

Abortion Rights for California Youth

A Guide for Adult Advocates

What abortion rights do youth have in California?

If needed, youth in California don't need a parent or guardian's permission to have an abortion. Youth can also leave school without notifying a parent or guardian for an abortion appointment.

What rights are teens aware of?

A survey* with 923 responses, 56% of high schoolers didn't know they had the right to leave school for an abortion appointment and only 40% knew how to make an appointment

* The Peer Advocates surveyed youth in the San Gabriel Valley about youth rights. For more information, visit @pppsgv_peeradvocates on Instagram.

What youth rights are school office staff aware of?

We interviewed our school office staff, and only about half of those interviewed knew about the confidential medical release of youth for reproductive health. The majority of staff stated that there is no solid protocol and it's unclear how students could find information about how to exercise their rights.

How to connect a young person to abortion resources:

- Youth can speak to their school:
 - Nurses
 - Counselors
 - Attendance clerks
- Youth can make an abortion appointment online or by phone at a Planned Parenthood Health Center.

Confidential medical release

California Education Code section 48205: Students are allowed to leave campus for reproductive medical services without the school or institution notifying the parent/guardian of their absence to obtain this service. All students have this right, no matter the specific policies of school boards and school institutions. Abortion appointments are included in this law.

How can you help?

- Put in place protocols that will teach staff to help students access their rights.
- Add the Peer Advocates of PPPSGV Teen's Guide to Abortion to your campus:
 - bit.ly/TeensGuideToAbortionPrintable
- Build trust with young people so they know they can come to you if they need help to access abortion
- Take the time to learn more about abortion and youth rights (check out the links below!)

Know the facts

According to Guttmacher Institute, women ages 15-19 are more vulnerable to unintended pregnancy than any other age group which makes access to pregnancy services, including abortion, essential for young people.

(<https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/fb-unintended-pregnancy-us.pdf>)

Learn more...

- **Confidential Medical Release FAQ and examples for schools and districts:**
 - bit.ly/CMRFAQ
- **Legality of abortion:**
 - abortion.ca.gov
- **What you can do to protect abortion access:**
 - bit.ly/PPPsgVabortionaccess
- **To help a young person trying to access abortion services:**
 - abortionfinder.org

Follow PPPSGV on instagram: @pppsgv // @pppsgv_peeradvocates
Or help a young person make an appointment online at:

PPPsgV.org