Merada Juvenile Justice BILL OF RIGHTS

Youth in a juvenile justice youth center have the right:

- · To receive information concerning your rights;
- To be treated with basic human dignity and respect, without intentional infliction of humiliation;
- To have fair and equal access to services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits;
- To a program of education that meets the requirements of law and is appropriate for the development maturity of the youth;
- · To receive adequate, healthy, and appropriate food;
- To receive adequate, appropriate, and accessible necessities, including, without limitation; shelter, clean clothing, and personal hygiene products and facilities;
- To have access to necessary medical and behavioral health care services, including, without limitation:
 - · Dental, vision, and mental health services;
 - Medical and psychological screening, assessment, and testing; and
 - Referral to and receipt of medical, emotional, psychological or psychiatric evaluation and treatment as soon as practicable after the need for such services has been identified.
- To have reasonable access and accommodations to participate in religious services of your choice when reasonably available on the premises of the detention facility or to refuse to participate in religious services;
- To communicate with other persons, including, without limitation, to right:
 - To have regular contact through visits, telephone calls, and mail with:
 - · Biological children;
 - · Parents:
 - · Guardians:
 - · Attorneys; and
 - Other adults with whom the child has established a familiar or mentoring relationship, including, without limitation, clergy, caseworkers, teachers, mentors, and other persons, upon approval of the detention facility;

- · To communicate confidentially with:
 - Any agency which provides child welfare services to the child concerning his or her care;
 - Attorneys, legal services organizations and their employees and staff;
 - · Ombudspersons and other advocates;
 - · Members of the clergy; and
 - Holders of public office, and people who work at the state or federal court;
 - Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, a communication made pursuant to this paragraph is not a privileged communication.
- To report any alleged violaion of his or her rights without being threatened or punished.
- · To be free from:
 - Abuse or neglect;
 - Corporal punishment, except the reasonable use of force that is necessary to preserve the order, security, or safety of the youth, the public, the staff of the detention facility or other youth who are detained in the detention facility;
 - The administration of psychotropic medication unless the administration is consistent with the agency's policies;
 - Discrimination or harassment based on his or her actual or perceived race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, mental or physical disability or exposure to any communicable disease;
 - The deprivation of food, sleep, exercise, education, pillows, blankets, or personal hygiene products as a form of punishment or discipline;
 - Being searched for harassment or as a form of punishment or discipline;
 - Being restricted from a daily shower, clean clothing, drinking water, a toilet, or reading materials related to the education or detention of the child as a form of punishment or discipline;
- To participate, in person, by telephone or by videoconference, in all court hearings pertaining to the circumstances which led to the detention of the youth.