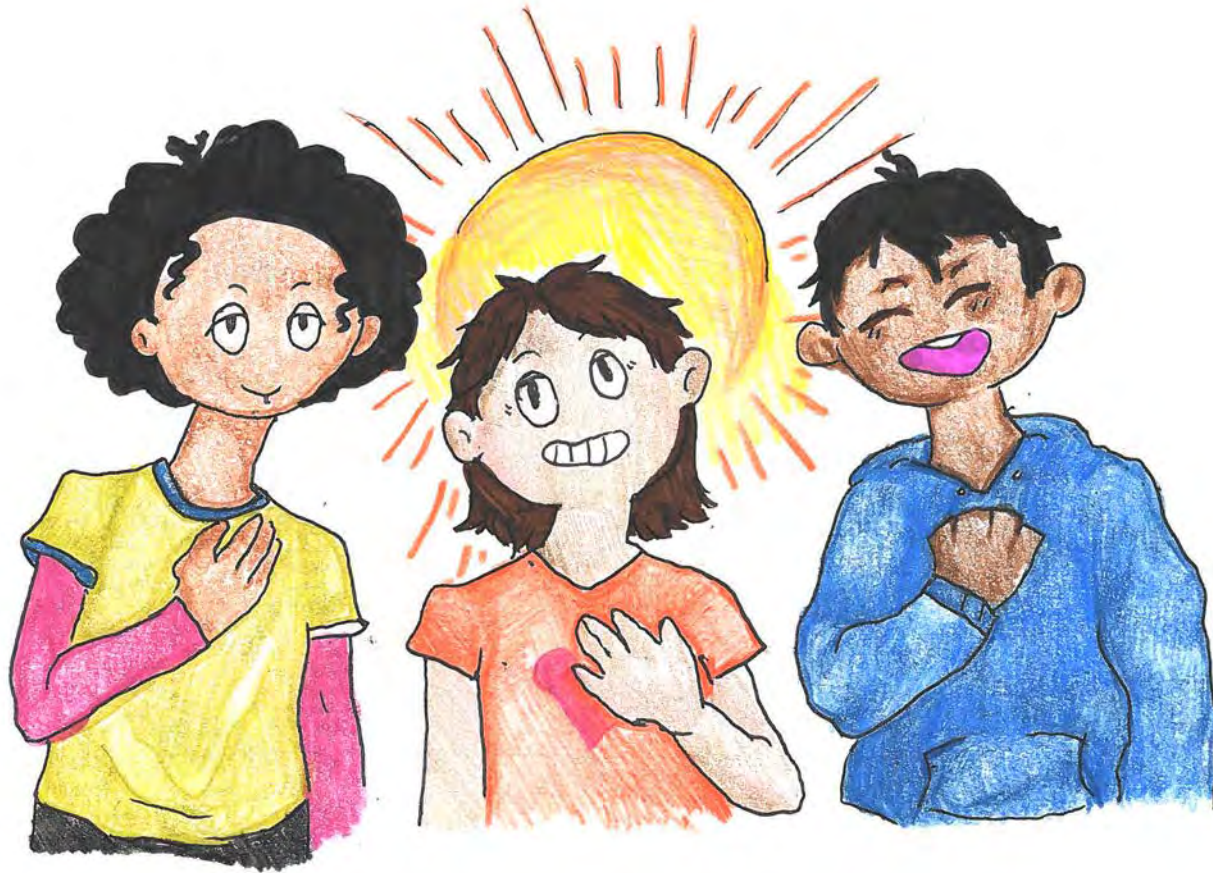


My Life, My Rights



Illustrated by
ShyAnn Britt

Since 1958
LEGAL AID CENTER
of Southern Nevada



As a child in the foster care system, I have important rights. It's important for me to know my rights and to speak with a lawyer if I don't.

I Have the Right to a Lawyer Who Will Fight for Me

My lawyer's name is

_____.

Their phone number is
() - .

Their email address is
_____@lacsns.org.



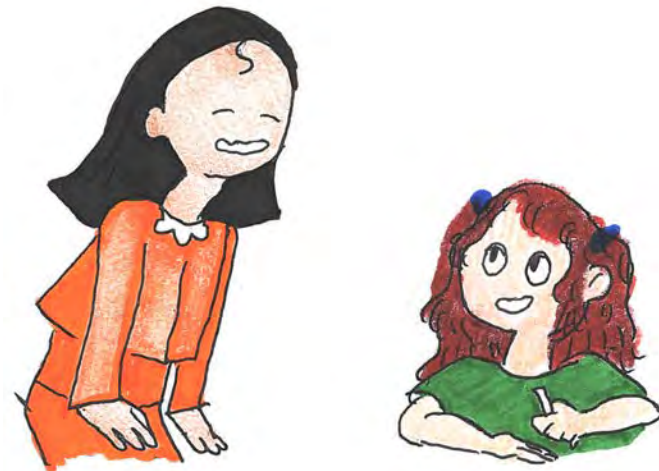
Here are some things my lawyer will do for me:

- Listen to me and fight for what I want and where I want to live
- Keep everything I say private unless I say it's OK to tell others
- Tell me what's going on in my case

Here are some other things my lawyer will do for me:



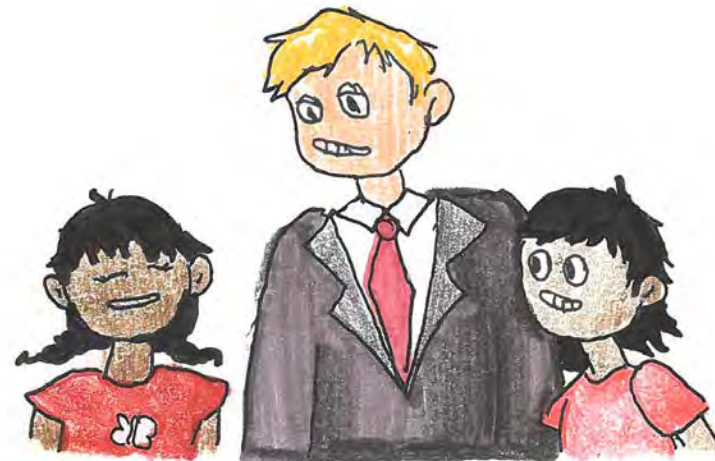
Go to court with me and make sure my voice is heard



Get me help if I'm struggling at school



Fight for me to be able to see my family



Fight to keep my brothers and sisters and me together

Here are some things my lawyer CAN'T do for me:



Get me out of doing my homework



Get me more TV time



Let me play more video games

Give me permission to stay up past my bedtime

What time do you usually go to bed?

I Have the Right to Go to Court

Going to court is very important.

Judges love meeting kids.

A judge is a person who decides where I live and if and when I can go home.

So this is my chance to
SPEAK UP!

If I don't want to talk, I
don't have to.

My lawyer will speak for me.



I Have the Right to Live
in My Home with My
Relatives, Unless the
Judge Says It's Not Safe



Who are your relatives? Draw them!

I Have the Right to Be Placed in a Home with My Siblings

The relationship I have with my brothers and sisters is very important.

If I can't be placed with my brothers and sisters, I have a right to visit them.



I Have the Right to Visit My Parents and Other Relatives, Unless the Judge Says No

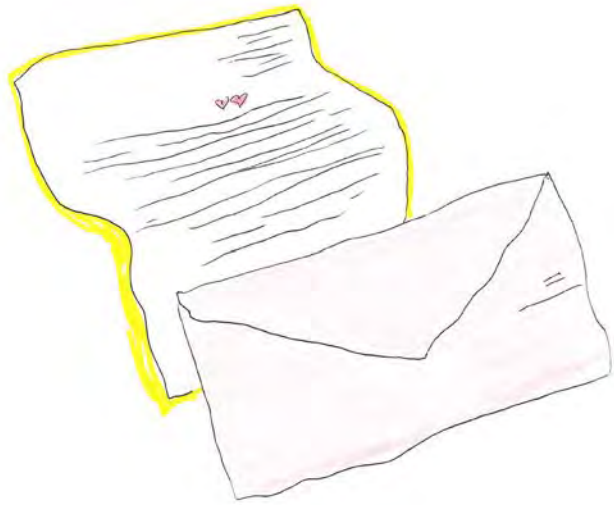
I Have the Right to Privacy with My Personal Belongings



My belongings include my clothes, my backpack, and my journals.

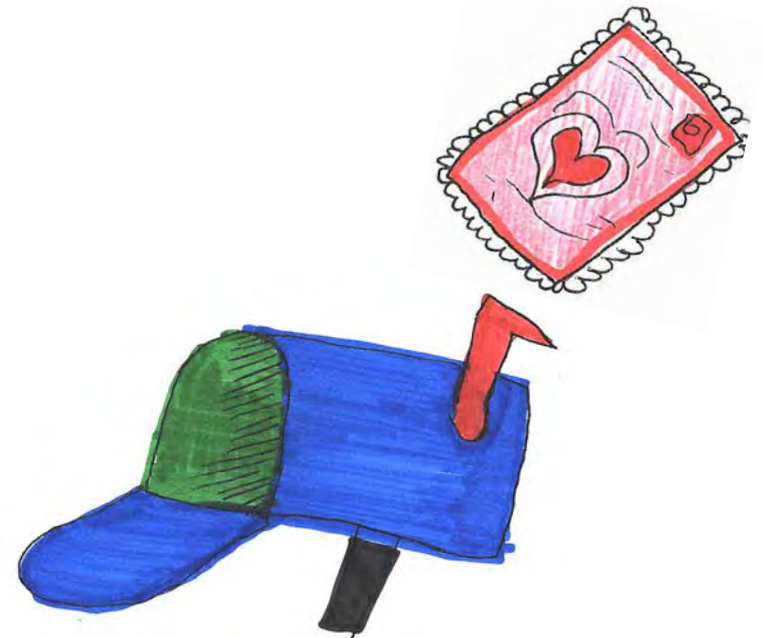
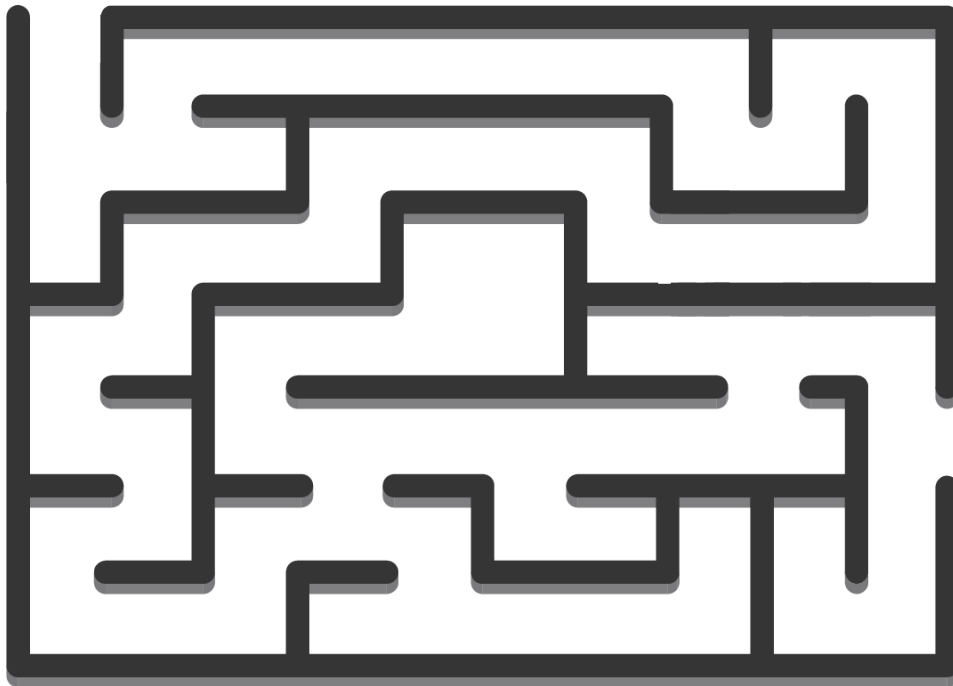
No one's allowed to go through my things without my permission.

Draw a personal belonging important to YOU!



I Have the Right to Send and Receive Unopened Messages

Deliver the letter through the maze to the mailbox!



Mail, email, or text—I have a right to privacy!

I Have the Right to Save and Use My Own Money



I may have a right to an allowance, depending on where I live.
I can put money in and take money out of a bank account.

I Have the Right to Have Private Conversations with My Lawyer

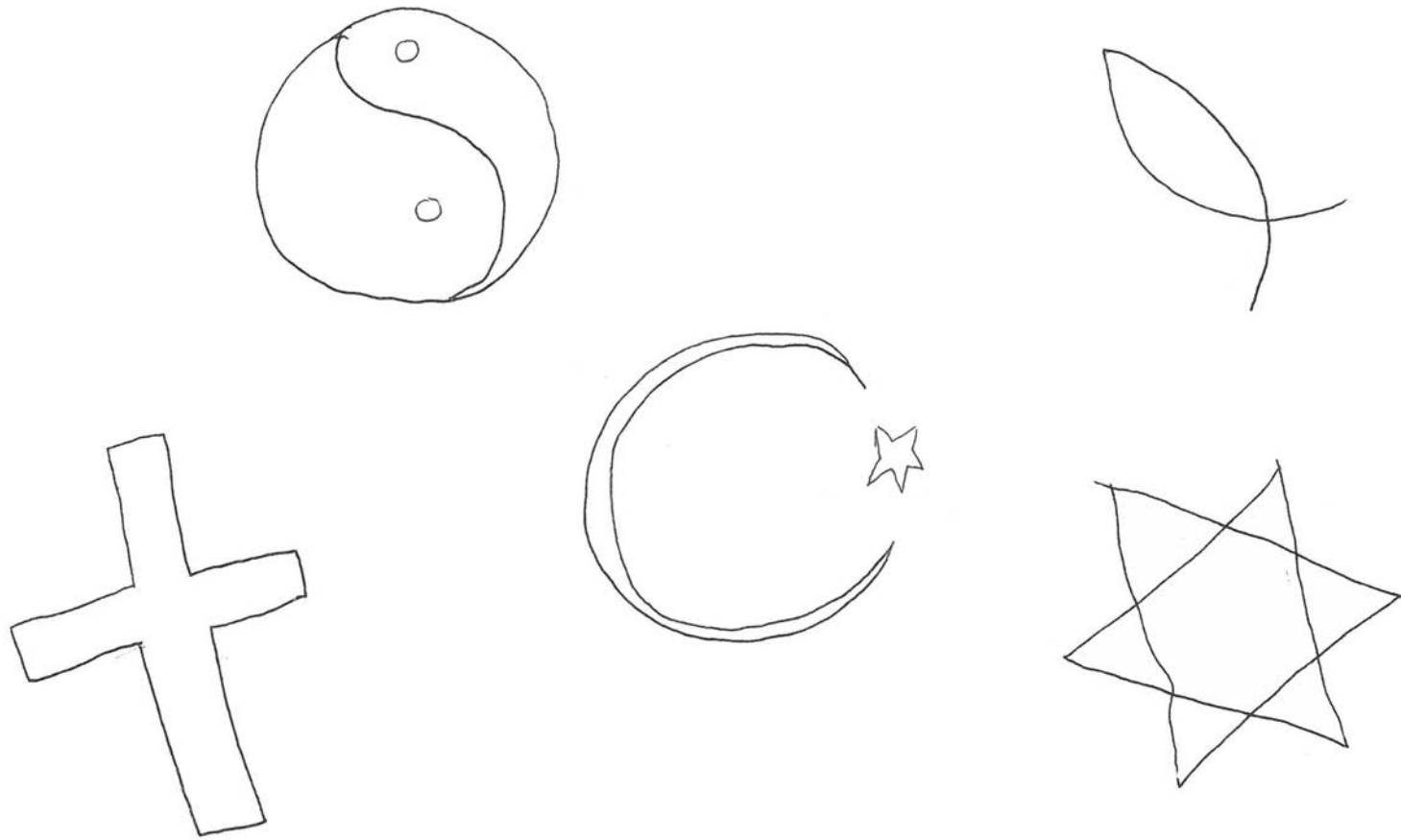
Everything I tell my lawyer is private. No one should listen to this conversation. Not even a judge can listen to what I tell my lawyer.

This means that if I'm on the phone with my lawyer, no one else should be listening to the conversation.



Color in the numbers of your lawyer's phone number!

I Have the Right to Practice My Religion if I Want



My faith doesn't change just because I enter foster care. I DECIDE if I want to attend religious services with my foster family.

I Have the Right to Be Respected

“Respect” means no yelling, hitting, or name calling.

I deserve respect from my parents or foster family.



Find and circle the underlined words!



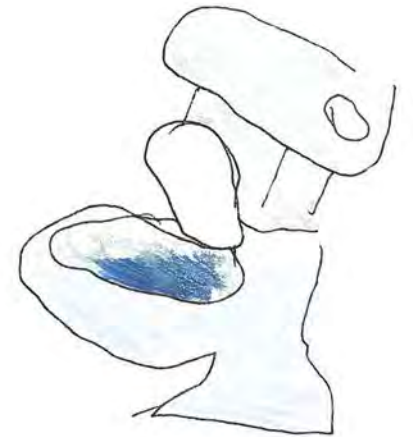
G	P	J	R	V	J	P	N
F	N	A	A	A	Y	T	K
A	S	I	R	F	C	Y	E
M	M	Y	T	E	V	F	D
I	Q	G	P	T	N	G	W
L	N	S	Q	Y	I	T	L
Y	E	B	L	I	X	H	S
R	X	G	B	K	O	F	B

I Have the Right to Privacy with My Body

NO ONE can touch my body inappropriately.

I have a right to change my clothes by myself.

I have a right to use the bathroom by myself.



If I'm not being respected
or if I'm not given privacy,
I have to tell my lawyer.

My Lawyer Can Help

If I feel that someone isn't respecting me or is invading my privacy, I should contact my lawyer right away to let them know.

My lawyer can help me if I'm being disrespected or abused.



What Kind of Punishments Are OK if I Do Something Wrong?

It's hard to say for sure, but here's what's not OK:

- Being physically punished, such as getting spanked or hit with a belt
- Getting tied up or locked in a room
- Being denied food!
- Getting excluded from family

If something like that happens to me, I'll CALL MY LAWYER!

Can you find all 8 exclamation points (!) on this page?





I Have the Right to Go to School

I should be able to go to school every day. I have a right to keep going to MY school even if I move.

I Have the Right to Privacy at School

My teacher can't tell anyone that I'm in foster care. If my teacher breaks this rule, I should tell my lawyer immediately.



Find 6 differences in the pictures!

I Have the Right to Keep Doing My Activities

That includes any school clubs and sports teams.

I also have the right to do other activities away from school. I could do things like take a karate class, learn ballet, or be in a play.

Circle everything that starts with the letter B!



I Have the Right to See Doctors



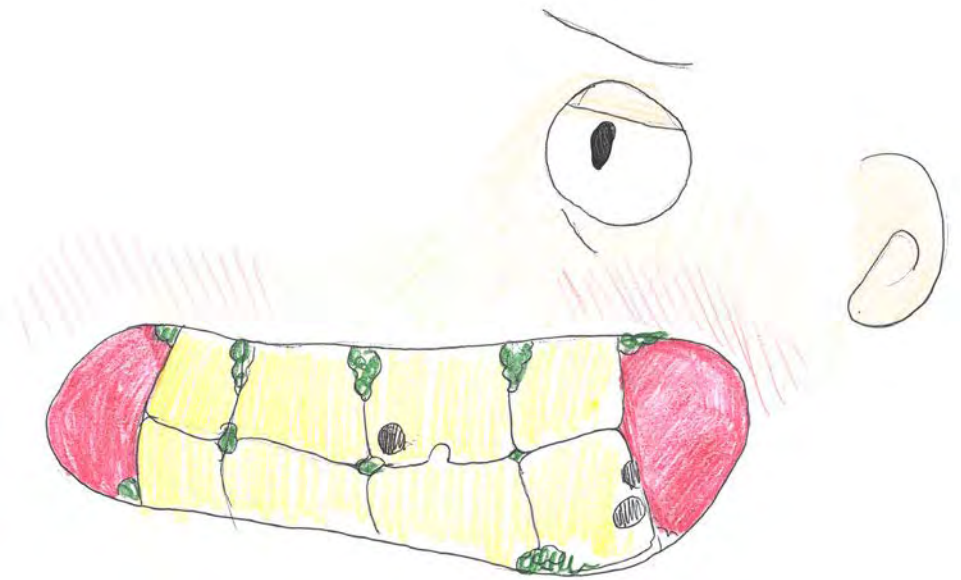
I can go to a doctor
if something hurts or
if I feel bad.

I can talk about
my feelings with
my doctor or my
therapist.

I DON'T have to take any medicine that
makes me feel really bad or sleepy.



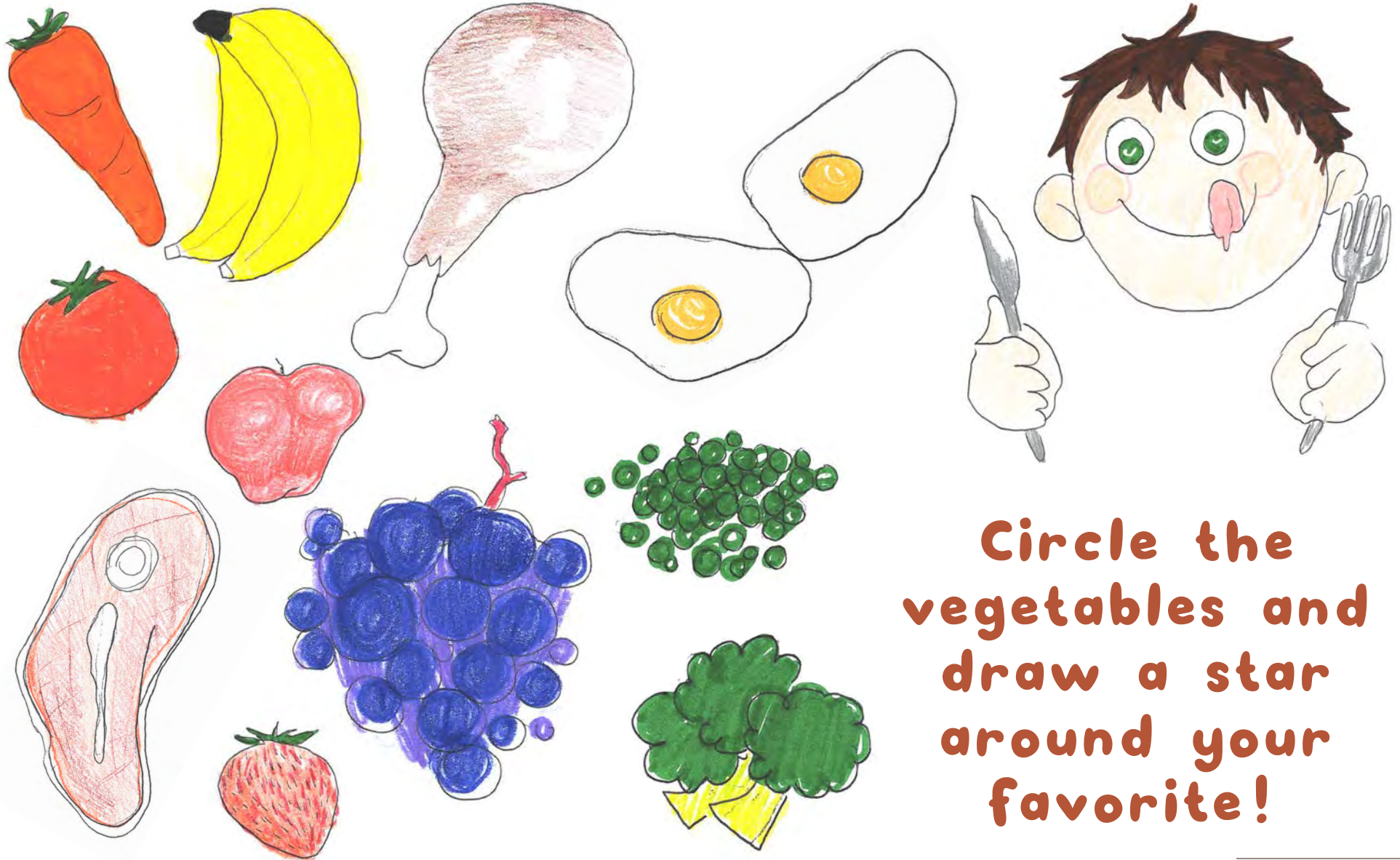
I have a right to get my teeth cleaned and my cavities fixed. If my teeth hurt, I can go to a dentist as soon as possible.



If I'm having trouble seeing the board at school or with reading, I have a right to see a doctor who can help me get glasses.

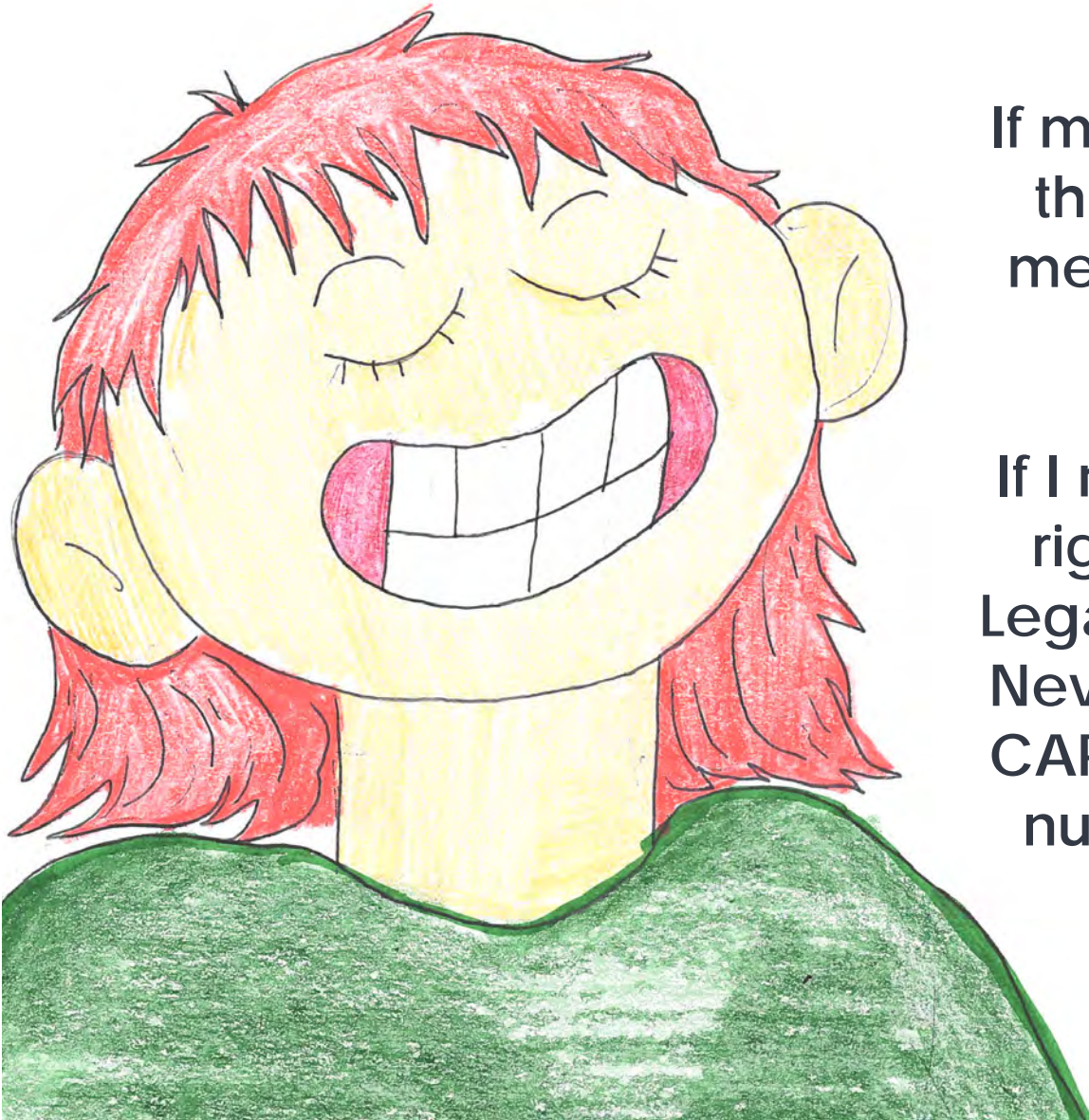
Draw some glasses to help him see!

I Have the Right to Eat Food That's Yummy and Healthy for Me



Circle the vegetables and draw a star around your favorite!

I can call my lawyer any time I have questions or need to talk to them.



If my lawyer doesn't answer the phone, I can leave a message and they will call me back.

If I need to talk to someone right away, I can call the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and ask to talk to a CAP Supervisor. Their phone number is (702) 386-1070.

About the Illustrator

Hi, I'm ShyAnn Britt. I'm 18, and I just recently aged out of the system you may be in right now. When I was 14, I was trapped in an abusive home, but when I left on my own I didn't know what to do. I called Child Protective Services for help and I was taken to Child Haven, and there started my journey through foster care. Now I'm about to graduate high school and start college in the fall.

It's not easy being a kid like us—we all come from unique situations, but to make up for the pain, we're helped and cared for by an entire web of people dedicated to seeing us succeed. The important thing is to accept this help, even though it can be hard sometimes. Keep looking towards your future, and trust me, it will get better.



The Children's Attorneys Project (CAP) at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada was established in 1999 from a task force of County Commissioners, the Clark County District Court, social workers, attorneys, family law judges, and state children's rights advocates. CAP represents abused and neglected children in the Clark County foster care system to ensure these children have a voice in court and are empowered to take an active role in the trajectory of their lives. The Children's Attorneys Project received the inaugural Outstanding Children's Law Office Award in 2019 from the National Association of Counsel for Children.



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