

Minor Consent Services

Medi-Cal's Minor Consent services are designed to ensure that minors can receive *confidential* health care for "sensitive services".

Under the age of 12, youth can receive:

- pregnancy and pregnancy related care,
- family planning services, and sexual assault services.

Minors aged 12 to 21 may receive these services and can also obtain:

- confidential services for sexually transmitted disease treatment,
- drug and alcohol treatment or
- counseling and mental health outpatient care.

Providers and other caregivers, however, must still report suspected child abuse or cases where the youth may be a harm to him or herself or others. See TEEN ABUSE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

Eligibility

Minors may apply if they are:

- under 21 and living at home;
- living at home but away at college;
- not living at home but still claimed as a dependent on income taxes;
- living temporarily with someone else, but the parent is legally and financially responsible; or is a
- Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) Child.

Minors NOT eligible include minors:

- who do not meet the above requirements,
- are under the legal responsibility of a public agency;
- who have ever been married, not annulled, or
- *states* that he or she is not a legal immigrant.

The Application Process is Confidential

The application for minor consent Medi-Cal is face to face with an Eligibility worker. The minor *must contact their Eligibility Worker the first of each month in order to continue their monthly benefits.*

The minor does not have to show papers that he or she cannot access if to do so would risk his or her confidentiality.

Very little verification is needed to apply and the confidentiality of minors is protected.

- Minors need only present pay stubs *if he or she is employed*, and their own bank statements or proof of legal immigration *if* they have access to it.
- Minors do NOT need to present identification; social security number; pregnancy verification; proof of residency; parents' income, insurance plan or assets to apply.
- The minor's home address is never entered into the computer.
- Providers are notified that parents are not to be informed. Client notices are not sent to the minor's home, so must be picked up at the Social Services office at Fairfield, Vallejo or Vacaville.
- INS is not notified of minor consent applications.

Minor's with other health coverage

- Minors who have full Medi-Cal without a share of cost in another case, such as their parent's case cannot be issued Minor Consent Medi-Cal but may obtain an 'immediate need' paper card if they need confidential services.
- Minors who are in a Medi-Cal managed care plan are referred to their plan.
- Minors who are covered by a parent's privately paid or employer covered HMO, such as Kaiser, can inquire about their plan's confidentiality consent policy for minors. However, the minor may apply to receive Minor Consent Medi-Cal or FPACT if using their parent's plan would infringe on their right to obtain confidential services.