LGBT YOUTH IN CALIFORNIA FOSTER CARE
Legal and Professional Standards

The audacity to fight for justice.
The perseverance to win.

Legal and Professional Standards

• The right to fair and equal access to services, placement, care, treatment and benefits
• The right to NOT to be subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or perceived SO/GI

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Equality
Equity
Core Protections

- Safety
- Permanency
- Well-Being

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Safety

- Decrease risk factors and increase protective factors
  - Home
  - School
  - Community

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Home

(Family Acceptance Project 2009)

Behaviors that Help
- Talk with your child about their SO/GI
- Advocate for your child when he or she is mistreated
- Express affection when you learn your child is LGBT
- Require that family members respect your child

Behaviors to Avoid
- Pressuring your child to be more of less feminine or masculine
- Telling your child that God will punish them
- Blaming your child when they are mistreated
- Making your child keep their LGBT identity a secret

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### School

**Risk Factors**
- School-based victimization increases risk
  - Truancy
  - School failure
  - Depression
  - Low self esteem
  - Lack of positive peer connections

**Protective Factors**
- Safe and affirming schools increase well-being
  - School engagement
  - Academic success
  - Positive peer relations
  - Hope for the future

### Permanency

- Increase family acceptance
- Decrease reliance on group care
- Work with youth to identify permanent connections
- Increase and diversify LGBT affirming placements
- Train and support caregivers

### Well-Being

- Understand the health and mental health effects of stigma
- Ensure access to affirming, competent providers
- Intervene to address harassment or discrimination
- Provide healthy social and recreational outlets
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