

Minors' Rights: Denver

Minors 12+ have the right to the following WITHOUT parent/guardian consent¹:

- Mental health counseling*
- Screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Substance use treatment
- Birth control (including emergency contraception, excluding sterilization)
- Pregnancy testing and prenatal care

**Parent/guardian may be notified without the minor's consent if, based on professional opinion, the minor is unable to manage their care or treatment; any "intent to commit suicide" communicated by the minor during services requires notification to the minor's parent/guardian.*

GENDER-AFFIRMING TREATMENTS & PROCEDURES

- There are also medical treatments to affirm someone's gender identity including hormone replacement therapy; however, consent can vary based on type of treatment for someone under 18.
- For more information on where and how to access these services, contact your community clinic.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT REQUIRED

- Inpatient mental health treatment


EXCEPTIONS TO PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT

A parent or legal guardian must provide consent on behalf of a minor before healthcare services are provided, with **several important exceptions**:

- **Sexual assault services**—sexual assault care at any clinic does not require parent/guardian consent, including making a police report and follow-up care
- **Emergency contraception**—no age restriction, prescription, or parent/guardian consent necessary to obtain Plan B One-Step and similar over-the-counter emergency contraception
- **Abortion**—parent/guardian must be notified 48 hours prior to minor's abortion procedure, but their consent is not required, and notification may be waived by judicial bypass (court order), if it's an emergency, or if the minor cites abuse by their guardian
- **Substance use treatment**—minors of any age do not need parent/guardian consent to be treated
- **HPV vaccine**—something that all young people need and should have access to; parent/guardian consent can be bypassed in some cases

¹Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care, <https://www.cde.state.co.us/sites/default/files/documents/healthandwellness/download/school%20nurse/understanding%20minor%20consent%20and%20confidentiality%20in%20colorado.pdf>, 8/30/2019.

Minors' Rights: At a Glance

	Minors 12+ can consent without parent/guardian	
Abortion	✓	Parent/guardian MUST be notified 48 hours before the abortion procedure in most but not all cases
Birth Control & Emergency Contraception	✓	Minors cannot consent to sterilization without parent/guardian consent
HPV Vaccine	✓	Parent/guardian consent can be bypassed in some cases
Mental Health Counseling	✓	Parent/guardian may be notified without the minor's consent if, based on professional opinion, the minor is unable to manage their care or treatment; any "intent to commit suicide" communicated by the minor during services requires notification to the minor's parent/guardian
Pregnancy Testing & Prenatal Care	✓	
STI Screening & Treatment	✓	
Sexual Assault Services	✓	
Substance Use Treatment	✓	

Providers MUST override the minor's confidentiality and report if:

- There is suspicion of abuse by an adult
- The minor is a risk to themselves or others