

# Physician Education Express



## Consent for Pregnancy services of a Minor in Indiana

**Audience:** All Providers  
**Education Level-** ALL  
**Effective** Immediately

### Overview

Indiana Minors may consent for pregnancy related services at the age of 16 as long as a reasonable effort to contact the minor's parent or guardian has been initiated.

### IU Health Current State:

A minor who is at least 16 years of age and is (1) pregnant; (2) in labor; or (3) postpartum may consent to healthcare concerning the pregnancy, delivery, or postpartum care for 60 days after the birth. The law requires that the health care provider make a "reasonable effort" to contact the minor's parent or guardian before each attempt at providing care and/or treatment which simply implies that the provider should ask the patient who is her parent or guardian, the current relationship status, and/or their current geographic location. This information should be documented accordingly. If parent/guardian is accessible, encourage the patient to contact them for consent. If parent/guardian is not accessible the health care provider is required to make care and treatment decisions based upon the best interests of the minor and the fetus.

*\*Reasonable effort includes interviewing patient regarding availability, relationship status, and/or geographic location of parent/guardian.*

### Highlights

**Effective: Immediately**

House Bill 1547:

<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2019/bills/house/1547/>

<https://legiscan.com/IN/bill/HB1547/2019>

Indiana Department of Child Services Welfare policy:

<https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/8.36%20Expectant%20Youth%20and%20Youth%20with%20Children.pdf>