

***Legal Rights of Foster Children, Siblings, Relatives,  
Grandparents and Foster Parents***

**I. Introduction to the Foster Care System**

**II. Foster Children**

- a. Who makes decisions for foster children
- b. Foster children's rights
- c. Participation in the court process
- d. Placement with siblings
- e. Aging out and independent living

**III. Foster Parents**

- a. Foster Parents' rights statutes
- b. Procedural rights under Adoption and Safe Families Act and similar state laws
- c. Foster parents and foster children: are they family?
- d. Authority of foster parents

**IV. Relatives, Grandparents and Siblings**

- a. Current state of the law regarding rights of relatives.
- b. Rights of grandparents: *Troxel* and its impact
- c. Examples of state laws regarding relatives and grandparents
- d. Surrenders for adoption, termination of parental rights and adoption: Impact on grandparent's rights
- e. Siblings: Examples of state laws regarding relationship rights of siblings
- f. Siblings: Examination of judicial opinions regarding siblings rights to a relationship with one another

**V. Conclusion**