

CAN A MINOR CONSENT?



SIGNING A RENTAL LEASE

YES. 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. 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. 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. 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 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 parent or guardian of a child is required to be included on an Individualized Education Plan (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 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 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?



ACCESSING SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT OR SERVICES

YES. 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.



ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

YES. 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 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". 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".



ACCESSING GENDER AFFIRMING MEDICAL CARE

YES, IF DETERMINED "MATURE". 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".



ACCESSING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

YES. 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.