

	<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTHERN FOX VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM POLICY & PROCEDURES</p>				
<p>TITLE: TREATMENT OF MINOR PATIENTS</p>					
<p>SECTION: GENERAL</p>			<p>POLICY NUMBER: D-8.0</p>		
<p>APPROVED BY: DR. ARTHUR PROUST EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR</p>					
<p>EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/01/2023</p>				<p>PAGE NUMBER: 1 OF 2</p>	

PURPOSE:

To ensure the well-being of any minor in need of medical care when the consent for treatment of the minor's legal guardian is not available

POLICY:

1. For purposes of this policy, a minor is: as any individual under the age of 18 years unless legally emancipated. The following are conditions where an individual under the age of 18 years may give legal consent for emergency medical care:
 - a. A married minor
 - b. A pregnant minor
 - c. A legally emancipated minor between 16 and 18 years of age with a court order in their possession proving complete parental emancipation.
2. When treatment for a minor is rendered in the Southern Fox Valley Emergency Medical Services System, and the parent or guardian is not available to give consent, it is important that prehospital providers, in a timely fashion, contact Medical Control to apprise them of the situation and to receive specific instructions and orders.
3. Management of an emergency does not require the consent of the parent or guardian. The online physician with Medical Control may deem that parental or guardian consent is not feasible under the circumstances and may proceed with management of that minor patient.
4. The pre-hospital provider involved should note and document pertinent details regarding the treatment of that minor individual. Note and document specifically:
 - a. The existence of a situation where a child's health may be adversely affected if management of that minor is delayed obtaining consent in that situation.

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- b. The presence of life or health threatening circumstances in that minor patient which would require immediate intervention.
 - c. Any effort to obtain parent or guardian consent and the results of those efforts.
- 5. The on-line emergency physician may take protective custody of a minor without the consent of parent or guardian in the situation where child abuse or medical neglect is suspected.
- 6. If problems arise, request police to place patient involved in protective custody so medical determination at the hospital may be accomplished.
- 7. State of Illinois Statute on treatment of minor's states: (Article #3 703-1 Taking into custody)
 - a. A law enforcement officer, without a warrant, may take into temporary custody a minor found in the street or public place suffering from sickness or injury, which requires care, medical treatment, or hospitalization.
- 8. Other situations where a minor may consent to treatment include:
 - a. Victims of aggravated criminal sexual assault or abuse, or of a criminal sexual abuse.
 - b. Minors twelve years or older who may be intoxicated, an alcoholic, or an addict, or who may have come into contact with a sexually transmitted disease may give consent for certain type of treatment.
- 9. Once EMS personnel have established contact, the minor shall be transported to the closest appropriate facility unless the following situations exist, and Medical Control has approved release of the patient:
 - a. Law enforcement has taken responsibility for the patient
 - i. Document name and badge number
 - b. The legal guardian has been contacted by phone and states they do not wish for the patient to be treated / transported
 - c. The legal guardian has signed a refusal for evaluation / treatment and or transport
 - d. Medical control authorizes release

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