

Reaching the Age of Majority

What is the Age of Majority?

When you turn 18, according to Michigan laws, you reach the age of majority. You are then considered an adult. If you are a student receiving services to assist you in school because you have an educational disability, all rights and responsibilities covered by the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, are transferred to you as an adult student, unless you have a court appointed guardian.

As you read this document, it is important that you understand your rights and responsibilities. Have someone you trust explain them to you to be sure you know what they mean.

What are your rights when you reach the Age of Majority?

- You have the right to **Speak for Yourself** at your IEP and make the decisions about your school services. (Your parents or guardian may attend if you want them to.)
- You must **Give** your **Consent** (permission) in writing, before any evaluation can be done for you or a change in your special education services can be made. (Someone from the school must explain the evaluation or change to you in a way you understand and tell you that you have a choice and that you can change your mind at any time.)
- You must **Give** your **Consent** before your school records can be sent to anyone else.
- You must be given **Prior Notice** by the school, in writing, any time it wants to change your special education services. If you have trouble reading, the school must have someone tell you so that you will understand.
- You and your school IEP team must consider **more than one option** when planning your school program. You need to work with the school staff to find the best choice for you.
- You have the **right to see any records** that the school keeps about you. If you think the information is not accurate, or violates your rights, you may request that the information be removed from your file.
- You have many rights about how **evaluations** about you are done. See the attached page describing your rights for Evaluation Procedures.
- You have the right to **disagree** with decisions made by your school team. Don't sign anything you don't understand, and if you disagree with the plan, you don't have to sign it. There are things you can do. See the attached page describing the procedures you can take when you disagree with your planning team.

What are your Responsibilities when you reach the Age of Majority?

You also have responsibilities when you become an adult student. Your responsibilities are to:

- **Be your own advocate** – This means understanding what your needs are and being able to ask for them. Let your IEP team members and others know what you want. It is your IEP.
- **Follow timelines** – If you need to respond to the school, you will be told in writing. Don't miss deadlines because they are usually very important.
- **Have goals and ideas** – You will build a good school program on them.
- **Get the support that you need** – If you need help reading the letters that are sent to you or help in understanding information...ASK SOMEONE that you trust.
- **Tell people about yourself and your ideas** – You are an adult member of the team.
- **Take time to listen** to what people tell you about your strengths and abilities. It is how you can all work together to make good decisions.
- **Learn about your disability** – Know what works best for you and what kind of support you need. In the future, people will only provide them if you ask.
- **Disagreement is OK** – Work with your team to solve the problems. The solutions are there.

Congratulations on reaching the Age of Majority!