

## Chapter 727

**(House Bill 1183)**

AN ACT concerning

**Public Health – Treatment for the Prevention of HIV – Consent by Minors**

FOR the purpose of providing that a minor has the same capacity as an adult to consent to treatment for the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); and generally relating to consent to medical treatment by minors.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Health – General  
Section 20–102  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Health – General**

20–102.

(a) A minor has the same capacity as an adult to consent to medical or dental treatment if the minor:

(1) Is married;

(2) Is the parent of a child; or

(3) (i) Is living separate and apart from the minor’s parent, parents, or guardian, whether with or without consent of the minor’s parent, parents, or guardian; and

(ii) Is self–supporting, regardless of the source of the minor’s income.

(b) A minor has the same capacity as an adult to consent to medical treatment if, in the judgment of the attending physician, the life or health of the minor would be affected adversely by delaying treatment to obtain the consent of another individual.

(c) A minor has the same capacity as an adult to consent to:

(1) Treatment for or advice about drug abuse;

(2) Treatment for or advice about alcoholism;

- (3) Treatment for or advice about venereal disease;
- (4) Treatment for or advice about pregnancy;
- (5) Treatment for or advice about contraception other than sterilization;
- (6) Physical examination and treatment of injuries from an alleged rape or sexual offense;
- (7) Physical examination to obtain evidence of an alleged rape or sexual offense; [and]
- (8) Initial medical screening and physical examination on and after admission of the minor into a detention center; AND

**(9) TREATMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV).**

(c-1) The capacity of a minor to consent to treatment for drug abuse or alcoholism under subsection (c)(1) or (2) of this section does not include the capacity to refuse treatment for drug abuse or alcoholism in an inpatient or intensive outpatient alcohol or drug abuse treatment program certified under Title 8 of this article for which a parent or guardian has given consent.

(d) A minor has the same capacity as an adult to consent to psychological treatment as specified under subsection (c)(1) and (2) of this section if, in the judgment of the attending physician or a psychologist, the life or health of the minor would be affected adversely by delaying treatment to obtain the consent of another individual.

(e) A licensed health care practitioner who treats a minor is not liable for civil damages or subject to any criminal or disciplinary penalty solely because the minor did not have capacity to consent under this section.

(f) Without the consent of or over the express objection of a minor, a licensed health care practitioner may, but need not, give a parent, guardian, or custodian of the minor or the spouse of the parent information about treatment needed by the minor or provided to the minor under this section, except information about an abortion.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2019.

**Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 25, 2019.**