

# Parton Center for Health and Wellness Middlebury College

## Treatment of a Minor

According to certain provisions of Vermont State law, parents or legal guardians must provide permission for the medical or mental health care of individuals under the age of 18 (minors).

Parton Health and Counseling staff will provide an initial consultation with students who are under 18 years of age in order to determine the need for consent for treatment as stipulated by Vermont State law. When required, informed consent will be obtained from a parent or guardian as early as is feasible in the consultation process.

These provisions also allow for certain exceptions, as listed below. In these situations, a parent's or guardian's permission is not required:

- Minors of any age will be cared for in emergency situations that necessitate immediate treatment.
- Minors may receive outpatient mental health counseling without consent of a parent or guardian, but not prescription drugs.
- Minors 12 years of age and older may obtain treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, drug dependence, and alcohol abuse. If a minor requires hospitalization for treatment of any of these conditions, the parents must be notified of the hospitalization.
- Minors of any age may obtain treatment for the termination of a pregnancy, or receive medical treatment necessary to obtain contraceptive devices and medications.
- Minors of any age may obtain medical treatment related to rape, incest, or sexual abuse. Health care providers are required to report such incidents to the Department of Children and Families within 24 hours.
- Minors 14 years or older may voluntarily admit themselves to a hospital for mental health related treatment if they give informed consent in writing. Minors under 14 may admit themselves to a hospital for mental health related treatment by providing their own written informed consent and a written application from a parent or guardian.
- Minors who are married or have ever been married; minors on active U.S. military duty; and minors emancipated by court order may give informed consent to their own health care.