

## Understanding Your Rights to Confidential Health Services

### TERMS:

A **minor** is a person 17 years of age or younger, according to Michigan law.

**Confidential** means spoken or written in strict privacy, not to be shared with others.

***According to Michigan law, you have the right to receive confidential health care (from anywhere or anyone providing care to minors) without your parent/guardian's permission or knowledge. That health care is described below:***

**Minors of any age may receive confidential advice, testing and treatment for the following without their parent's knowledge or permission:**

- ★ drug use and abuse
- ★ sexually transmitted infections and HIV
- ★ pregnancy testing and prenatal (pregnancy) care
- ★ birth control
- ★ abortion (only with a court order from a judge)

There is no specific age stated in the law, so this would apply to any minor who understands the nature and consequences of their actions, **except** if a minor is under 12 years old and is sexually active - this is considered child abuse and would not be confidential.

**Minors above the age of 14 years can also receive:**

- ★ limited outpatient counseling (mental health) services not to exceed 12 visits over 4 months and not to include any medications.

Health care is **not confidential** and a parent or guardian will be notified without permission if a health care professional learns that:

- ★ someone is hurting you
- ★ you are hurting yourself or someone else
- ★ you have a plan to hurt yourself or someone else

In those cases, the health care professional will try to inform you of their duty to notify your parents before contacting them.

***Please note that all information included in this summary was taken from the document "Consent for Care and Confidential Health Information" developed by Denise Chrysler, at Michigan Department of Community Health who adapted the document from Henry Ford Health System. The "Consent for Care and Confidential Health Information" document is available at [www.michigan.gov/teenpregnancy](http://www.michigan.gov/teenpregnancy) under the "resources/websites" tab.***