

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TO HEALTH SERVICES IN OHIO

Health Services Minors May Consent To

In Ohio minors (people under **18**) can consent to: emergency health care, limited outpatient mental health care, and alcohol and drug abuse treatment.

Minors of any age can get birth control without parental consent or knowledge. Some government programs provide free birth control to teens aged **13** and older and private doctors may allow a teen to consent for him/herself if they think they are mature enough. [Minors of any age can buy condoms in Ohio.](#)

Young women under the age of **18** must obtain parental consent in order to obtain an abortion or seek a judicial bypass. A judicial bypass is an order from a judge that allows a minor to get an abortion without the consent of her parents.

Minors of any age may consent to STD testing and treatment, including testing and counseling for HIV. Many local providers offer STD testing and treatment for free. HIV testing can be anonymous or confidential. Anonymous means no one knows who the test belongs to because no identifying information is attached to the test results. Confidential means the test is on your medical record but no one but you can access it.

Healthcare providers offer minors family planning services such as pregnancy testing, prenatal and post-delivery care, breast exams and pelvic exams for free or on a sliding scale based on income.



- ✚ Ohio law defines a minor as any person between birth and **18** years old.
- ✚ Minors should not avoid seeking sexual and reproductive health services out of fear that your parents will find out.
- ✚ Your doctor cannot give out your personal information, health information, or sexual history – unless someone else is at risk (STDs, threat of violence), you are a risk to yourself (suicide), or you are being physically or sexually abused. These things cannot remain confidential.
- ✚ If you use your parent's health insurance, they may be able to see what services your doctor provides - so things like STD testing may not be private if you are on their insurance.
- ✚ You can ask the health insurance company to make the billing statement private so your parents won't be able to see what services you had.
- ✚ Even though you don't have to ask your parents, it's a good idea to talk with them or another adult you trust about the medical care you need.

We want you to be safe!

