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Note: FPBP does not cover abortions and patients may have to pay for their own STD prescriptions.

Enrollment: Teens can enroll in Family Planning Benefit Program at any family planning provider, such as Planned Parenthood, a Prenatal Care Assistance Program provider (for pregnant mothers) or Medicaid office. They must bring the following:

- Photo identification
- Proof of New York State residence or address
- Social Security number



Helpful Phone Numbers

- The Children’s Aid Society(212) 358-8930
- The Legal Aid Society Health Law Unit
.....(212) 577-3918
- Lawyers for Children.....(212) 966-6420
- Legal Services for Children(212) 683-7999
- The Door(212) 941-9090
- Urban Justice Center(646) 602-5600

For information about the rights of young people in foster care, see YOUR RIGHTS IN FOSTER CARE, published by The Legal Aid Society and the Youth Advocacy Center. See also The Children’s Aid Society’s KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: PUBLIC BENEFITS FOR MINORS AND EMANCIPATED YOUTH.

For in-depth information, contact The Children’s Aid Society at (212) 358-8930 to get a complete set of KNOW YOUR RIGHTS brochures and other legal advocacy publications in both English and Spanish. You may also log onto www.childrensaidsociety.org.



For over 150 years, The Children’s Aid Society has been assisting New York City’s children and their families without regard to race, religion, nationality or socio-economic status. Children’s Aid helps children in every aspect of their lives from infancy through adolescence, providing guidance and resources to ensure a child’s current well-being and future potential. With over 100 programs and 40 locations in New York that touch the lives of more than 150,000 children every year, Children’s Aid is one of the country’s largest and most innovative child and family social service agencies.

www.childrensaidsociety.org

THE CHILDREN’S AID SOCIETY
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

teen access
to health care
and family
planning



Teens are allowed to receive many confidential health and family planning services.

Definitions

Minor: A minor is a person who is under 18 years old.

Informed Consent: Giving “consent” for medical treatment means agreeing to the treatment or giving the doctor permission to treat you. Your consent is considered “informed”, if you understood the risks and benefits of the treatment, as well as other treatment options you could choose instead, before you agreed to be treated.

Confidentiality: When you can consent to your own medical treatment (see Informed Consent above), all information related to that treatment is “confidential” which means that it stays between you and your doctor. In other words, the information cannot be shared with anyone, including your parents.

For example, if you are 16 years old and you go to a clinic for a pregnancy test, your doctor cannot give the test results to anyone but you.

Emancipated Minor: “Emancipated” means free from the care and control of your parents. Because emancipated minors cannot rely on their parents for support, the law treats them as if they are adults. In some states, a young person who is under 18 can go before a judge and be declared “emancipated.” New York State does not have that kind of legal procedure but minors will be considered emancipated in nys without a court order if they are married, in the military, financially independent, or if they have parents who do not support them.

See also [KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: PUBLIC BENEFITS FOR MINORS AND EMANCIPATED YOUTH.](#)

Medical and Other Treatment

In New York, a young person under age 18 who *understands his or her health condition*, as well as *the purpose and risks of the medical treatment*, can consent to the following services without his/her parents’ permission:

- Reproductive health care, including:
 - Family planning
 - Emergency contraception (birth control)
 - Abortions
 - STI (sexually transmitted infections) testing and treatment
 - HIV testing
 - Prenatal care, labor and delivery services
- Mental health services
- Certain alcohol and drug abuse counseling
- Sexual assault treatment
- Emergency care

Minors can get mental health services, including medication, without their parents’ permission if:

- Their parent(s) or guardian(s) is not available
- The doctor, nurse, counselor or social worker learns that involving the parents would ruin treatment
- The parent(s) or guardian(s) will not give consent and a doctor concludes that treatment is necessary and best for the young person

Note: If you are not sure if you meet one of these conditions, you can meet with a counselor without your parent or guardian’s permission to find out whether or not you do.

When a minor consents to health care, whatever happens during his/her doctor’s appointment stays between the minor and his or her doctor. No information can be reported to the minor’s parents without his/her permission.

Pregnant and Parenting Teens: Right to Stay in School

A pregnant student cannot be pressured or forced to transfer to another school or take a medical leave of absence just because she is pregnant. Only the student and her doctor are allowed to make that decision.



Medicaid Family Planning Benefit Program (FPBP)

Even if the teen already has insurance, he or she may still be eligible for free, confidential family planning services through the Medicaid Family Planning Benefit Program. This means that a teen seeking confidential treatment does not have to use his or her parent’s insurance and run the risk of having the parent find out about the appointment. Teens may give an address other than their home address to preserve their confidentiality so that no information will be sent to their homes.

Also, most health care providers provide services to teens for free, on a sliding scale (meaning you pay as much as you can), or will let them pay in cash.

FPBP will cover the following for at least 2 years:

- All types of birth control, including emergency birth control
- Pregnancy testing
- Testing for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)
- HIV testing and counseling

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