

Health Rights for Teens

1. You have the right to be treated with respect regardless of race, skin color, place where you were born, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ability, immigration status, financial status, health status or parental status.
2. 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 expectations**:
 - **Emergency care**
 - **Care for independent minors**
 - Mature minor: Judged by provider to have the capacity to give informed consent, generally older than 15 years
 - Emancipated minor: Generally, includes minors who are married, involved in military services, living apart from parents and self-supporting, in foster care, or sentenced to the youthful offender system
3. Minors have the right to the following services **without** the permission of a parent or legal guardian:
 - Testing and treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections, including HIV
 - Substance and alcohol use treatment (if the minor is 12 years or older)
 - Outpatient mental health care if it doesn't require medication (if the minor is 14 years or older; if the treatment spans more than 30 days or 6 visits, parental notification is required)
4. Minors have the right to the following services **with** the permission of a parent or legal guardian:
 - Vaccines including HPV, mental health medications, and abortion services
5. Health care providers must override the minor's confidentiality if:
 - The minor is a risk to themselves or someone else
 - There is suspicion of abuse or neglect by an adult
 - The minor is under age 16 and has been involved in sexual activity with a person aged 18 or older
6. You have the right to have your options for care explained to you.