

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



California Minor Consent Laws

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 (except sterilization)	No (except sterilization)	
Pregnancy (Prev., Dx & TX)	Yes ¹	No ¹	
STD's, Contagious & Reportable Diseases (Dx & Tx)	Yes (minors \geq 12 years)	Not needed for minors \geq 12 years	
HIV Testing	Yes (minors \geq 12 years and assessed as competent to give informed consent)	Not Needed for minors \geq 12 years, unless deemed incompetent to consent	
Outpatient Mental Health Treatment	Yes ² (minors \geq 12 years)	Yes (except ²)	An attempt should be made, except when the provider believes it is inappropriate
Alcohol/Drug Abuse Treatment	Yes (minors \geq 12 years)	Not needed for minors \geq 12 years, except for methadone treatment ^{1,3}	Not allowed without consent of minor
Rape ⁴	Yes (minors \geq 12 years)	Not Needed ¹ for minors \geq 12 years	
Sexual Assault ⁵	Yes	No	An attempt must be made except when provider believes parent or guardian was responsible

¹ Including inpatient Care

² 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

³ However, parents can consent over the child's objection

⁴ Non-consensual sexual intercourse

⁵ Acts of rape, oral copulation, sodomy, and other violent crimes of a sexual nature