



MINOR CONSENT MEDI-CAL

Minor Consent Medi-Cal, also called Sensitive Services, is a program that provides limited services to people under age 21, regardless of their immigration status, without parental consent or notification. The young person must be living with their parents or legal guardian, but financial eligibility for Minor Consent services is determined based on the young person's own income and resources, if any. Applications can only be made in person and must be renewed in person each month either at the county or with a county worker "outstationed" in the community.

Who is eligible?

- Children of any age under 21 needing services related to pregnancy, family planning, sexual assault.
- Children ages 12 through 20 needing services for sexually transmitted diseases or outpatient mental health or substance use disorders.
- An individual can apply for one or more of these sensitive services.
- The child must be living at home with his or her parents, or living away from home and claimed as a tax dependent by the parents.
- A child can qualify for the Minor Consent program even if he or she is already on Medi-Cal as part of his or her parent's case.
- Retroactive eligibility is available for up to three months before the application date. The request for retro eligibility must be made within one year of the application date.
 - Example: A youth receives services from January through March that would be covered by Minor Consent but doesn't apply until April. Minor Consent will cover the claims for each of the three months preceding the application in which the youth met the program's eligibility requirements if a request for retroactive benefits is made within a year of the service month.

What services are offered?

- Family planning, pregnancy, and pregnancy-related services, including mental health, substance use, and dental care during pregnancy.
- Abortion
- Sexually transmitted disease diagnosis and treatment
- Sexual assault treatment
- Outpatient mental health services
- Substance use disorder treatment

What are the income/resources limits?

- Parent's income is not counted
- Parent's property is not counted
- Child's income and resources, if any, are counted

What does it cost?

- Pregnant minors are eligible for free services with no share of cost regardless of their personal income.
- For other Minor Consent services (mental health, STD treatment, etc...) there may be a share of cost if the minor's personal income is over a certain amount (called the Maintenance Need Level).

Does citizenship or immigration status matter?

- No, citizenship and immigration status do not matter.
- Minor Consent applicants are not asked about citizenship or immigration status.

Where do kids apply and renew their eligibility?

Minors can apply and/or renew eligibility for the Minor Consent program either in-person or by telephone. They can apply, renew, and report changes in information over the telephone for the Minor Consent program by calling their counties Department of Social Services office. For more information see [ACWDL 21-09](#).

- Via the telephone: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>
- In person at the County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). To find your local office, visit: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>
- With a county "Out-stationed" Eligibility Worker (EW) at community health clinics, county health clinics, health fairs, or other community sites.
- The child's eligibility must be renewed each month, in person at the county office or with an Out-stationed EW, or by telephone.
 - Note: If the child loses Minor Consent for failure to renew eligibility in person or over the telephone for a given month but applies again within three months, services rendered during the gap may be reimbursed by requesting retroactive benefits.
- Minor Consent applicants get paper Medi-Cal cards for each month they are determined eligible.
- Pregnant applicants do not have to provide proof of pregnancy.
 - Note: Infants whose mothers were covered under the Minor Consent Program for the delivery qualify for "deemed eligibility" at birth. This means that the baby is eligible for Medi-Cal up to the first birthday without the mother having to fill out a separate Medi-Cal application for the baby. See ACL 04-02, page 4. The baby will get a Medi-Cal number and card for the year after the mother lets the county know about the birth.
- For mental health services, a letter from a mental health provider must be submitted with the application, indicating that mental health services are needed, with an estimate for how

long. This letter can also be used for the monthly in-person renewal process for the duration of the estimated time mental health services will be needed. A new Notice of Action (NOA) for continuing eligibility is issued for each month that the individual continues to qualify for Minor Consent. If eligibility is denied at the time of initial application or for any month after, a denial NOA should be issued, with information about how to appeal.

- Individuals under 21 who want regular Medi-Cal must have their parents apply on their behalf if they are in school full time or claimed as a tax dependent by their parents.

How do teens or youth get services?

- Services are provided through Medi-Cal providers.

What if the teens or youth have other health insurance?

- The teens or youth are still eligible regardless of insurance status.

What should be done if there is a problem getting services though the Minor Consent Program?

- If a minor is having problems obtaining services though the Medi-Cal Minor Consent program in Los Angeles, please call Maternal and Child Health Access (MCHA) at (213) 749-4261 or the Health Consumer Center (HCC) at 1(800) 896-3202. For all other counties, use the statewide number for the Health Consumer Alliance (HCA): 1(888) 804-3536 and give your zip code