

Consent of Minor for Health Services:

Apply for free legal aid online at MontanaLawHelp.org or call/text Kaia, YHDP Coordinator, at (406) 594-1971



How can a person under 18 who has no parent or legal guardian with them access health services?

It may be hard for a minor to access health services when no adult will sign a consent for their treatment. Healthcare professionals may be concerned about treating a minor when no adult signs a release or consent form. One good option for minors is to seek care at a local county health department. A health department offers many different services to meet the health needs of their community members no matter their age. The health department may also have a list of local healthcare providers who do accept minor patients.

Tribal Health Services may have different rules regarding access to healthcare. If you are a tribal member living in a tribal community, call MLSA for advice on your specific situation.

What does the law say?

Montana law (Section 41-1-402) provides that a minor's consent for health services is valid in these situations:

- The minor has been emancipated by court order;
- The minor is married, has had a child, is pregnant, or has graduated from high school;
- The minor is separated from the minor's parent or legal guardian, and is supporting themselves by whatever means;
- The minor is pregnant or is affected by a communicable disease (such as an STD), or drug and substance abuse, including alcohol - the provider may treat the minor for these conditions only and must counsel the minor or refer the minor to another health professional for counseling;
- The minor needs emergency care;
- The minor has a child and is consenting to the health services for the child.

Please contact MLSA for additional information and assistance.

Find a County or Tribal Health Department near you on the interactive map at: dphhs.mt.gov

Why is it important to take care of my physical and mental health?

Access to health services affects a person's overall health and well-being. Regular and reliable access to health services can:

- Prevent disease and disability
- Detect and treat illnesses or other health conditions so an effective treatment plan can be put in place
- Increase your quality of life
- Increase life expectancy

How can MLSA help me?

MLSA provides FREE legal information, forms, advice, and representation to eligible clients.

MLSA's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Coordinator can provide you with referrals to agencies in your community and link you with free civil legal assistance.

Have more questions about your legal rights? Visit: MontanaLawHelp.org

