

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
POLICY

Subject: Confidential Health Services for Adolescents
Document Number: PS-150-0
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POLICY STATEMENT

The SDSMA believes that confidential reproductive health care for adolescents is critical to protecting and maintaining their health.

The SDSMA encourages physicians to involve parents in the medical care of adolescent patients, when it is in the best interest of the patient. However, when in the opinion of the physician, parental involvement would potentially be detrimental to adolescent health care, the SDSMA believes parental consent or notification should not be a barrier to care.

The SDSMA believes that physicians should be able to legally offer adolescents an opportunity for an examination and counseling without parental consent.

The SDSMA further believes that parental notification requirements for the prescription of contraceptives for minors should be eliminated and that confidentiality for adolescents should include confidentiality for the prescription of contraceptives, the payment for clinician services, and the acquisition-cost reimbursement for supplies and prescriptions.

The SDSMA encourages the appropriate state and federal policy makers to make the statutory and regulatory changes necessary to allow the kind of confidential examination, counseling, and treatment of adolescents called for in this policy statement.

AUTHORITY

South Dakota State Medical Association Council of Physicians, 11/3/2017; Reaffirmed by South Dakota State Medical Association Board of Directors 6/1/2018.