

Teen|LA

Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice

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E M A N C I P A T I O N

What does it mean to be **emancipated**?

Being emancipated **does NOT make you an adult**. If you get emancipated, you will be treated like an adult in some ways, and like a minor in other ways.

Emancipated minors **can**:

- see a doctor, dentist, or therapist.
- buy and sell property .
- enroll in school or college.
- sign a lease.

But emancipated minors **still can't**:

- Drink.
- Vote.
- Stop going to school.

How can I get emancipated?

You can get emancipated a few different ways:

- Turn 18
- Get married
- Join the army
- Ask the Court to emancipate you

Does **having a baby** mean I'm emancipated?

No! Having a baby does not emancipate you. The only ways to be emancipated are the four ways listed above.

I want to **ask the court** to emancipate me. How do I do it?

You will need to file court papers and show the court that you:

- Are 14 years old or older,
- Have already been living away from your parents, either with their permission or with their knowledge,
- Are taking care of your own finances, and
- Have your own source of (legal) income.

What **responsibilities** will I have if I am emancipated?

You will be financially responsible for yourself – you will need to **pay your rent and bills** and take care of yourself. Your parents will no longer be required to support you.

Can I **go back to live with my parents** if it doesn't work out?

Yes. Being emancipated doesn't mean you can never live with your family again. You can ask the Court to cancel the emancipation and make your parents responsible for you again. And you can go back to live with your parents without asking the court if your parents let you come back.

Can I **live on my own** without being emancipated?

Technically no. Unless you are emancipated, your parents are responsible for caring for you and supporting you until you turn 18.

Can I **apply for welfare** if I am emancipated?

Yes. You can start your own welfare case once you are emancipated.

Want to speak with a lawyer?

Contact Teen/LA at (323) 980-3500

Who we serve:

People ages 13-24 living in Los Angeles County

What we do:

Answer your legal questions, help you with paperwork, even represent you in Court.

All of our services are **free** for those who qualify.

Can't make it to our office? Check out new **Online Office hours**.

See www.facebook.com/TeenLA for details.