

## TIPS....

- A young person is more likely to disclose sensitive information to a health care provider if the youth is provided with confidential services, and has time alone with the provider to discuss their issues.
- Remember that even when the chief complaint is acne or an earache, there may be underlying issues on the part of the adolescent (such as the need for a pregnancy test or contraception), which will only surface if they are provided confidential services.

Adapted from CALIFORNIA MINOR CONSENT LAWS:  
*Who can consent for what services  
& providers' obligations.* © National Center for  
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# California Minor Consent Laws



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## Who can consent for what services and provider's obligations

|   | Minor Consent Sufficient for Confidential Care                                     | Parent/Guardian Consent Required   | Parent/Guardian Notification Required  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Abortion  | Yes  | No   | Not allowed without consent of minor   |
| Birth Control                                     | Yes<br>(except sterilization)  | No<br>(except sterilization)   |  |
| Pregnancy (Prev., Dx & TX)                        | Yes <sup>1</sup>   | No <sup>1</sup>  |  |
| STD's, Contagious & Reportable Diseases (Dx & Tx) | Yes<br>(minors $\geq$ 12 years)  | Not needed for minors $\geq$ 12 years  |  |
| HIV Testing                                       | Yes<br>(minors $\geq$ 12 years and assessed as competent to give informed consent) | Not Needed<br>for minors $\geq$ 12 years, unless deemed incompetent to consent       |  |
| Outpatient Mental Health Treatment                | Yes <sup>2</sup><br>(minors $\geq$ 12 years)                                       | Yes<br>(except <sup>2</sup> )  | An attempt should be made, except when the provider believes it is inappropriate         |
| Alcohol/Drug Abuse Treatment                      | Yes<br>(minors $\geq$ 12 years)  | Not needed for minors $\geq$ 12 years, except for methadone treatment <sup>1,3</sup> | Not allowed without consent of minor   |
| Rape <sup>4</sup>                                 | Yes<br>(minors $\geq$ 12 years)  | Not Needed <sup>1</sup><br>for minors $\geq$ 12 years                                |  |
| Sexual Assault <sup>5</sup>                       | Yes  | No   | An attempt must be made except when provider believes parent or guardian was responsible |

<sup>1</sup> Including inpatient Care

<sup>2</sup> If (1) the minor is  $\geq$  12 years, 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

<sup>3</sup> However, parents can consent over the child's objection

<sup>4</sup> Non-consensual sexual intercourse

<sup>5</sup> Acts of rape, oral copulation, sodomy, and other violent crimes of a sexual nature