

CAN A MINOR CONSENT?



SIGNING A RENTAL LEASE

Yes, a minor can consent to a rental lease. Minors can contract for a lease in Washington state at any age. However, because contracts with minors are voidable, rental agencies are unlikely to enter into the contract without parental consent. **RCW 26.28.030.**

Parent/Guardian does not need to be notified.



BUYING A CAR

No, a minor cannot consent to buying a car. In Washington state, it is unlawful to sell a car to someone under the age of eighteen and it is unlawful for a person under eighteen to be the registered owner, unless they are legally emancipated, actively serve in the military, or were the legal owner previously in another state and are now registering in Washington. **RCW 46.12.755.**

Parent/Guardian does need to be notified.



RENTING A STORAGE UNIT

Yes, a minor can consent to rent a storage unit. Like rental leases, a minor possesses the right to contract to rent a storage unit in Washington state at any age. However, because contracts with minors are voidable, it may be difficult to find a willing storage facility without parental consent. **RCW 26.28.030.**

Parent/Guardian does not need to be notified.



SIGNING AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Yes, a minor can consent to an employment agreement. Minors over the age of 14 can contract for employment in Washington state and a parent or guardian has no right to their wages if the minor entered the employment contract alone. **RCW 26.28.050.** It is unlawful to employ minors under the age of 14, but this does not apply to farm or household work such as babysitting, certified soccer referee programs, and actors or performers in film, tv, theater productions. **RCW 26.28.060.** It is also unlawful to employ minors under the age of 18 for any dangerous or indecent work. **RCW 26.28.070.**

Parent/Guardian does not need to be notified.



ENROLLING IN SCHOOL

Yes, a minor can consent to enrolling into school. A minor who does not have a parent or does not have a place to live can get assistance enrolling themselves in school as an "Unaccompanied Homeless Youth" and are entitled to multiple education rights under the **McKinney-Vento Act 42 U.S.C §11431-11435.** If a minor is living with a parent or guardian, then that parent or guardian is responsible for enrolling the child in school.

Parent/Guardian may need to be notified.



CREATING AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

No, a minor cannot consent to their own Individualized Education Plan (IEP). A parent or guardian of a child is required to be included on an IEP team for students eligible for special education. **34 CFR § 300.321.**

Parent/Guardian does need to be notified.



OPENING OR USING A BANK ACCOUNT

Yes, a minor can consent to open and use a bank account. A minor can open their own bank account and freely deposit and withdraw funds without the control of or notification to a parent or guardian. **RCW 30A.22.70.** A minor may not disaffirm transactions with a banking institution. All transaction will be considered valid and enforceable. **RCW 33.20.040.**

Parent/Guardian does not need to be notified.



PURCHASING OR HOLDING AN INSURANCE POLICY

Yes, a minor can consent to purchase or hold an insurance policy. A minor may purchase life or disability insurance at 15 years of age or older but cannot later disaffirm this contract due to their minor status. **RCW 48.18.020.**

Parent/Guardian does not need to be notified.

CAN A MINOR CONSENT?



SECURING SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT OR SERVICES

Yes, a minor can consent to substance abuse treatment or services. At 13 years of age or older, a minor may consent to outpatient or inpatient substance abuse treatment programs without parental consent and the treatment facility may only notify parents or guardians with the minor's written consent. **RCW 71.34.500. RCW 71.34.510.**

Parent/Guardian **does not** need to be notified.



OBTAINING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Yes, a minor can consent to mental health services. A minor can receive outpatient mental health treatment at 13 years of age or older without notification to a parent. **RCW 71.34.530.** If a minor seeks inpatient mental health treatment, they may consent on their own at 13 years of age, but a parent or guardian must be notified unless the professional person providing services has a compelling reason to believe such disclosure would be detrimental to the adolescent or contact cannot be made. **RCW 71.34.500. RCW 71.34.510.**

Parent/Guardian **may** need to be notified.



ACCESSING GENERAL MEDICAL CARE

Yes, if determined "mature," minors can consent to general medical care. Minors of any age can give consent to access general medical care, such as vaccines, under the Mature Minor Doctrine in Washington state if a physician determines they are capable of understanding and appreciating the consequences of a medical procedure. In determining whether the patient is a mature minor, providers will evaluate the minor's age, intelligence, maturity, training, experience, economic independence, general conduct as an adult and freedom from the control of parents. **Smith v. Seibly, 72 Wn.2d 16 (1967).** However, the Mature Minor Doctrine is a common law principle not adopted by Washington statute, so application is inconsistent. Some physicians are hesitant to make this determination for fear of liability. **More on the The Mature Minor Doctrine.**

Parent/Guardian **does not** need to be notified if determined "mature".



ACCESSING GENERAL MEDICAL CARE (FOR UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH)

Yes, if considered an "unaccompanied homeless youth," a minor can consent to general medical care. SB 5883 authorizes unaccompanied homeless youth to provide consent for general medical care without authorization or notification to a parent or guardian. An unaccompanied homeless youth who is not otherwise authorized to provide informed consent, and is unable to obtain informed consent from a school nurse, school counselor, or homeless student liaison, is authorized to provide informed consent for non-emergency, outpatient, primary care services. **More on SB 5883**

Parent/Guardian **does not** need to be notified if considered an "unaccompanied homeless youth".



RECEIVING GENDER AFFIRMING MEDICAL CARE

Yes, if determined "mature," a minor can consent to gender affirming medical care. For youth accessing gender affirming medical care, the **Mature Minor Doctrine** again applies. This means youth of any age can consent to gender affirming medical care without a parent if a physician determines that the youth is mature.

Parent/Guardian **does not** need to be notified if determined "mature".



GETTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

Yes, a minor can consent to reproductive health care. Youth of any age can provide consent to access birth control services, abortion-related services and prenatal care. **RCW 9.02.100. State v. Koome, 84 Wn.2d 90 (1975).**

Parent/Guardian **does not** need to be notified.



STAYING AT A YOUTH SHELTER

A minor may be able to consent to stay in a shelter. Generally, shelter staff must notify your parents that you are in the shelter. If a shelter cannot reach your parent(s) or your parent(s) do not state you have to return, you can consent to stay in the shelter. If your parent(s) request your return, you cannot consent over their refusal. If your situation shows that notifying your parent(s) will lead to your abuse or neglect or if you are seeking or receiving gender affirming treatment or reproductive health care services, the shelter staff does not have to notify your parents of your whereabouts, but instead they will contact DCYF. **SB 5999. HB 1406.**

Parent/Guardian may not be notified by the shelter, but will likely be notified by DCYF.