

I want to live
on my own.

How do I get
emancipated?

Is emancipation
a good option
for me?

Where can I get help?

Emancipation is one option when things are bad at home, but it's not the only option. If you want to talk about your legal options, please call us.

If you have questions about your legal rights, call CCA's Teen Legal Advocacy Clinic at (860)570-5327 or (203)223-8975.



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What is
Emancipation?

Is it a good option for you?

What is emancipation?

Emancipation is a legal process that makes a 16- or 17-year-old legally independent from his/her parent/guardian.

How old do I have to be to get emancipated?

In Connecticut, you must be 16 or 17 years old to ask a court to emancipate you.

What rights will I have if I become emancipated?

An emancipated minor has most of the rights of an 18-year-old. If you are emancipated, you don't need your parent/guardian's consent to:

- sign a lease
- get a driver's license
- get married
- register a car
- enroll in school or college
- see a doctor, dentist or therapist
- sue someone

What responsibilities will I have if I'm emancipated?

If you become emancipated, you will be responsible for supporting yourself. Your parent/guardian will no longer be legally responsible for giving you food, clothing, or shelter. This means you have to pay for your own rent, all your bills, and your groceries. You are also responsible for any contract you sign, and you can even be sued by someone.

How do I get emancipated?

In Connecticut, you or your parent/guardian must file a form with the juvenile or probate court to request that you be emancipated. In most cases, a judge will assign someone to investigate your situation. Then, there will be a hearing before a judge. At the hearing, you or your legal guardian will have to show one of the following:

- you have, or had, a valid marriage;
- you are in the military;
- you live apart from your parent/guardian and are managing your own money;
- it is in your best interests, or your child's best interests, or your parent/guardian's best interests for you to be emancipated.

Can my parent/guardian ask the Court to emancipate me even if I don't want to be emancipated?

Yes, but s/he will have to prove one of the reasons above.

Can I get cash assistance if I am emancipated?

Maybe. In order to get cash assistance, any minor is required to live with a responsible adult. This means even an emancipated minor must live with a responsible adult in order to get cash assistance. There are some exceptions. If you have questions about this, please see us. If you are a teen parent, please see our brochure, "TFA: Cash Assistance for Teen Parents."

Are there programs to help emancipated minors?

No. There are no programs to help you. You are basically on your own.

What about DCF?

Can't they help me if it doesn't work out?

No. Once you are emancipated, DCF is not responsible for helping you.

Is emancipation a good option for me?

Maybe. Consider your age, how you will support yourself, where you will live, and how it will help you.

