

HELP for Youth



You deserve a family who...

- ...Loves you, unconditionally**
- ...Treats you with respect**
- ...Doesn't abuse you, make fun of you or disown you**
- ...Supports your gender identity and expression**
- ...Supports your inherent sexuality**
- ...Helps you make connections with other LGBT youth**
- ...Stands up for you**
- ...Allows you to be yourself**
- ...Is proud of who you are!**

If you are being bullied or abused call the DCF Hotline at 1-800-842-2288



IMPORTANT: Read this before **"coming out"** to your parents so you are aware of all the possible consequences of your decision. You may need to have a plan of action in place, such as a place to stay or a ride to a safe space, before you tell them. Some parent(s) choose to love their children, no matter what and will continue to love, support and accept their children after their children "come out." Unfortunately, some parent(s) are not as loving or accepting and choose to disown, beat, attack, bully or immediately kick their child out of the home. For some adolescents this can be a very stressful and difficult decision to make - so don't make it lightly. For the lucky ones who live with parents who love, care for and support them, it's often "no big deal" and life goes on. However, if your parent(s) no longer allow you to stay in their residence or worse, respond to your news with acts of violence against you, contact the DCF Hotline immediately at **1-800-842-2288**. We can help protect you and keep you safe from harm, neglect, abuse or violence.

Is sexual orientation or inherent sexuality a choice?

No. DCF mirrors the missions, standards and professional code of ethics concerning LGBT individuals which are employed by the top child welfare agencies in the nation, including the [National Association of Social Workers](#) (NASW), the [American Psychological Association](#) (APA), and the [Child Welfare League of America](#) (CWLA), just to name a few.

DCF, in conjunction with these professional agencies, serves to combat intolerance and discrimination and fulfill the needs of all children and families. Human beings do not choose to be either gay, bisexual or

straight any more than they can choose the color of their skin or their nationality. Sexual orientation emerges in most people in the early teen and pre-teen years, prior to any sexual experience. You are attracted to who you are attracted too - educators, doctors, child service providers and psychologists do not consider sexual orientation to be a choice, but rather it's inherent.

- [I Think I might be Gay](#)...Now what do I do?
 - [I Think I might be Lesbian](#)...Now what do I do?
 - [I Think I might be Transgender](#)...Now what do I do?
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- [Queer Attitude](#) (Get help, give advice, debate and enjoy!)
- [The Gay Youth Corner](#) (gay chat, web forums, advice, coming out, more...)
- [Matthew's Place](#) (Share interesting items going on in your community)

Advocacy

- [National Youth Advocacy Coalition](#) (NYAC)
- [Gay Straight Alliance Network](#)

Bisexual Resources

- [Bi.org](#)
- [Bisexual Resource Center](#)

Community Organizations



[Advocates for Youth](#)

(Advocates' Youth Activist Network is composed of more than 10,000 youth from communities across the country.)



[The Equality Project](#) works to support and help monitor the adoption of written employee nondiscrimination policies on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace by pressing companies to implement the progressive policies expressed in the Equality Principles.



[Speak Truth to Power](#)

(youth to stop bullying in schools)



[Center for Human Development](#) serves lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth and their straight allies.

Cool stuff

- [Gay Teen Forum](#)
- [List of LGBT themed teen Books](#) (Los Angeles Public Library)
- [The Cool Page for Queer Teens](#)

Domestic Violence

- [Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project](#) (1-800-832-1901)

Education

- [America's First Oline LGBT High School](#)
- Know your rights at school. [Out, Safe and Respected!](#) brochure

Families

- [2 Moms, 2 Dads](#) (Comments for Kids)
- [Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere](#) (COLAGE)
- [Families Like Mine](#)

Foster Youth

- [Foster Care Basics](#)
- [LGBTQ Foster Youth](#)

National Organizations

- [GLBT National Help Center](#)
- [National Black Justice Coalition](#)
- [National Gay and Lesbian Task Force](#)
- [National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association](#) - Student Central

Relationships

- [Gay Relationships 101: Am I moving too Fast?](#)

Resources

- [Live Out Loud](#)
- [Out Proud](#)
- [Support Services for LGBTQ Youth](#)
- [Youth Guardian Services](#)
- [Youth Resources](#) (Advocates for Youth)

Sex

- [Planned Parenthood](#)
- [Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States \(SIECUS\)](#)
- [Sex Ed 101](#) (ASHA)

Straight Children / LGBT Parents

- [Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere](#) (COLAGE)

Students / Safe Schools

- [California Safe Schools](#)
- [Get Busy, Get Equal](#) (Making schools safe for everyone)
- [Hetrick-Martin Institute](#) (Home of the Harvey Milk School in NYC)
- [International GLBT and Queer Youth and Student Organization](#) (IGLYO)
- [Out, Safe and Respected!](#) (Lambda Legal Brochure about your rights!)

- [Safe Schools Coalition Resources](#)
- [Schooling Schools on LGBT Rights](#) (All sorts of good information from the ACLU)
- [Student.com](#)
- [Student Organizing](#) (register your student organization or school GSA)

Surveys

- [2009 School Climate Survey](#)
- Take the LGBT Children and Youth Survey at: <http://www.lgbtparents.org/>

Youth of Color

- [Ali Forney Center](#) (NYC)
- [APICHA](#) (LGBT Asian/Pacific Youth)
- [Asian Family Pride](#)
- [Audre Lorde Project](#) (LGBT, 2-Spirit, & Gender Non-Conforming People of Color)
- [Black Youth Project](#)
- [Colours Organization, Inc.](#)
- [FIERCE](#) (LGBTQ Youth of Color)
- [LGBT Youth of Color](#)
- [Multiracial Youth Together](#)
- [Youth Resources - African American Youth](#)
- [Youth of Color Initiative](#)