

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

A-5 CONSENT FOR THE TREATMENT OF THE MINOR PATIENT

ALS/ILS/BLS/FR

Definitions:

- Minor:
 - A minor is any person whose age is younger than 18 years old except for the following situations:
 - A child an active duty with the armed forces
 - A pregnant child
 - A child who is married
 - A child who is legally emancipated
- Involuntary Consent:
 - In emergency situations consent from the legal guardian is not available, consent is supplied by the law in the form of:
 - A court order
 - Custody of the police
 - By the order of a welfare worker who has custody of the child
- Implied Consent:
 - The child must be suffering from what reasonably appears to be a life-threatening condition or illness.
 - There is no requirement that the child be unconscious because in obtaining consent the child's ability to communicate is immaterial.
- Obtaining Consent:
 - If the minor patient does not meet any of the mentioned special circumstances, consent should be obtained.
 - Consent is only legally obtained from:
 - Natural parent
 - Court appointed guardian
 - If legal guardians are not available:
 - The patient may be treated by involuntary or implied consent.
 - Once the patient reaches the emergency department, all efforts should be made to contact the minor's legal guardian.
 - A minor has the right to consent to treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and for alcohol or substance abuse without parental or guardian consent.