

## **RMD Bulletin**

***Knowledge is power...***

# Emancipated Minors

As children enter their teen years and gain more independence from their parents, they both may have questions regarding the process of legal requirements and consequences of emancipation.

Emancipation is a legal way for children to become adults before they turn eighteen (18). Under California law, a minor may be emancipated by the Court's declaration of emancipation under the Emancipation of Minor's Law. A person is an emancipated minor if they fulfill one of these three categories:

1. The minor has gotten married with permission from parents and the court.
2. The minor has joined the armed forces with permission from parents.
3. The minor has received a declaration of emancipation from a judge.

An Emancipated minor is able to do certain things without a parent's consent, such as:

- Consent to medical treatment.
- Apply for a work permit.
- Enroll in school or college.

Being emancipated, a minor gives up the right to be financially supported by their parents or guardian. However, an emancipated minor who consents to medical treatment may sign any forms that are required by the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health, so long as they show proof of emancipation. Emancipated minors may obtain a copy of their declaration of emancipation from the court clerk's office.

If you have any questions about the emancipation process in Los Angeles or would like assistance, you can call the Children's Right Project at Public Counsel, (213) 385-2977 or (800) 870-8090, ext. 500. For emancipation forms and instructions visit the California courts self-help center at: [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/family/emancip](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/family/emancip).

### **We're here to help you...**

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact RMD at (213) 480-3444 or [RevenueManagement@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:RevenueManagement@dmh.lacounty.gov).