



February 1, 2011

Dear California Adolescent Health Providers,

We are pleased to announce the recent passage of new minor consent mental legislation in California, the Mental Health Services for At-Risk Youth Act (SB 543), designed to increase access to confidential care for minors. In order to assist you with the process of translating the law into practice, we would like to provide you with access to the following resources:

Minor Consent Mental Health: What is SB 543?

Two minor consent mental health laws now exist: Health and Safety Code 124260, the minor consent law created by SB 543, and Family Code 6924, the minor consent mental health statute currently in effect. This chart highlights the differences between Health and Safety 124260 and Family Code 6924, including comparisons between services covered, provider roles, parental involvement, and funding issues.

California Minor Consent Laws Mental Health Services: Minor Consent Services and Parents Access Rules

This chart is an extended and detailed outline of the mental health services that are only briefly referenced in the CA Minor Consent Laws Pocket Card. It provides information on consent laws and informing/confidentiality obligations for the following services: assessment, outpatient counseling/treatment, inpatient treatment, convulsive therapy, psychotropic medications, drug counseling, and general medical care for emancipated minors.

CA Minor Consent Laws Pocket Card for Youth and Their Providers

The pocket card has been updated to include information on the new minor consent mental health law. It also features CA minor consent laws regarding confidential services for youth including: birth control; pregnancy prevention, diagnosis, and treatment; abortion; diagnosis and treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs); HIV testing; sexual assault care; and alcohol/drug counseling.

CA Minor Consent Laws Poster

This 11x14 inch poster is designed to display at youth clinics and program sites including registration desks, waiting areas, and exam rooms. The poster includes the following text: *Teens... Did you know? What we say here stays here. Anything you say about sex, drugs and your personal feelings is confidential. There are some exceptions so ask your doctor about confidentiality rules.*

Minor Consent and Confidentiality Toolkit Module

Designed for busy adolescent health providers, updates and additions in this new edition include: updated legal information; added resources for youth; a new section for parents/guardians, and information addressing issues of HIPAA and FERPA.

For free downloads of all related materials, please visit:

http://www.teenhealthlaw.org/mental_health/

To order hard copies of the updated CA Minor Consent Pocket Card, Minor Consent Laws Poster, and the Minor Consent and Confidentiality Toolkit Module, please visit:

<http://www.ahwg.net/order/index.php>.

In community,

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