

I want to live on my own.

How do I get emancipated?

**Is emancipation
a good
option
for me?**



Where can I get help?

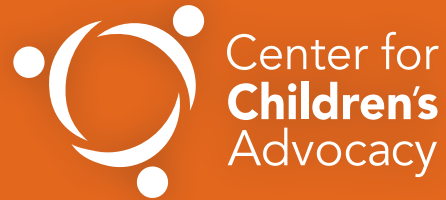
Emancipation is one option when things are bad at home, but it's not the only option.
For questions about your legal rights:

CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY

cca-ct.org • speakupteens.org

Hartford: 860-570-5327

Bridgeport: 203-335-0719



The information in this brochure is intended as reference only
and should not be interpreted as legal advice in an individual case.
If you need specific information about the law, please call us
at 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719.

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What is Emancipation?

Is it a good option for me?

What is emancipation?

Emancipation is a legal process that makes a 16- or 17- year-old legally independent from his/her parent/guardian.

How old do I have to be to get emancipated?

In Connecticut, you must be 16 or 17 years old to ask a court to emancipate you.

What rights will I have if I become emancipated?

An emancipated minor has most of the rights of an 18 year old. If you are emancipated, you don't need your parent/guardian's consent to:

- sign a lease
- get a learner's permit
- get married
- register a car
- enroll in school or college
- see a doctor, dentist or therapist
- sue someone

What responsibilities will I have if I am emancipated?

If you become emancipated, you will be responsible for supporting yourself. Your parent/guardian will no longer be legally responsible for your food, clothing, safety or shelter. This means you have to pay for your own rent, all your bills, and your food. You are also responsible for any contract you sign. You can even be sued.

How do I get emancipated?

You or your parent/guardian must file a form with the juvenile or probate court to request that you be emancipated. In most cases, a judge will assign DCF to investigate your situation. Your parents will receive notice of the request for emancipation and DCF will try to contact them. You will be assigned a lawyer to represent you. There will be a hearing before a judge. At the hearing, you or your legal guardian will have to show one of the following:

- you have, or had, a valid marriage; or
- you are in the military; or
- you live apart from your parent/guardian and are managing your own money; or
- it is in your best interests, or your child's best interests, or your parent/guardian's best interests for you to be emancipated.

Can my parent/guardian ask the Court to emancipate me even if I don't want to be emancipated?

Yes, but your parent/guardian will have to prove one of the reasons above.

What if I disagree with the Court's decision?

You can appeal to either the Superior Court or the Appellate Court.

Can I get cash assistance if I am emancipated?

Maybe. In order to get cash assistance, any minor is required to live with a responsible adult – even an emancipated minor. This adult is also the payee, meaning, s/he/they would have access to your cash assistance.

There are some exceptions. If you are a teen parent, please see our brochure, "TFA: Cash Assistance for Teen Parents." Go to speakupteens.org and click on "Rights & Resources."

Are there programs to help emancipated minors?

No. There are no programs to help you. You are basically on your own.

Can DCF help me if it doesn't work out?

No. Once you are emancipated, DCF is not responsible for your care.

Is emancipation a good option for me?

Maybe. Consider your age, how you will support yourself, where you will live, and how it will help you.

