



EMANCIPATION INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS

Applications can only be filed in the County where the custodial parent or guardian resides.

WHAT RIGHTS DOES EMANCIPATION OFFER?

Emancipation grants minors many of the same rights as an eighteen year old with adult status: to enter into contracts, make living arrangements, buy a car, obtain medical services, sue and be sued. Emancipated minors are not subject to curfew laws due to age and cannot be considered runaways. Those who violate the law are referred to the adult criminal court.

Emancipation does NOT affect age qualifications for purchasing or consuming alcohol, obtaining a marriage license with parental consent, voting or obtaining a work permit under labor laws.

WHAT FACTORS DOES THE COURT CONSIDER?

In determining whether to issue a decree of emancipation, the Court is guided by three factors: whether parents consent; whether the applicant has been living apart from the family home and is able to be self-supporting without parental guidance and supervision, and whether the applicant shows sufficient maturity and knowledge to manage their lives without parental assistance.

Although parental consent is weighed, lack of it does not mean the request will be denied. Applicants without jobs or job prospects or those living at home with no prospect of moving out are poor candidates. It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate to the Court the capacity to successfully meet the criteria, although applicants may be represented at any point by legal counsel at their own expense.

Character reference letters from employers, teachers, and friends are helpful. Also important are records of recent school grades, earnings statements, rental receipts, and a spending plan showing how medical and other expenses will be met, and the applicant's after-tax income. Applicants should be prepared to tell the Judge clearly and concisely why they want to be emancipated.

More information on emancipation can be found in the Oregon Revised Statutes sections 419B.550 – 419B.558.

Juvenile Department

222 N First Avenue, MS 47 · Hillsboro, OR 97124-3072
phone: (503) 846-8861 · fax: (503) 846-8886 · TTY: (503) 846-4598 · www.co.washington.or.us



WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE FOR FILING AN EMANCIPATION APPLICATION?

1. Applicants complete the application for Emancipation available at the Washington County Juvenile Department, take it to Court Accounting at 150 N First Avenue in Hillsboro – the first floor of the Justice Services Building. Applicants must pay a nonrefundable filing fee of \$150 to the Court Accounting Department.
2. Applicants then submit the Application for Emancipation and the receipt showing payment of the fee to the receptionist at the Juvenile Department, 222 N First Avenue in Hillsboro. The application must be signed in front of a Notary Public, which is available at the Juvenile Department.
3. A preliminary inquiry before the Court will be set within ten judicial days from the date the application is filed with the Court.
4. Applicants must notify parents of the preliminary inquiry.
5. A decision may be made at the preliminary inquiry, if the applicant waives a final hearing and if the parents are present and agree to waive the final hearing.
6. If a final hearing is required, the time from the filing of the application until decision will not exceed sixty days. The final hearing will occur even if parents do not appear.

Before seeking emancipation, applicants may wish to explore alternatives. The agencies listed may be able to help:

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON COUNTY BRANCH
5920 NE RAY CIRCLE
HILLSBORO, OR 97124
(503) 648-8951

LIFEWORKS NORTHWEST
CEDAR MILLS SITE
14600 NW CORNELL RD
PORTLAND, OR 97229
(503) 645-3581

LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF OREGON
9725 SW BEAVERTON-HILLSDALE HWY
SUITE 230
BEAVERTON, OR 97005
(503) 297-6263

NETWORK BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
230 NE 2ND AVE SUITE C
HILLSBORO, OR 97124
(503) 648-0753

YOUTH CONTACT
435 SE WASHINGTON ST
HILLSBORO, OR 97123
(503) 640-4222