Gay and Lesbian Youth in Foster Care
Annotated Bibliography


Mallon, G. P. (1993). “An Open Discussion About Gay and Lesbian Adolescents in Out- of-Home Child Welfare Settings. Daily Living, 7(2), 4-5. Includes an overview of the issues facing gay and lesbian adolescents, including the identification of their sexual orientation, the need to hide, and being underserved by the child welfare system. Covers the challenges of case planning with these youths, and tips for professionals to provide them with quality services.


Written for court-appointed special advocates, this article outlines why the subject is often difficult for professionals and how advocates can help by becoming more knowledgeable about homosexuality. It also includes the facts about adolescent homosexuality and the effects of stigmatization on gay and lesbian youth.

Mallon, G. (1992). “Gay and No Place to Go: Assessing the Needs of Gay and Lesbian Adolescents in Out-of-Home Care Settings.” Child Welfare, 71, 547-556. Discusses the reasons why foster care placements are often negative experiences for gay and lesbian youth, whether the young person is “out” or struggling with sexual identity. Concludes with suggestions for improving agency climates to offer these youth safety, advocacy, and appropriate adult role models.

Mallon, G. P. (1992). “Serving the Needs of Gay and Lesbian Youth in Residential Treatment Centers.” Residential Treatment for Children and Youth, 10, 47-61. Describes the challenges for residential treatment settings in meeting the needs of lesbian and gay youth. Training of staff, board, and other residents is seen as a way to identify and meet some of these needs. Training should include issues related to lesbian and gay adolescents and an examination of trainees' attitudes about homosexuality.

McMillen, C. (1991). “Sexual Identity Issues Related to Homosexuality in the Residential Treatment of Adolescents.” Residential Treatment for Children and Youth, 9, 5-21. Due to past sexual abuse, possibly an overrepresentation of gay and lesbian youth in care, and the logistics of group care, often homosexuality as it relates to sexual identity issues is important to teens in residential treatment. This article describes ways to meet the needs of all teens for accurate, nonjudgmental information about homosexuality to promote tolerance and help resolve sexual identity issues.


Uribe, V., & Harbeck, K. M. (1991). “Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth: The Origins of PROJECT 10 and School-Based Intervention.” Journal of Homosexuality, 22, 9-28. Although it focuses on the experiences of gay and lesbian youth at school, this article may be of interest because of the close relationship between school and foster care for youth in residential treatment centers. It describes a Los Angeles project that provides services to gay and lesbian teens in the schools, and the great need for such services.