



## **MINORS' ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION**

California Attorney General Rob Bonta today is issuing a consumer alert to California minors reminding them that they have the right to access emergency contraception. California law protects **your** right to make your own choice about whether to continue or terminate a pregnancy, and that includes your ability to purchase and take emergency contraception, whether or not your parents or guardians have agreed. Today's consumer alert outlines those rights.

Under the California Constitution, as a minor, you have the right to get healthcare to terminate or to continue a pregnancy. Under the California Family Code, you can consent—on your own—for the treatment or prevention of pregnancy as well as for treatment following a sexual assault. In general, your parents or guardians will not be informed about your treatments without your consent.

The emergency contraception drug levonorgestrel, also known as Plan B, is available to purchase over the counter (i.e., without a prescription) for people of all ages. Plan B is a drug you can take within 72 hours after unprotected sex to help avoid getting pregnant.

A recent [report](#), authored by the UCLA School of Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy, suggested that some pharmacies will not provide Plan B to minors at all or at least not without consent from a parent or guardian. **You do not need your parents' or guardians' consent to purchase or to take Plan B.**

**Let us know!** If a pharmacy refuses to let you purchase Plan B, it is not complying with California law, and you can let us know at [oag.ca.gov/report](https://oag.ca.gov/report). You can file a report anytime—and it can be anonymous.

You can also visit our Reproductive Rights webpage at [oag.ca.gov/reprorights](https://oag.ca.gov/reprorights) or the California Abortion Access webpage at [abortion.ca.gov](https://abortion.ca.gov) for resources about how to get care, including birth control, emergency contraception, and abortions, as well as more information about your rights in California.

\*\*\*\*\*

This consumer alert was issued by the Healthcare Rights and Access (HRA) Section of the California Department of Justice. HRA works proactively to increase and protect the affordability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare in California. HRA's attorneys monitor and contribute to various areas of the Attorney General's healthcare work, including civil rights, such as reproductive rights and LGBTQ healthcare-related rights; consumer rights; anticompetitive consolidation in the healthcare market; anticompetitive drug pricing; nonprofit healthcare transactions; privacy issues; and public health work on tobacco, e-cigarettes, and other products.

