



Spotlight on Minor Safety & Access

In Texas, family violence shelters can provide shelter or care for 15 days to an unaccompanied minor in an emergency that constitutes an immediate danger to the physical health and safety of the minor, **which includes family violence or dating violence**. When certain conditions are present, this service can be longer as needed. (Sections 32.201 & 32.202, Texas Family Code)

Agencies can also provide counseling from a licensed or certified professional to minors for any duration if it is related to a few topics, **including physical, emotional, or sexual abuse**, and there is no court order prohibiting the sessions. (Section 32.004, Texas Family Code)

These provisions provide **a potentially lifesaving avenue to minor victims**. For more information about how to use these protections see below and contact the Policy team at the Texas Council on Family Violence with any questions at Policy@tcfv.org.



IMMEDIATELY

Emergency shelter may provide unaccompanied minors

shelter for up to 15 days



IF there is an emergency constituting an immediate danger

AFTER 15 DAYS

Shelter can be continued to be provided

IF
Minor...

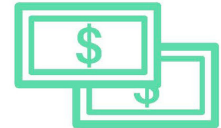


&



resides separate from parent
(regardless of parent's consent)

&



manages own finances
(regardless of source of income)

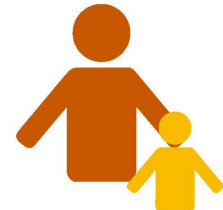


OR
Minor...



is unmarried and pregnant

OR



is the parent of a child

CITATION:

**Sections 32.201 & 32.202
TEXAS FAMILY CODE**



ANYTIME

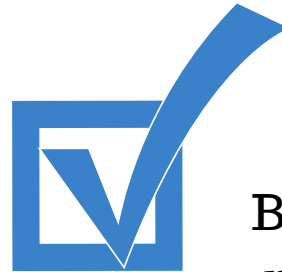
Counseling Services Can be Provided



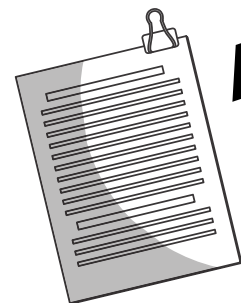
A child can consent to counseling for



- Suicide prevention
- chemical addiction or dependence; or
- **sexual physical or emotional abuse**



But, it must be provided by a licensed or certified physician, psychologist, counselor or social worker



AND

you may not do so if a court order prohibits consent

CITATION:

Section 32.004
TEXAS FAMILY CODE