

Illinois Confidentiality/Minor Consent Laws

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT EXCEPTIONS

A parent or legal guardian must provide consent on behalf of a minor (under age 18) before health care services are provided, with **several important exceptions**.

- **Emergency care**
- **Care for pregnant or parenting minors**
- **Care for emancipated minors**
 - Minors can be emancipated by: court order, marriage, military active duty
- **Specific health care services related to:**
 - Sexual health
 - Mental health
 - Substance use treatment

Patients ages 12 and up have the right to the following WITHOUT parental/guardian consent:

- Pregnancy testing and prenatal care
- Birth control information and contraceptives
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Substance abuse treatment
- Mental health counseling*

* Up to eight, 90-minute mental health counseling sessions for ages 12-16. Minors can access more than eight sessions if the provider believes it's in the minor's best interest to continue or that parental involvement would be detrimental to the minor's well-being.

MINORS NEED A PARENT/GUARDIAN'S CONSENT FOR:

- Inpatient mental health treatment (if under age 16; after age 16, consent is not needed but parents may receive notification)
- Vaccines (including HPV)

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS MUST OVERRIDE THE MINOR'S CONFIDENTIALITY AND REPORT IF:

- There is suspicion of abuse by an adult
- The minor is a risk to themselves or someone else

If maximum confidentiality is important to an adolescent, then community-based family planning health centers (such as Title X clinics) offer the maximum privacy protections.

For educational purposes only