

INFORMATION SHEET
(Give to minor immediately)

Despite being a minor, you have the legal capacity to seek an abortion without your parent's consent. You can do so by filing a petition with the court. There is no charge for filing the petition.

You may use a fictitious name when filing this petition or give initials.

By filing the petition, you are asking the court to determine that you are mature enough to decide for yourself whether or not to have the abortion. If the court decides you are mature enough, it will sign an order giving you the right to self-consent to the abortion.

If the court decides that you are not mature enough, it will then decide whether or not it is in your best interest to have the abortion. If it decides the abortion is in your best interest, it will enter an order authorizing a physician to perform an abortion at your request.

The court's decision will be made after a hearing. You must be at the hearing. The hearing will be closed to the public. The only persons in the court room will be: the judge and court staff, you, your attorney (if you don't have an attorney, one will be appointed for you) a guardian ad litem (if one is appointed), and any witnesses or others that you want present. The hearing will be scheduled within 48 hours of the day you file the petition, not including weekends and holidays.

If you do not like the court's decision, you have the right to appeal that decision to the Idaho Supreme Court. That appeal must be filed within five (5) days, not including weekends and holidays, after the court issues its order. The court will provide you with the form you need to file the appeal.

If you do not have an attorney, the court will appoint one to represent and assist you through this process. You do not have to pay for the attorney.

You may wait until the attorney is appointed before filing the petition, so the attorney can help you fill it out. If you wish to have an attorney appointed to help with the petition, tell the clerk and leave a phone number where you can be contacted. The attorney will contact you by the next day.

The court may also appoint a guardian ad litem to help represent your best interest. A guardian ad litem will be an adult who is familiar with court procedures and who can help you in court and help protect your confidentiality and other rights.

The guardian ad litem will be an attorney appointed by the court if an attorney is available. If an attorney is not available, the court can appoint some other qualified adult to help you. You do not have to pay for the guardian ad litem appointed to help you.

If you have questions or need help filling out the petition, please ask for assistance.