



GCAPP PARENT TOOLKIT:

Medical Services That Can Be Provided to Teens Without Parents' Permission

A minor is anyone under the age of 18. In general, parental consent is required for a minor to receive medical treatment from a healthcare provider. However, Georgia law allows certain exceptions. Teens under 18 can access specific medical services without parental permission, including reproductive and sexual health care, mental health services, and treatment for substance use or other sensitive health needs.

Pregnancy, Prenatal Care, and Childbirth

In Georgia, minors have the right to consent to certain health care services related to reproductive health and pregnancy. This means that even without parental permission, a female teen can receive care for pregnancy, contraception, and childbirth, ensuring access to essential medical services while maintaining privacy.

1. Pregnancy and Reproductive Care:

Any female, regardless of age, may consent to medical treatment related to pregnancy, contraception (including prescriptions and counseling), or childbirth.

2. Minor Consent for Services:

A minor may consent to all pregnancy-related health care, including counseling, pregnancy testing, and labor and delivery services, without notifying a parent unless she chooses to do so. Additionally, a minor parent may consent to all medical care for her child.

3. Confidentiality:

Healthcare providers are not required to share medical records or other information about family planning, pregnancy, or childbirth services with parents unless the minor gives permission.

* EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency Medical Care for Minors

In emergency situations, consent for medical treatment is **implied**.

An "emergency" is defined as a circumstance in which the proposed medical or surgical care is reasonably necessary, a person authorized to give consent is not readily available, and any delay in treatment could jeopardize the minor's life or health.

💡 PLEASE NOTE

This information is provided as a **general guide** and is **not a substitute for legal advice**.

For site-specific clarification regarding minors' rights, confidentiality, disclosure, or any changes related to HIPAA privacy rules, **consult your legal counsel**.

Source: GCAPP, Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health, Georgia Chapter of the Society for Adolescent Medicine

HIV Testing, Counseling, and Treatment

The Georgia Department of Public Health reports that all county health departments provide **HIV counseling and testing**. Services are offered both **confidentially**, where names are recorded so the health department can provide treatment and assist with notifying partners, and **anonymously**, where no identifying information is collected.

Substance Abuse Counseling

A minor in Georgia may consent to **medical services and counseling related to substance use**, including outpatient treatment. **Parental permission is not required** for these services, ensuring teens can access help confidentially and safely.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's)

In Georgia, any minor may consent to testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) without needing permission from a parent or guardian. This allows teens to access confidential and timely care for their sexual health.

GCAPP



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