Hello, I'm calling you because not only do I have a problem with my foster family, but also with my social worker. I'm desperate and nobody wants to help me.

You've come to the right place. Tell me everything that has happened.

About the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is an international organisation founded in 1949 which now has 47 member states. Its role is to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law. It establishes common democratic principles based on the European Convention on Human Rights and other conventions and recommendations on the protection of persons, which of course includes Europe’s 150 million children.

The programme “Building a Europe for and with children” was set up to secure and promote children’s human rights, and to protect children from all forms of violence.

To know more about Council of Europe action in the field of children’s rights: www.coe.int/children
children@coe.int

Discover your rights!
Children and young people living in care have the same rights as children who live with their family of origin.

The government and child welfare organisations are responsible for making sure that these rights are respected and protected.

Your rights should be protected

As you know, the court has reached its decision and has withdrawn your parental authority. From now on, Maria will live with a foster family where she will be able to start building herself up...

Your needs are the number one priority.
You are entitled to a good standard of care (comfort, security, etc.).
You have the right to good quality health care and regular check-ups.
You are entitled to a high standard of education. If you were already in school when you moved into care, you should – whenever possible and if you so wish – be able to stay in the same school.
You should have access to leisure activities, such as play, sport and cultural activities, just as other children.
You should be protected from all forms of violence, in particular sexual violence. No one has the right to hit you!

Your stay in care

Your right to privacy should be respected. You have the right to access official information and files that deal with you.
Your religious and cultural background should be respected.
You and your siblings should stay together, if this is good for you.
You should be able to maintain relations with the people around you (friends, former neighbours, relatives and so forth), as long as these relationships are not harmful to you.
It is up to you to decide what kind of relationship you would like to have with your family of origin and how often you want to see them.

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