

Teen Rights & Pregnancy

Most family planning clinics will see teens 17 years of age or younger for **FREE!**

Teen Rights Regarding... BIRTH CONTROL

Teens of any age can buy condoms over-the-counter at a pharmacy or drugstore. They do not need parental permission to go on birth control, and anyone under 18 can receive birth control and condoms for free at most family planning clinics. Anyone under 18 who wants to take Emergency Contraceptive Pills (ECP) can receive it for free at most family planning clinics, and people 18 and over can purchase ECP at a clinic or over-the-counter at a pharmacy. Although it's always a good idea to talk to your parents about your sexual health needs, it's not always possible for every family. Teens **do not** need parental consent to get birth control or take a pregnancy test.

Teen Rights Regarding... ADOPTION

A birth mother under 18 is legally able to choose adoption. However, other individuals have legal rights as well. Regardless of age, the birth father has to give consent to place a child for adoption, and if that consent is not given, the birth mother may not go forward with the adoption. For birth parents under 18, their parents must be notified about the decision that is being made to place the child for adoption. If the parents of the birth parents object to the adoption and win the court hearing regarding the decision, the birth parents may not go forward with the adoption. If the birth parents win the court hearing, their parents no longer have any say in the decision.

Teen Rights Regarding... PRENATAL CARE

Prenatal care is very important for the health of the fetus and the mother. Teens do not need their parent/guardian's permission or accompaniment in order to receive prenatal care. If a teen under 18 is uninsured and wishes to apply for Medical Assistance to cover the prenatal and delivery costs, she will need someone 18 or older to sign the application on her behalf. If a teen has private insurance through her parent/guardian and is unable to use it for prenatal care, it is still possible for her to apply for Medical Assistance.

If a teen uses his/her parent/guardian's insurance for any type of healthcare service, it is possible a bill will be sent to the parent/guardian explaining what the insurance was used for. If a teen doesn't want them to know what services s/he is receiving, there are other options for payment. Call the CHOICE Hotline to find out.

(215-985-3300)

CHOICE

Concerns for Health Options: Information, Care and Education

As a teen, you have the right to...

- Be treated with respect
- Ask questions and have those questions answered in a way you understand
- Privacy during the exam and with the doctor
- Confidentiality regarding your information
- Have a friend, family member, or loved one come with you when you visit a doctor

Teen Rights Regarding... ABORTION

A teen under 18 in the state of Pennsylvania needs parental consent in order to have an abortion. If she can get that consent, one parent/guardian would need to go to the procedure appointment with her and sign a form saying that s/he is giving consent. If a teen cannot or doesn't want to get parental consent, she has two options. First, the teen can travel out of state to places that do not have a parental consent law (such as New Jersey or New York). Secondly, the teen can go through a process called *judicial bypass*. The teen would meet with a judge in his/her office and explain her situation. The judge would then decide whether the teen is mature enough to make the decision on her own OR that the procedure is in the best interests of the girl, and may then allow the teen to have an abortion without getting permission from her parent/guardian. The judicial bypass process is FREE and CONFIDENTIAL, and should take no longer than 3 days to complete.

This fact sheet was produced by CHOICE.

For more information about teen rights call 215-985-3300 or visit www.choice-phila.org and www.choiceteens.org