

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 younger and you test positive for an STI, 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 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.

If you test positive for chlamydia or gonorrhea, you can help your partner get treatment even if they do not come into the office or clinic. Your doctor or medical provider can give you a prescription or medication to take to your partner. This is called Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) and helps stop the spread of STI's.

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.

PrEP

You have the right to a prescription for PrEP, a medication which prevents the spread of HIV/AIDS, even if you are under the age of 18 if your doctor or the clinic believes you would not be able to get your parent's permission for this medication.

BIRTH CONTROL

Can I get birth control services confidentially?

You can get birth control or emergency contraception (the morning after pill) 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 younger, the doctor or clinic might report your name, age and address to the Dept. of Children and Families (DCF), but it is not legally required unless you test positive for a sexually transmitted infection or request a prescription for PrEP.

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 they are 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, including proceeding ahead with the abortion, keeping your baby after birth, or giving the child up for adoption.

SAFE HAVENS FOR NEWBORNS

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

www.cca-ct.org

Where can I find a clinic to provide me with my reproductive rights related healthcare?

If you feel comfortable with your pediatrician, you should reach out to your doctor or clinic. You can also contact your local Planned Parenthood clinic by clicking [here](#).