

# TEEN HEALTH BILL OF RIGHTS

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This is a complete list of your rights when seeking medical care, but should not replace talking with your parents or another caring adult about your medical needs.

**To find medical services closest to you, please visit:**

[NotRightNowSC.org/healthcenter](http://NotRightNowSC.org/healthcenter)

## YOU have the right to:

**Speak to your doctor privately,** even if your parents or other adult are giving permission for your doctor's visit.

**Easy to understand information about your medical care including:**

- Description of medical problems
- Treatment options

**Private medical care related to sexual activity, without permission from your parents including:**

- Pregnancy, pregnancy prevention, and emergency contraception (the morning after pill)
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Answers to concerns or questions about your sexuality

**Counseling for alcohol or drug abuse**

- You can refuse testing demanded by your school or parents. Before making this decision, find out what it means. Can you stay in school, play sports or join other activities?
- You can get medical care for alcohol or drug use without permission from your parents any time your doctor thinks you need it.

**Agree to or release HIV testing without your parents' permission.** Your parents cannot get results of your HIV test without your permission.

**Agree to have your own health care if you are considered emancipated,** which means you are:

- Living on your own and supporting yourself
- Married
- Serving in the military
- A parent taking care of your child

If you ask, your doctor can determine if you are mature enough to agree to your own health care, depending on your medical issues.

**See information contained in your medical record.** You may tell your doctor not to show private information to anyone, including your parents without your permission if you have agreed to your own medical care. A parent who has given permission for your medical care can ask to see your medical record.

**Get medical care in an emergency.** Your parent may be able to get information about your medical care, unless it was for a problem which you are guaranteed confidentiality by law.

# YOU have the right to:

**Meet with a counselor, social worker, psychologist or psychiatrist to get counseling without a parents' permission if:**

- You want counseling and your parent is not available to give permission
- It would be dangerous to involve your parents
- Your parents will not give permission and your doctor thinks you should have counseling

**IMPORTANT.** If a doctor believes you are being abused or are in danger of hurting yourself or someone else, he or she may share your information without your permission to get you additional help.

**If you are in foster care** you have all the rights listed, with one main difference; any information in your foster care agency file may be shared with your foster parents, possible adoptive parents and the foster care agency staff.

# It's Your Responsibility to:

- Give honest and complete information to your health care providers
- Talk to a parent or other responsible adult about your health care
- Provide a reliable way to contact you (phone number/email)
- Keep your medical appointments
- Ask questions about anything you don't understand
- Treat your doctor, other medical care providers and staff with respect

# SC DHEC CALL LINE

**Call 1-800-868-0404 to make an appointment** for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), immunizations, family planning services, and STD/HIV screening/treatment.

The call line is open 8:30AM - 5:00PM, Monday-Friday. When scheduling an appointment, be sure to ask about extended or weekend hours, if needed.



[NotRightNowSC.org](http://NotRightNowSC.org)



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The legal rights of South Carolina minors described in this brochure are defined by S.C. Code § 63-5-340 (Minor's consent to health services) and S.C. Code § 63-5-350 (Health services to minors without parental consent).