



Resources for LGBTQ Youth in Maine

Emancipation and Change of Legal Guardian

For youth 16 years old and older

If you are at least 16 years old and want to live on your own and make your own decisions, Maine emancipation law can help. Check out these resources for more information on how emancipation works, and who to contact for help.

- Kids Legal at www.kidslegal.org/emancipation-maine
- Request for Counsel (submit this form to start the emancipation process) at bit.ly/2laJl8r

For youth under 16

If you are under 16 and need someone to support the decisions that are best for you, you may be able to petition for a new legal guardian. Check out these resources for more information on how guardianship works and who to contact for help.

- Pine Tree Legal Assistance at <https://ptla.org>
- Guide to guardianship process at <https://ptla.org/guardianship-minor>

Shelter information

If you are leaving an unsafe home or foster home, and there is no place for you to sleep or get support, please visit one of these three youth-serving shelters in Maine. They are all knowledgeable about LGBTQ youth and provide various services that can help:

Portland

Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter
38 Preble Street
www.preblestreet.org

Lewiston

New Beginnings
134 College Street
www.newbeginmaine.org

Bangor

Shaw House
136 Union Street
www.theshawhouse.org

Even if you cannot travel to one of these three shelters, you have the right to access any shelter services free of discrimination and harassment. This includes the right to access shelter restrooms, showers, dormitories, and other facilities consistent with your gender identity, to be referred to by names and pronouns consistent with your gender identity, and to express yourself by wearing gender affirming clothing.

Did you Know?

- It is not illegal to run away, and you cannot be arrested, fingerprinted, or put in jail for running away.
- A shelter will call your parents to tell them where you are unless you request otherwise. You must submit your request in writing, and you can only ask for this on your first three nights.
- In Maine, there is no crime of “harboring a minor.”
- If you are in danger of being hurt, a shelter will call the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) instead of your parents. If DHHS believes that you would be harmed at home, or if you don’t agree to return home, DHHS may obtain temporary custody and find a safe place for you to live.

For more information, please visit www.kidslegal.org/running-away-youre-not-alone

Additional Resources:

GLSEN Downeast Maine
P.O Box 373
Ellsworth, Maine 04605
207-217-9873
downeastme@chapters.glsen.org

GLSEN Southern Maine
P.O Box 10334
Portland, Maine 04104
207-619-1417
glsensomaine@gmail.com

Equality Maine
207-761-3732
info@equalitymaine.org

Maine TransNet
511 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
207-370-0359
info@mainetransnet.org

For a full list of resources for youth in Maine, visit www.glad.org/maine-youth-resources/

As always, if you need legal information or support, contact GLAD Answers, our legal info line, at www.GLADAnswers.org or 800-455-GLAD.

