

Minors' Rights: Chicago

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

**Up to eight, 90-minute mental health counseling sessions for ages 12 to 16. Minors can access more than eight sessions if the provider believes it's in the minor's best interest to continue or that parental involvement would be detrimental to the minor's well-being.*

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 (if under age 16; after age 16, consent is not needed, but parents may receive notification)

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 12+ do not need parent/guardian consent to be treated, and family will only be notified with minor's consent (though provider can recommend if they feel it helps)
- **HPV vaccine**—something that all young people need and should have access to; parent/guardian consent can be bypassed in some cases²

¹Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, <https://www.icaah.org/blog/healthcare-rights-of-youth-in-illinois>, 6/15/2019.

²Illinois Department of Public Health, <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/stds>, 6/15/2019.

Minors' Rights: At a Glance

	Minors age 12+ can consent without parent/guardian	
Abortion	✓	Parent/guardian MUST be notified 48 hours before the abortion procedure
Birth Control & Emergency Contraception	✓	Minors cannot consent to sterilization without parent/guardian consent
HPV Vaccine	✓	
Mental Health Counseling	✓	Minors age 12-16: can access up to 8, 90-minute counseling sessions without parent/guardian consent; 16+: no parent/guardian consent requirement To access inpatient mental health treatment under the age of 16 parent/guardian consent is required ; 16+ parent/guardian consent is not needed, but they may receive notification
Pregnancy Testing & Prenatal Care	✓	
STI Screening & Treatment	✓	
Sexual Assault Services	✓	
Substance Use Treatment	✓	Parent/guardian will only be notified with minor's consent (a provider may strongly recommend it if they feel it will help)

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