

Adolescent Health Bill of Rights*

*According to DC ST § 40-101

During an adolescent health care conference sponsored by the DC Primary Care Association, DC Campaign presented an adolescent health bill of rights. It was ratified by all teens present.

Every adolescent has the right:

- To take responsibility for his/her health and physical fitness
- To be treated with courtesy and respect by all staff without regard to his/her gender, culture, language, appearance, sexual orientation, color, presence of disability, HIV status, transportation ability, or source of payment.
- To get good care and the right types of health services, which include health education, regular checkups, dental and vision care, mental health, STD checks and sexual health, and drug and alcohol treatment by staff who are comfortable and experienced with young people.
- To be presented with honest and thorough health education, guidance, and care to improve health and well-being especially in regards to nutrition, exercise, safety, sex and sexual identity, drugs, alcohol, tobacco use and preventing violence.
- To include family, friends, and partners in his/her care at his/her request.
- To get a full explanation of what's confidential and what's not. If the doctor or other staff has a duty to talk with his/her parents or caretaker about certain issues, the information will also be discussed fully with the teen patient.
- To be introduced to his/her doctor, nurse, or other health care provider by name at the beginning of each visit or encounter.
- To be given a clear explanation of health care benefits and health plan procedures.
- To be informed about where to find services and how to get them.

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to change the
conversation.

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