

## Activity 3: Scenarios for Discussion

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### Scenario 1: Leaving Home



A parent of a 16-year-old boy who is transgender tells you that the boy wants to change his legal name from Jane to John. The parent does not want him to change his name. He told his parent that he is going to move out, get his own apartment, and change his name. The parent wants to stop the boy.

1. Can a 16-year-old move out of their parent's home?
2. Can a 16-year-old rent an apartment?
3. Can a 16-year-old change their legal name?

### Scenario 2: Medical Decisions and Information



A 15-year-old girl tells you she wants birth control pills. She and her 16-year-old boyfriend are thinking about having sex. At her last medical appointment, the doctor said she won't give the girl the birth control pills unless the girl's mother gives parental permission.

1. Is it legal for a 15-year-old and a 16-year-old to have sex?
2. Can a doctor give a 15-year-old girl birth control pills?
3. Can a doctor talk to a parent about their child's medical information?

### Scenario 3: Special Education



The parent of a 16-year-old says she has a meeting at the school to discuss a special education program for her child. She doesn't want her child at the meeting because she doesn't want them to feel embarrassed or "dumb". There's a report about their reading level in their student record, but she doesn't want her child to see this report because she thinks it makes them sound "dumb".

1. Can a 16-year-old be involved in special education decisions even if their parent doesn't approve?
2. Can a 16-year-old access their own student records?

### Scenario 4: Starting and Quitting School



A single mother of two just moved to your town in the middle of February. The school won't allow her 5-year-old to register for school until they turn 6, even though there is a kindergarten program. Her 17-year-old was allowed to register for high school, but they hate it there. They've been skipping school, and plan to drop out.

1. Does a 5-year-old have the right to start school?
2. Can the 17-year-old be charged for skipping school?
3. Can the 17-year-old quit school?

## Scenario 5: Children's Aid and Adoption



The mother of a 7-year-old and a 12-year-old tells you that she has a chronic health problem and can no longer take care of her kids.

She wants to give the kids to the Children's Aid Society (CAS), but the kids don't want that. She says that another option might be to let the kids' aunt formally adopt them, but the kids don't want that either.

1. Can a mother give her children to a CAS if the children don't want to go?
2. Can someone adopt a child who doesn't want to be adopted?