

## **Minor Consent Program**

### **Who is this program for?**

This program allows minors up to 21 years of age to access certain Medi-Cal benefits on their own without their parents' consent.

### **What are the eligibility requirements?**

Minors must be California residents under the age of 21, living with their parents or away at school but supported by their parents financially. Parents' income is not considered and parents are not informed about the applications. There are no Social Security number or pregnancy verification requirements.

**Note:** Minors 14-21 years of age who meet the following criteria must apply on their own for full-scope Medi-Cal:

- not living at home,
- not receiving any financial support from their parents,
- not claimed by parents as tax dependents, and
- handling their own financial affairs.

### **How does immigration status affect eligibility?**

Immigration status does not matter.

### **What benefits are covered?**

- Services are limited to treatment for sexually transmitted diseases; drug and alcohol abuse, family planning, sexual assault, pregnancy and pregnancy-related issues, and mental health outpatient care (see the chart below for benefits covered according to age group).
- Babies born to mothers on Minor Consent Medi-Cal are "deemed eligible" for 12 months for Medi-Cal coverage after birth. The babies are automatically eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal during this time period.
- Teens can get pre-approved services for mental health services for six months with letters from mental health professionals.

	<b>Under age 12</b>	<b>Age 12 and older</b>
<b>Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pregnancy and pregnancy-related services</li><li>• Family planning services</li><li>• Sexual assault services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pregnancy and pregnancy-related services</li><li>• Family planning services</li><li>• Sexual assault services</li><li>• Sexually transmitted diseases treatment</li><li>• Drug and alcohol abuse treatment</li><li>• Mental health outpatient care</li></ul>

**What is the cost?**

There is generally no cost unless the minor reports significant income and resources.

**What about other insurance?**

Minors can qualify for Minor Consent even if they are covered by private insurance or already have regular Medi-Cal. Those teens would have separate cards for Minor Consent in addition to their Medi-Cal Benefit Identification Card (BIC).

**How to apply?**

Minors fill out regular Medi-Cal applications and also short forms for Minor Consent at their local DPSS offices or with on-site eligibility workers. **A new short form needs to be filled out each month treatment is needed**, except for mental health services. Teens will need a letter from a mental health professional explaining that they meet certain conditions for getting mental health services and how long treatment will be needed. The applicant will still have to complete the short form each month to update their eligibility. Individuals over 18 years of age or emancipated minors can apply for regular Medi-Cal on their own.