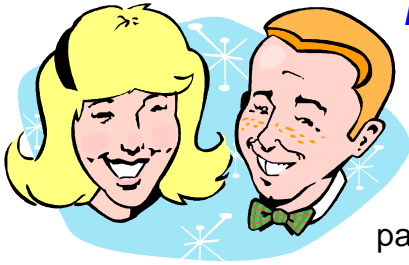


Rights of Minors



Did you know that...

Under the Mental Health Code, minors 14 years of age or older can request and receive outpatient mental health services up to 12 sessions or 4 months without the consent or knowledge of their parent or guardian?

IT'S TRUE!! Some exceptions apply:

- (1) The minor's parent or guardian **MAY NOT** be informed of the services without the consent of the minor **UNLESS** the mental health professional determines there is a compelling need for disclosure based on a substantial likelihood of harm to the minor or another person. (In this case, the mental health professional must inform the minor of the professional's intent to inform the parent/guardian.)
- (2) The professional is still required to report any known or suspected child abuse or neglect to CPS.
- (3) The parent or guardian must be aware and give consent before a minor can receive psychotropic medications or pregnancy termination referral services.
- (4) Mental health services can continue past 12 sessions or 4 months **ONLY** if the minor gives consent for their parent/guardian to be notified **AND** the parent/guardian gives consent for further outpatient services.

Under the Mental Health Code, the minor's parent or guardian is not liable for the costs of services that are received by the minor during the 12 sessions or 4 months.

As always, if you have any questions regarding this or any other Recipient Rights matter, please contact the Officer of the Day at 544-3000. Thanks!