practitioners unfamiliar with LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care issues. Specific target audiences include: caseworkers; attorneys, guardians ad litem, and advocates; congregate care providers; juvenile justice professionals; faith-based providers; LGBTQ youth; and families supporting LGBTQ youth. Sub-topics include (but are not limited to): working with transgender youth; working with homeless LGBTQ youth; LGBTQ youth risk data; recommendations for training and education; combating misguided efforts to ban lesbian and gay adults as foster and adoptive parents; and basic facts about being LGBTQ.

Download full publication: <http://www.lambdalegal.org/take-action/tool-kits/>

To order (Free of Charge): Order online at <http://www.lambdalegal.org/our-work/issues/youth/out-of-home-care/> or call Lambda Legal at 212-809-8585.

Breaking the Silence: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Foster Youth Tell Their Stories - DVD and Resource CD

National Center for Lesbian Rights, 2006

The *Breaking the Silence DVD*, produced in collaboration with the Y.O.U.T.H. Training Project and the Center for Digital Storytelling, contains ten short digital stories that were written and directed by LGBTQ youth who have spent time in state custody. Each of these digital stories is designed to stand on its own. For specific suggestions on how to use the DVD for training or other purposes, refer to the *Introduction and User's Guide* and the *DVD Viewing and Discussion Guide* provided on the CD.

The **Bonus CD** contains a comprehensive collection of more than 25 resources produced by organizations that are nationally respected for their expertise in supporting LGBTQ out-of-home youth. These tools provide additional background and support for trainers and advocates as well as guidance to administrators and managers on how to transform agencies to be safe and non-discriminatory.

To order (Free of Charge): Order online at www.nclrights.org/youth_bts

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth: An Epidemic of Homelessness

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Nicholas Ray, 2006.

Of the estimated 1.6 million homeless American youth, studies have found between 20 and 40 percent are LGBT. This Report discusses the reasons why so many LGBT youth are homeless and the risks they face in shelters and on the street. It includes chapters written by leading service providers on their work with homeless LGBTQ youth, along with state-, federal-, and practitioner-level policy recommendations.

Download full publication: http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/homeless_youth

Agency Readiness Index: A Self-Assessment and Planning Guide to Gauge Agency Readiness to Work with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth

National Network for Youth, 2002 (reprinted 2004)

The *Agency Readiness Index* (ARI) is an organizational development tool designed to assess how well an agency provides services for sexual minority youth. It serves as a group discussion guide to

identify and discuss areas in which an agency is competent and also areas in which improvements can be made. ARI is organized around seven modules of agency performance: leadership, operating standards, human resources, staff knowledge and development, agency climate/environment, HIV prevention programs, and community relations. Each module contains a series of questions. All questions should be answered individually and a collective score should be given for each module. The results of each module are then used for future planning. The instrument was developed by the National Network for Youth as part of a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded capacity-building initiative.

To order (Free of Charge): Find ordering information:

<http://www.nn4youth.org/agencyreadiness.aspx>

Justice for All? A Report on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Youth in the New York Juvenile Justice System

Urban Justice Center, Feinstein, et al., 2001

This report, the first of its kind, documents the discrimination and bias against LGBT youth that pervades New York's juvenile justice system. The report concludes with recommendations for professionals in the juvenile justice system to help improve the treatment of LGBT youth.

Download full publication: <http://www.urbanjustice.org/ujc/publications/peter.html>

Select Journal Articles:

Caitlin Ryan et al., *Family Rejection as a Predictor of Negative Health Outcomes in White and Latino Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young Adults*, 123 (1) *Pediatrics* 346 (2009).

Jody Marksamer, *And by the Way, Do You Know He Thinks He's a Girl? The Failures of Law, Policy, and Legal Representation for Transgender Youth in Juvenile Delinquency Courts*, *Sexuality Res. & Soc. Pol'y*, Mar. 2008, at 72 (2008).

Rudy Estrada & Jody Marksamer, *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Young People in State Custody: Making the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems Safe for All Youth Through Litigation, Advocacy, and Education*, 79 *Temp. L. Rev.* 415 (2006).

Barbara Fedders, *Coming Out for Kids: Recognizing, Respecting, and Representing LGBTQ Youth*, 6 *NEV. L. J.* 774 (2006).

Relevant Cases:

***RG v. Koller*, 415 F. Supp. 2d 1129 (D. Haw. 2006)**

Three youths who identify as or who are perceived to be LGBT filed a motion for preliminary injunction seeking relief from the discrimination, harassment, and verbal, physical, and sexual abuse they suffered at the hands of Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) staff and wards. The court partially granted the plaintiff's preliminary injunction on due process grounds, finding that the conditions at HYCF were physically and psychologically unsafe for the plaintiffs. The court ruled that the defendants were deliberately indifferent to the health and safety of the plaintiffs in failing to provide (1) policies and training necessary to protect LGBT youth, (2) adequate staffing and supervision, (3) a functioning grievance system, and (4) a classification system to protect vulnerable youth. The court found that the practices of isolating the LGBT youths, ostensibly for their protection, and failing to protect them from physical and psychological abuse were clear violations of due process.

For more information: <http://www.aclu.org/lgbt/youth/>

***Doe v. Bell*, 194 Misc.2d 774, 754 N.Y.S.2d 846 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 2003)**

A New York Superior Court ruling that a transgender youth's Gender Identity Disorder constitutes a disability within the meaning of the State Human Rights Law. As such, the court required the New York City Administration for Children's Services to make reasonable dress code accommodations for the youth's disability. The petitioner was granted exemption from the dress policy and permitted to wear feminine clothing in the all-male foster care facility.

For more information: <http://www.srlp.org/areas/youth>

Rodriguez v. Johnson

Alyssa Rodriguez, now 20 years old, is a transgender woman who was deprived of her prescription hormone medication and punished for her feminine hairstyle and other aspects of her gender expression by the Office of Children and Family Services while at the Red Hook Residential Center and other New York juvenile detention facilities. Rodriguez had been on hormone therapy from a young age and experienced severe health consequences and emotional distress due to withdrawal symptoms after being forced to go without treatment. The case filed on Rodriguez's behalf resulted in a settlement. OCFS paid a monetary award to Rodriguez and is taking significant steps to improve its treatment of transgender youth, including the creation of a policy on the care of LGBTQ youth.

For more information: <http://www.lambdalegal.org/our-work/in-court/>

For a copy of the OCFS policy:

http://www.srlp.org/files/LGBTQ_Youth_Policy_PPM_3442_00.pdf

Policies of Note:

Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility: Non-Discriminatory, Developmentally Sound Treatment of LGBT Youth, Policy No. 1.43.04 (Effective 4.11.07)

New York Office of Children and Family Services, LGBTQ Youth, PPM 3442.00 (Issued 3.17.08)

New York City Department of Juvenile Justice, Anti-Discrimination of LGBTQ Youth (Effective 2.6.07)