

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

A-16 SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR POLICE CUSTODY AND CONSENT FOR TREATMENT

ALS/ILS/BLS

This policy serves as a reference and guide in obtaining consent for special situations in which the patient is unable to grant permission.

- Any special situation should always be meticulously documented as well as close communication with the Resource/Associate Hospital.

Child Abuse:

- If the EMT suspects child abuse he/she are required by law to report this. He may remove the child from the parents, if emergency treatment is indicated, under police custody or custody by the welfare worker.

Mentally Ill Patient:

- Under law, individuals who by reason of mental defect or disease are unable to handle their own affairs and need supervision by the court or other qualified persons, are considered "not of sound mind".
 - Trying to determine if someone is mentally incompetent is extremely difficult to do in the field and may only be done by a physician.
 - Notify Medical Control of the circumstances.

The Intoxicated or Belligerent Patient:

- If the intoxicated patient, either by drugs or alcohol, refuses treatment, the following procedures should be done:
 - Ensure scene safety
 - Make every effort to persuade the patient to consent for treatment.
 - Contact Medical Control
 - Document all correspondence.
 - If the patient continues to refuse treatment:
 - Have the patient sign a release form.
 - If refusal of treatment would jeopardize the patient's well being:
 - Request protective custody from law enforcement