



**CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER
OF MINNESOTA**

rights of Pregnant Teens & Teenage Parents

Housing Resources

Marlene's Place provides supportive housing for pregnant and parenting teens ages 16-20 and their children ages 0-3.
Phone: 612-377-8800

Haven Housing offers supportive housing for women-led families. Phone: 612-588-0861

Jeremiah Program provides single mothers and their children with a safe, affordable place to live, quality early childhood education, life skills training, and support for career-track education.
Phone: 612-450-5928

Life Haven Transitional Living provides housing and support to youth 16 to 17 year old mothers and their children who are unhoused. Phone: 651-776-9805

Theresa Living Center-Caroline Family Services is a residential program that offers housing for pregnant women or women with children under one year old.
Phone: 651-744-5594

Crisis Resources

Hennepin County Crisis Nursery helps connect parents with crisis helpline, counseling, community resources, home visits and mental health program, and overnight residential care for newborns through age 6 for up to three nights at a time.
Phone: 763-591-0100
Address: 4544 4th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55419

Star House offers free, safe overnight childcare for children from birth to 6 years of age for up to 48 hours from Friday to Sunday.
Phone: 651-356-8678

Legal Advocacy for Minor Parents:

Goodwill Easter Seals Father Project serves low-income, primarily non-custodial fathers and offers parenting support, child support services, family activities, employment services and GED tutoring. Phone: 612-724-3539

Tubman Family Law Pro Bono Representation provides assistance with complex family law issues such as divorce or child custody. They offer these services in Hennepin, Washington, and Ramsey counties. Phone: 612-870-2400



I think I might be pregnant, what should I do?

Ask for medical care related to a potential pregnancy. Parental consent is not necessary to receive this type of health care. A doctor will tell you if you are pregnant and can guide you through your options.

What if there is a procedure I need but I cannot inform my parents, or do not want them to know?

You maybe able to obtain a “judicial bypass” your clinic will be able to walk you through this process.

I want to raise my child, but how will I financially support it?

You may be eligible for assistance through the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Women, Infants & Children (WIC), and other programs (contact your county human services agency).

What about child support payments

If the parents of a child do not live together, it is likely one parent will have to pay the other child support, in order to share the costs of raising the child.

How much will the child support payment be?

The court will look at both parents’ incomes and the costs of raising the child to determine how much each parent should contribute.

What if a parent does not pay child support, despite a court’s order to do so?

There can be serious legal consequences for that parent. If you have concerns about not receiving child support payments for your child, please contact a lawyer familiar with child support.

CUSTODY

Legal custody means you have the right to make decisions about how the child is raised, including education, health care and religion. Physical custody means you are responsible for providing residence and day-to-day care of the child. Parents may have joint legal or physical custody, so they share responsibilities, one parent may have sole legal or physical custody or there may be a combination of joint and sole legal and physical custody.

PARENTING TIME

If a parent does not have sole physical custody, he or she may be granted parenting time to spend with the child. If the parents cannot agree on how to divide the child’s time between parents, a court will determine how much parenting time the parents will have with the child.

I think I am the father of a child. What are my rights?

Are you married to the baby’s mother? You are presumed to be the baby’s father if you were married to the mother when the baby was born. If you were not married, you may want to establish paternity.

How do I establish paternity?

Paternity can be established by two methods: Both parents sign a Recognition of Parentage form OR By court proceeding (initiated by the mother or the man believing he is the father).

What are my rights if I establish them?

- You can ask the court for custody of the child. (Until paternity is established, an unmarried mother will have sole custody of the child.)
- You can ask the court to grant you parenting time.
- You have the right to object to adoption of the child if you wish to raise the child.

(If you may have fathered a child that may be placed for adoption, you may register with the Father’s Adoption Registry within 30 days of birth so that you receive notice and can participate in the proceeding). Visit: [Vital Records](#)

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT?

Minnesota’s Safe Place for Newborns Law A newborn child can be left at the hospital with no legal consequences for the parents, as long as it is left within 72 hours after its birth and it is unharmed. The hospital is not allowed to attempt to identify the mother or the person who left the newborn and cannot contact the police. The hospital may ask the person leaving the child about the newborn or mother’s health, but the person leaving the child is not required to give any information. The hospital will inform the welfare agency that the newborn has been left but cannot contact the agency until after the person leaving the baby has left the hospital. The agency will seek placement for the child but is not required to try to reunite the child with its family.

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