

# Consent of Minors in NC

Under North Carolina General Statutes § 90-21.5, a minor (a person under the age of 18 years old) may consent for themselves for diagnosis and treatment of certain medical conditions. They are:

1. Venereal disease and other communicable diseases (including HIV/AIDs),
2. Pregnancy,
3. Abuse of controlled substances or alcohol, and
4. Emotional disturbance.

Although a minor may give consent for the above medical conditions, they are to still be considered minors for all other purposes.

“Emancipation” is a legal term for the process that allows someone under the age of 18 to make decisions on their own and without parental consent. In general, a minor must apply through the Court for approval to be emancipated. North Carolina provides certain situations which automatically “emancipate” a minor without the need for Court action. They are:

1. Marriage - A married juvenile is emancipated under NC GS § 7B-3402.
2. Military service - A minor who is serving in the armed forces of the United States will be treated as an adult under NC GS § 7B-3402.

Any minor who is emancipated by court order or law may consent to any medical treatment, dental and health services for themselves or for their child.