

## Reproductive Health Care

# Is it Confidential?

Important Information about STIs, HIV/AIDS, Birth Control, Abortion, and Safe Havens.

What to do if you need help



### Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI)

#### How old do I have to be to get tested or treated for a sexually transmitted infection (STI) on my own?

You can get tested and treated for an STI by your doctor or at a clinic at any age.

If you are 12 or under, the doctor or clinic has to report your name, age and address to DCF (Dept. of Children and Families).

#### Will my parents find out?

You have a legal right to be tested and treated for an STI without having to ask or tell your parents.

A doctor's office or a clinic that tests you for an STI cannot even send a bill to anyone but you. Most clinics will not require you to pay the full amount. You should ask the doctor about this.

The doctor's office or clinic is required by law to report certain diseases to the Department of Public Health. But, the information will still be confidential.

### HIV/AIDS

#### Can I get tested or treated for HIV/AIDS confidentially?

##### Testing

You have the right to be tested for HIV/AIDS without your parent's permission.

A doctor can tell your partner if you test positive, but only if your partner also has the same doctor, and the doctor believes that your partner is at risk of becoming infected, and the doctor believes that you won't tell your partner on your own.

##### Treatment

If you are under 18, the doctor will have to get your parent's permission to treat you for HIV/AIDS, unless the doctor thinks you would not get treatment if your parents found out.

### Birth Control

#### Can I get birth control services confidentially?

You can get birth control or emergency contraception in Connecticut at any age without your parent's permission.

Emergency contraception (the morning after pill) is also a form of birth control.

Some doctors or clinics may ask you to tell your parents before they will prescribe any type of birth control for you, but this isn't required by law.

If you are 12 or under, the doctor or clinic has to report your name, age and address to the Dept. of Children and Families (DCF).

### Abortion

#### Do I need my parent's permission to get an abortion?

Parental permission is not required for a minor to get an abortion in Connecticut. While a doctor or clinic may speak with you about involving your parents in the decision, the final decision is yours and will be kept confidential.

If you are under 16, the doctor has to explain your choices, but s/he is not allowed to persuade or force you into a decision. You will have to sign a form saying that you received information about your choices.

### Safe Havens for Newborns (If you can't keep your baby)

#### What if I have a baby and I can't take care of it?

You can voluntarily give up custody of your baby (age 31 days or younger) to the nursing staff of an emergency room. You will not be arrested for abandonment.

You can still be arrested and criminally prosecuted if abuse or neglect has occurred.

#### What will happen to my baby when I leave the hospital?

Within 24 hours of the time you leave the hospital, the nurse must contact DCF. DCF will take immediate custody of your baby and will develop a permanent plan for the child. This plan will involve a court hearing to apply for legal termination of your parental rights to free the child for adoption.

The court will schedule a hearing within 30 days of DCF's application. Termination of parental rights can be granted at the first hearing.

### School-Based Health Clinics

#### Do I have the same rights to confidential health care at school?

All of the same confidentiality and privacy protections that apply to private medical providers also apply at your school clinic.

The only difference is that your school clinic requires your parent's signature before you can be treated for anything (not just STIs or birth control) by the clinic. The form requesting your parent's signature for any treatment is usually filled out at the beginning of the school year, but can be filled out at any time.

#### Do you have questions about your legal rights?

Call CCA's Teen Legal Clinic  
860-570-5327 or 203-223-8975  
www.kidscounsel.org

## Where to go for help

### Information

National HIV/AIDS Hotline  
1-800-232-4636

National STI Hotline  
1-800-227-8922

Breaking the Cycle  
(860)236-4872 [www.teenpregnancyhartford.org](http://www.teenpregnancyhartford.org)

Center for Children's Advocacy  
(860)570-5327 [www.kidscounsel.org](http://www.kidscounsel.org)  
Click on "Teen Legal Rights"

### Planned Parenthood

[www.ppct.org](http://www.ppct.org)  
For the Planned Parenthood Center nearest you,  
call 1-800-230-PLAN

Bridgeport  
211 State St, 2nd floor, (203)366-0664

Hartford  
1229 Albany Ave. (860)728-0203

West Hartford  
1030 New Britain Ave. (860)953-6201

New Haven  
345 Whitney Ave. (203)503-0450

### Safe Havens

#### Bridgeport

Bridgeport Hospital  
267 Grant St. (203)384-3566

St Vincent's Medical Center  
2800 Main St. (203)576-5171

#### Hartford

Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
282 Washington St. (860)545-9000

Hartford Hospital  
80 Seymour St. (860)545-5000

St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center  
114 Woodland St. (860)714-4000

#### New Haven

Hospital of Saint Raphael  
1354 Chapel St. (203)789-3464

Yale-New Haven Hospital  
20 York St. (203)688-3333

### School-Based Health Centers

#### Bridgeport

Bassick High School (203)576-7995, Room 111

Central High School (203)576-7383, Room 103

Harding High School (203)275-2820, Teen Health Center

Regional Vocational Aquaculture (203)576-8004, Nurse's Office

#### Hartford

Bulkeley High School (860)695-1014, Room 214

Hartford Public High School (860)695-1359, Room 106

Weaver High School (860)695-1800, Room 1192

#### New Haven

Hill Regional Career High School (203)946-2262

Hillhouse High School (203)946-8555

Riverside Education Academy (203)946-7184

Wilbur Cross High School (203)946-8742

### Community Health Centers

#### Bridgeport

Bridgeport Community Health Center  
982 East Main St. (203)696-3260

Greater Bridgeport Adolescent Pregnancy Program  
158 Mill Hill Ave. (203)368-0780

Park City Primary Care Center  
64 Black Rock Ave. (203)579-5000

Ralphola Taylor Center  
790 Central Ave. (203)576-7430

Southwest Community Health Centers  
743 South Ave. (203)330-6010  
510 Clinton Ave. (203)366-4000  
1046 Fairfield Ave. (203)330-6054

#### Hartford

AIDS Project Hartford  
110 Bartholomew Ave. (860)951-4833

Adolescent Medicine  
Gengras Ambulatory Building, 1000 Asylum St. Suite 1026  
(860)714-4355

CCMC Adolescent Medical Clinic  
282 Washington St. (860)545-9300, Press 1

Charter Oak Health Center  
21 Grand St. (860)550-7500

Community Health Services  
500 Albany Ave. (860)249-9625

Hartford Health Department  
131 Coventry St.  
HIV (860)543-8822  
STI (860)543-8820

Hartford Hospital Women's Ambulatory Health Services  
111 Park St. (860)972-2780

Latino Community Services  
184 Wethersfield Ave. (860)296-6400

St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center  
114 Woodland St. (860)714-4000

#### New Haven

Dixwell Health Center  
226 Dixwell Ave. (203)503-3420

Fairhaven Community Health Center  
374 Grand Ave. (203)777-7411

Hill Health Center  
400-428 Columbus Ave. (203)503-3000

Women's Health Services  
911 State St. (203)777-4781