

# Are you Homeless?

*Have you been kicked out of your home by your parent or guardian?*

*Have you left home, or are you thinking of leaving because things are so bad?*

## **Some Facts about Homelessness and the Help You Can Get**

### **How do I qualify for help?**

If you do not have a “fixed, regular and decent night-time place to sleep” you qualify for help. This includes people in homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, or motels.

If you are in a DCF transitional living program, you will not be considered homeless. Students who have run away from home and are temporarily staying with a friend or family may not qualify in some situations.

If you are not sure if you qualify for help, or if you have any other questions, call us for more information.

### **What happens if I move from one town to another?**

If you move, your old school system will either bus you back to your old school each day, or pay to send you to a school closer to where you are now staying.

If you attend a new school, the old school system will send your records (school and medical) to the new school. The new school system has the responsibility to enroll and educate you, and find you a guardian, if you need one, to help you make decisions about your education.

### **Can I attend school if all my records are not available?**

You can go to school even if all your school records are not complete or available, but you must have complete medical and immunization records. It is your responsibility, or that of your parent or guardian, to get your complete medical records or to get a waiver signed. The school must make sure you are healthy before you can attend classes.

### **Can I participate in programs and services available?**

You can participate in any programs offered by the school, such as sports, music or tutoring. You can also receive any state services you are eligible for, such as free or reduced-cost meals and special education programs.

### **Where do I go for help if I am homeless?**

Federal Law gives all children and teens the right to a public education. The law that protects you is called the Stuart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. This law applies to anyone who is homeless, even if you are staying in a shelter or motel.

**For any questions about homelessness or your legal rights, call the Center for Children’s Advocacy at 860-570-5327.**

**Center for Children’s Advocacy  
Teen Legal Advocacy Clinic  
860-570-5327  
We can help.**