



## **The Definition of “Normalcy”**

**Defining what “normalcy” means for youth in out-of-home care, and how service providers can promote “normal” adolescent experiences for youth in their care.**

**Created by the New England Youth Coalition  
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### **Preamble:**

“Normal” refers to standard or usual activities regularly experienced by youth not in out-of-home care. ‘Out-of-home care’ includes residential treatment facilities, foster homes, group homes, and placements with relatives or kin. In addition to ‘standard or usual activities’, normalcy for youth in out-of-home care includes opportunities for input and participation in decision-making for their cases and day-to-day lives.

Along with defining what “Normalcy” looks like, the New England Youth Coalition hopes this document will raise awareness of the unique experiences of:

- Youth in secure facilities,
  - Youth from varying ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds - including Native youth, and
  - Youth with non-conforming gender identification and sexual orientations.
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Categories in Process of being defined

**“Normalcy” and Families:**

**“Normalcy” and Social/Peer Inclusion:**

**“Normalcy” and Community Inclusion:**

**“Normalcy” and Cultural Awareness:**

**“Normalcy” and Age-Related Milestones:**

**“Normalcy” and Decision-Making:**