

The Fraser Guidelines:

1. The young person understands the advice being given.
2. The young person cannot be convinced to involve parents/carers or allow the medical practitioner to do so on their behalf.
3. It is likely that the young person will begin or continue having intercourse with or without treatment/contraception.
4. Unless he or she receives treatment/contraception their physical or mental health (or both) is likely to suffer.
5. The young person's best interests require contraceptive advice, treatment or supplies to be given without parental consent.

The guidelines arise from the case in the early 80's when Victoria Gillick attempted to set a legal precedent in England and Wales, which would have meant that medical practitioners could not give young people under the age of 16 treatment or contraceptive services without parental permission. Although initially successful, the ruling was eventually changed when the House of Lords ruled that people who are under 16, who are fully able to understand what is proposed, and its implications, are competent to consent to medical treatment regardless of age. This is now the legal position in England and Wales.