

## *A Stepkid's Bill of Rights*

I have the right to discuss and help make decisions about things that directly involve me like school and visitation schedules.

I have every right to my own feelings and the opportunity to express them with my family.

I have the right to my own possessions, private space, and privacy within reasonable limits.

I have the right to give and earn respect in my household.

I have the right for each of my households to feel like home. I am not an intruder in my family.

I have the right to expect that my parent and stepparent will **ALWAYS** treat me with respect, even if they don't like me.

I have the right to decide who I love, but I can get make an effort to get along with members of my stepfamily.

I have the right to not be involved in issues that involve money or problems between my parents unless I am a direct cause of such issues.

I have the right to spend time with my biological parent no matter custodial or not.

I have the right to love my biological parents and hear them talked about with respect regardless of how my stepparent or anyone else may feel. I can acknowledge that there are at least two other people who care for me and deserve to be acknowledged sometimes.

I have a right to be a part of family meetings and to have a voice in those meetings.

I have a right not to immediately fall in love with my stepfamily and should not be forced to call my stepparent anything resembling a "mom" or "dad" name. I have the right to be part of the process of deciding what to call my stepparent.