

Teenage Bill Of Rights

- 1. The right to let childhood be forgotten. A teenager likes to be treated as a young adult, not as a child. When teens start high school, there is a gain of responsibility and importance. They do not like to be reminded of their cute, childish ways.*
- 2. The right to have a "say" about their own lives. The wise parent will realize that a good way of helping teenagers grow into successful adulthood is by letting them make their own decisions whenever possible. Decisions affecting teenagers should be made largely by them - certainly with them, and seldom for them.*
- 3. The right to make mistakes, to find out for themselves. Making mistakes is a source of learning and a part of growing up. Teenagers need to be encouraged, even at a risk of making mistakes. Teenagers have the right to make and learn from their mistakes without being ridiculed or blamed.*
- 4. The right to have rules explained, not imposed. Teenagers realize that there are restrictions on their freedom laid down by more experienced people (parents, society). A rule is a restriction and causes rebellion unless it is explained and seems fair to teenagers.*
- 5. The right to have fun and companions. Teenagers want a full life and opportunities for companionship. Wise parents will allow their teenagers to have gatherings in their homes, with both the parents and the teenagers sharing the responsibilities. If parents and society provide good recreation, the social level of teenagers will be higher.*
- 6. The right to question ideas. Teenagers are no longer children and understand more than parents sometimes realize. Ideas and attitudes are not necessarily right just because they have come from adults. Teenagers have a right to question, to get an answer, and to discuss things for enlightenment.*
- 7. The right to be at the romantic age. To most teenagers, love is serious and they resent adult misunderstandings and ridicule. If the parent fails to sense the teenager's feelings, than the son or daughter may feel that the parent is not the one in whom to confide.*
- 8. The right to professional help whenever necessary. Without a good foundation of understanding and love throughout childhood, teenagers can develop serious emotional problems that may disrupt their whole lives. Professional help will be provided before teenagers get into serious trouble. Teens may be seen at the Kaiser Pediatric Clinic with or without parents accompanying them.*
- 9. The right to struggle toward an individual philosophy of life. To each generation there is a future and to the individual teenager, how to fit into and how to contribute something to his/her future, according to will and talents is most important. The art of letting children test out their muscles, at the same time being always at hand when needed, is the real key to a secure relationship between parents and their teenage children.*

