

Health freedom is one of the fastest growing issues globally. The Stand for Health Freedom team, in partnership with our state directors across the country, is committed to keeping you in the loop on the top trends—both threats and progress—in health freedom.

One of the issues we see sweeping the nation in 2023 is:



Minor consent

States are writing laws to **allow minor children to consent to medical procedures without parental consent** (and sometimes despite parents' open objections).

Problem:

- This is bad public policy that plants seeds of distrust between parents and their children.
- How can a minor have the ability to consent to medical procedures, but not to enter into a contract, have sexual relations, or lie in a tanning bed?
- Preventing parents from knowing and/or accessing their child's health record can have disastrous consequences if the child experiences health problems and the parent is unsure why.
- Parents are responsible for their children physically, emotionally, and financially. Cutting parents out of medical decisions that could substantially undermine and burden those responsibilities is unethical and in bad faith.
- A myriad of privacy issues relate to minor consent laws. How can a parent advocate for privacy protections for the minor child if they're unable to know who is accessing the data and for what purposes?

Solution:

- Integrity of the family unit must be protected at all costs by the parent, public policymakers, and all involved in the care of children. A state's law may allow minor consent, but that doesn't relieve a professional of their ethical duties.
- Parents should avoid any health care provider who is willing to get between a parent and their child. A trusted provider should respect a parent's decision and encourage open communication between a child and their parents, rather than harbor a child's secrets from their parents.
- Parents can get plugged in with local health freedom advocacy groups to prevent minor consent bills from passing into law.