

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI

Issue 22-19

Date: 10/27/22

YOUTH REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH RIGHTS

This FYI is to remind staff of reproductive and sexual health rights of youth.

In California, a youth of **any age** has the right to obtain care for the prevention and treatment of pregnancy including:

- Birth control
- Emergency Contraception (morning after pill)
- Pregnancy Testing
- Prenatal Care
- Abortion

For youth 12 years and older, they have the right to obtain Testing and Treatment of Sexually Transmitted infections (STIs) and for youth younger than 12, parental or legal guardian's permission is needed to obtain Testing and Treatment of STIs.

Youth have a right to:

- Access and receive reproductive and sexual health care.
- Consent to or decline services regarding contraception, pregnancy care, and perinatal care, including, but not limited to, abortion services at any age, without the knowledge or consent of any adult.
- Patient confidentiality regarding reproductive and sexual health care services unless the youth signs a written consent to be disclosed or through a court order. (It should be noted that reproductive and sexual health care information is not be included in court reports and is not shared with parents, caregivers, etc. without the youth's permission.)
- Be provided transportation to reproductive and sexual health-related services and to obtain those services from their provider of choice.

All California youth placed in foster care, including non-minor dependents, have a right to access and receive abortion care, should that be their decision. This holds true whether the youth are living in California or out of state. Because abortion laws nationally are changing quickly, California youth living in a state where abortion is illegal or extremely difficult to access, and who are contemplating abortion, can contact their Dependency Court Attorney to discuss their choice.

The best strategy for accessing abortion for a youth will depend on many variables. Every youth's living situation is unique, as are their health care needs, and the health care options and wraparound supports available to them. State laws will need to be assessed, and all options evaluated in a timely, sensitive way that protects confidentiality; **for this reason, youth desiring abortion care should be encouraged to consult with their attorney.**



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov

(right click to open footer section and access link)

Resources:

- Lawyering for Reproductive Justice - www.lfwhenhow.org
- Planned Parenthood - www.plannedparenthoodaction.org can provide resources including, but not limited to, fees, lodging, and transportation.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcsf.lacounty.gov

(right click to open footer section and access link)