

## TIPS...

- **Providers:** A youth is more likely to disclose sensitive information when he/she has time alone with the provider to discuss concerns.
- Help youth understand their minor consent rights at the beginning of each visit.
- Even when the chief complaint is a non-confidential issue such as a headache, there may be underlying issues (ex. need for a STI screening) which will only surface if the youth is provided with confidential care for sensitive services.
- **Teens:** Give this card to your health care provider to start the conversation about your right to consent for health services.
- Let your provider know why you would like confidential services.
- Feel free to ask questions about your consent rights and the health services you receive from your provider.

Adapted from CALIFORNIA MINOR CONSENT LAWS: Which Minors May Consent for What Services and Provider Confidentiality Obligations.

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# California Minor Consent Laws



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Adolescent Health Working Group  
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# California Minor Consent Laws

Services teens can get without permission from their parent/guardian		Can provider tell teen's parent/guardian?
Abortion	Minors of any age	No  Parental notification not allowed without consent of minor
Birth Control	Minors of any age Except sterilization	
Pregnancy (Prev, Dx, Tx)	Minors of any age Including inpatient care	
STD's, Contagious and Reportable Diseases (Dx & Tx)	Minors 12 yrs or older	
HIV Testing	Minors 12 yrs or older and assessed as competent to give informed consent	
Rape	Minors 12 yrs or older Including inpatient care	
Alcohol/Drug Counseling by Federally Assisted Treatment Program	Minors 12 yrs or older <sup>1,2</sup> Including inpatient care	Yes  An attempt to notify must be made, except when provider believes it is inappropriate
Alcohol/Drug Counseling by Non-Federally Assisted Treatment Program	Minors 12 yrs or older <sup>3</sup>	
Outpatient Mental Health Treatment		
Sexual Assault	Minors of any age	Yes  An attempt to notify must be made except when provider believes parent/guardian is responsible for assault

## Definitions:

**Minor:** a person under 18 years old and not legally an adult.

**Confidentiality:** your health care provider cannot share your information with others without your permission. Note: Exceptions to confidentiality include reporting child abuse and billing insurance companies for health services.

**Consent:** giving your health care provider permission to share your information with others; or giving permission to receive a health service.

**Notification:** when your health care provider tells someone (such as your parent/guardian) you received a specific health service.

**Contagious and reportable diseases:** illnesses and infections that can spread quickly to other people and must be reported to government agencies.

**Outpatient:** services that do not require an overnight stay or hospitalization.

**Rape:** sexual intercourse without your permission.

**Sexual assault:** for the purposes of minor consent alone, sexual assault includes but is not limited to acts of oral sex, sodomy, rape, and other violent crimes of a sexual nature that occur without your permission.

## Key:

Prev = Prevention

Dx = Diagnosis

Tx = Treatment

STD's = Sexually Transmitted Diseases

<sup>1</sup> However, parent/guardian can consent over the minor's objection.

<sup>2</sup> Parent/guardian's consent is required for methadone treatment.

<sup>3</sup> If (1) the minor is 12 years or older, is mature enough to consent AND (2) the minor is (A) the victim of incest or child abuse or (B) would present a threat of serious physical or mental harm to self or others without treatment.