

Know your rights in care!

In care you have the right to be safe,
healthy, be heard and be yourself

The United Nations Convention On The Rights Of The Child (UNCRC)

The **UNCRC** is an important agreement by countries, including Ireland, who have promised to **protect children's rights**.

The **UNCRC** explains what children's rights are and how they must be upheld by governments.

All the rights are connected, they are all equally important and they cannot be taken away from children.

The UNCRC has 42 Articles.

There are **4 four core principles**:

Non-discrimination (*Article 2*)

Best interests of the child (*Article 3*)

Right to live and develop (*Article 6*)

Respect the views
of the child (*Article 12*)

EPIC empowers you to know your rights

Here are some of the important rights to know while you are in care

Article 1 You are a child if you are under 18 years of age.

Article 2 You have the same rights as every other child regardless of: your appearance, skin colour, your gender, your language, your religion, your opinion or being in care.

Article 3 Your best interests must be the top priority of those caring for and working with you.

Article 4 The government is responsible for protecting your rights while you are in care.

Article 6 You have the right to live and develop.

Article 12 You have the right to say what you think. Your opinions should be respected in all matters concerning you for example where you live, in school, by your social worker and at meetings about you.

Article 13 You are free to say what you think and to receive information you need (if it is within the law).

Article 16 You have the right to privacy.

Article 19 You have the right to be safe from harm and neglect.

Article 20 You have the right to be looked after by other people if you cannot live with your family.

Article 23 If you have a disability, you have the right to special care, education and to live a full life.

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