

## If you are moving around a lot, you have special rights.

There are laws that can help you if you are:

- Staying on someone's couch
- Moving from house to house
- Staying with friends for a short time
- Staying in a motel
- In any temporary living situation

**Were you kicked out of your house?**

**Did you run away?**

**Are you staying with friends?**

**Couch hopping?**

**Did your family lose their housing?**

**Are you wondering . . .**

**Where you can go to school?**

**How to get medical care?**

**Can you see a therapist?**

**How to get your birth certificate?**

## School

### Do I have to change schools if I am staying in a different town or city?

You get to choose. You can go to the school you went to before you moved, the school in the new town, or the last school where you were registered.

### How do I get to school if I am staying in a new town or city?

You have a right to transportation. This could be a bus, a bus pass, or even a taxi.

### Who can help me figure out how to get to school?

Every school district has a McKinney-Vento Liaison. This is the person who can help students who are moving around. Ask your school how to find that person. You can also go to [www.sde.ct.gov](http://www.sde.ct.gov) and type "liaison catalog" in the search box.

### Can I register for school without my parent or guardian?

Yes. The McKinney-Vento Liaison can help you.

### How long do I have to wait to register?

You have the right to register right away. You do not need proof of where you live, school records or health records. If the school says you cannot register or you have to wait, call the McKinney-Vento Liaison or call us for help.

### Can I do after-school activities?

Yes, you have the right to do all school activities.

### Do I have to change schools if I stop moving around?

The law says you can stay in your school for the rest of the school year, even if you find a permanent place to live in a different town or city.

## College

### Can I get financial aid?

If you are on your own, you can apply for financial aid without a parent or guardian. The McKinney-Vento Liaison can write a letter that says you are an "unaccompanied youth." You have to send this letter to the colleges you apply to. You also have to put this on your FAFSA financial aid form.

### Do I have to pay to take the SATs?

You can apply for a fee waiver. Ask the McKinney-Vento Liaison to help you.

## Medical Care, Therapy, Counseling

### Can I get medical care?

The law says that a parent or guardian usually has to give permission for a minor (someone under age 18) to get medical care. But there are times when a minor can do this on his/her own.

If you need birth control, abortion services, testing or treatment for an STI or for HIV/AIDS, you can do this without a parent or guardian's permission. For other medical care, you may need a parent or guardian's permission.

Ask your doctor or nurse or call us if you have questions.

### Can I see a therapist?

A minor can have 6 sessions with a social worker, licensed therapist, psychologist or psychiatrist without a parent or guardian's permission if:

- you want therapy
- the therapist says you need therapy
- it would harm you not to get therapy
- you are mature
- you couldn't get therapy if you had to ask your parent or guardian for permission

### Can I get treatment or rehab for drugs or alcohol?

You do not need a parent or guardian's permission for this.

## DCF

### Can DCF help me?

You can get help from DCF if you are under 18 years old and if you were kicked out of your home or if you were neglected or abused.

If you were in DCF care when you turned 18 and you are under 21 now, you can go back to DCF.

Call the DCF Hotline at 1-800-842-2288 for help any time of the day or night.

### What happens if I do not have legal status in the US?

DCF can still help you. They will not call immigration. Call us if you have questions about this.



**Food, Cash, Medical**

**Can I get help?**

If you are on your own and trying to get help from the State, here are some things you should know:

**Food**

**ID:** you can use a license, a work or school ID, your medical card, your voter registration card, pay stub, or birth certificate. If you don't have one of these, a shelter worker or your employer can prove your identity.

**Address:** you do not need a permanent address. If you are not living anywhere permanently, you don't have to prove your address.

You can apply on your own, even as a minor.

To find a place to get food, you can also go to [foodshare.org](http://foodshare.org) and type "mobile sites" in the search box.

**Cash or Medical**

Every program has different rules, but they cannot turn you away just because you are on your own.

Apply at DSS (Department of Social Services) to see if you can get help. [www.ct.gov/dss](http://www.ct.gov/dss)

**Birth Certificate**

**Can I get my birth certificate?**

To get your birth certificate without a parent or guardian's permission, you have to go to a Vital Records Office with the McKinney-Vento Liaison from school or with a staff person from a shelter.

**Who can help me get my birth certificate?**

Ask the McKinney-Vento Liaison at school or call Louis Tallarita at the State Department of Education at 860-807-2058, or call a shelter and ask for help:

Janus Center for Youth in Crisis, Bridgeport  
203-374-9473

Kids in Crisis, Cos Cob  
203-327-5437

Women and Families Center, Meriden  
203-213-8667

Youth Continuum, New Haven  
203-777-8445

Start Program, Statewide  
860-878-4042  
[thestartprogram@theconnection.org](mailto:thestartprogram@theconnection.org)

Youth in Transition Program, West Hartford  
860-521-8035

**Where is the Vital Records Office?**

Go to one of these offices with the McKinney-Vento Liaison or shelter staff:

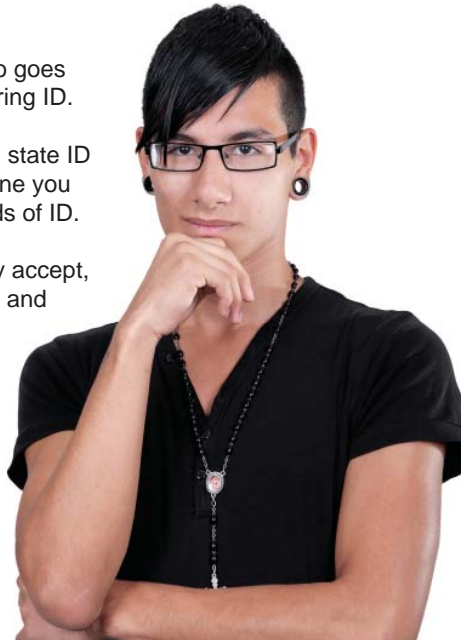
- Vital Records Office in your town (\$20)
- Vital Records Office in the town your mother lived in when you were born (\$20)
- State Vital Records Office at 410 Capitol Ave, Hartford (\$30)

**Do I need ID?**

You and the person who goes with you both have to bring ID.

It is best to bring a valid state ID but if you do not have one you can bring two other kinds of ID.

To see the list of ID they accept, go to [speakupteens.org](http://speakupteens.org) and type "birth certificate" in the search box .



**Need Help?**

If you move around a lot and don't have a permanent place to live, the law can help you.

**Call us at 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719**

**Do you have questions about other teen legal rights?**

**Go to [speakupteens.org](http://speakupteens.org)**

This brochure is intended as reference only and should not be interpreted as legal advice. If you need specific information about the law, please call 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719.

**Center for Children's Advocacy**  
[speakupteens.org](http://speakupteens.org)  
[kidscounsel.org](http://kidscounsel.org)

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# Moving Around

**Do I have to change schools if I move around a lot?**

**If I am on my own, what are my rights?**