

**St. Johns County**  
**Legal Aid**

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32084

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Evenings by Appointment

**St. Johns County**  
St. Johns Legal Aid  
222 San Marco Avenue  
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**EMANCIPATION**

*Prepared by*  
**St. Johns County**  
**Legal Aid**



222 San Marco Avenue  
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32084

*Providing a Wealth of Justice  
for Those Who Have Neither.*

Emancipation of a minor to granting full legal rights is a difficult and rare process. ***There must be good cause why the minor should be emancipated.*** Certain criteria make a petition for emancipation likely or unlikely depending on the circumstances.

### **Automatic Emancipation:**

A minor who is married or has ever been married in the past, regardless of the current status of the marriage, is granted full legal status as an adult.



### **Education and Emancipation:**

A minor may borrow money as an adult in order to pay for ***higher education.*** This minor is under the same obligations as an adult with regards to the loan.



Outside of these situations, a parent, or guardian, or guardian ad litem can petition the court to emancipate a minor. Such petitions require ***certain guidelines*** and standards before a court will grant emancipation:



The minor must reside in Florida.



The minor must be 16 or 17 years old.



The written petition must include information about the minor (if known), any information regarding children of the minor, and a statement regarding the minor and any other pending legal matters.



The petition must include a statement about the minor's character, education, income and ability to obtain necessities.



There should also be a statement on why the court should emancipate a minor.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

- ❓ The court will only consider what is in the best interest of the minor.
- ❓ The minor must attend a lifestyles class (contact Legal Aid for more information)
- ❓ You can not be a client of the Department of Children & Families, or a ward of the state.
- ❓ The minor can not be a convicted felon or be in drug treatment.
- ❓ You cannot be a runaway.
- ❓ You must be open to the idea of emancipation
- ❓ The minor must have some direction to the completion of high school education