

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA

Know Your Rights

requesting and consenting
to **MEDICAL PROCEDURES**

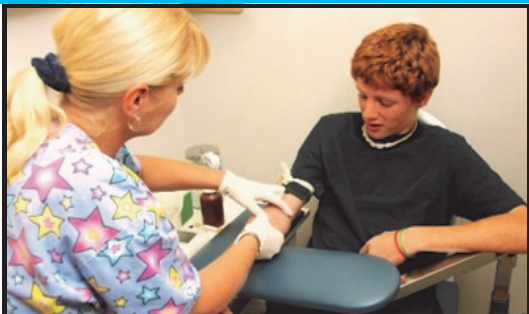
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INFORM
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Right to Request and Consent to Medical Procedures



Right to Request a Medical Procedure

Q: Can I ask for a procedure or treatment, or must a parent or guardian ask for me?

Right to Consent to Medical Procedures

Q: Can I agree to having a procedure or treatment, or must a parent or guardian agree for me?

A: Generally, if you are under 18, your parent or guardian must consent for you to have medical, dental, or mental health care.

However, ALL MINORS CAN OBTAIN CERTAIN TYPES OF HEALTH CARE WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT, including...

- Care relating to diagnosis or treatment of a pregnancy
***EXCEPT for abortions, which generally require parental notification (48 hours notice) or a judicial bypass*
- Care relating to diagnosis or treatment of a sexually transmitted disease
- Care relating to diagnosis or treatment of drug or alcohol dependency
- Emergency treatment
(if treatment must be administered immediately and obtaining consent would result in delay or denial of treatment)

...and SOME MINORS CAN OBTAIN ANY TYPE OF HEALTH CARE WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT, including...

- Minors who have been married *(even if no longer married)*
- Minors who have given birth *(they may also consent to any health care for their children)*
- Minors who live separately from their parents or guardians, and who are managing their own financial affairs

It does not matter how long the minor has lived away from the parent or guardian.
It does not matter if the parent/guardian gave permission to the minor to live separately.
It does not matter how much money the minor has.
It does not matter from where the minor obtains his or her money.

Are there any consequences if I consent to health care for myself?

If you consent to health services without your parent or guardian's consent, **you**, not your parent or guardian, **will be responsible for paying** for those health services.

Your doctor may not be able to keep all services you request confidential.



Your doctor may inform your parent or guardian of any treatment given or needed if he or she believes that your health will be at risk.