

**GENERAL RULE-PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FOR TREATMENT OF MINORS \***

In general, parent/guardian consent MUST be obtained before medical treatment is provided to minors; however, there is a statutory exception to this rule (N.C.G.S. 90-21.5) providing that the MINOR'S CONSENT ONLY is needed for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the following conditions:

- 1. Venereal disease and other diseases reportable under G.S. 130A-135
- 2. Pregnancy
- 3. Abuse of controlled substances or alcohol
- 4. Emotional disturbance

**PHYSICIAN DISCLOSURE OF MINOR'S MEDICAL RECORDS TO PARENT/GUARDIAN**

If requested, a physician should release a minor's medical records to the parent/guardian of a minor for records not relating to items 1-4 above.

A physician SHALL NOT without the minor's consent release a minor's medical records to the parent/guardian regarding treatment related to venereal disease and other diseases reportable under G.S. 130A-135, pregnancy, alcohol or controlled substance abuse, or emotional disturbance UNLESS the attending physician feels such notification is essential to the life or health of the minor.

However, if the parent/guardian contacts the physician requesting records regarding treatment related to the conditions in items 1 through 4 above, the physician MAY elect to release such records. In making this determination, the physician should balance the parent/guardian's request with the need for trust in the physician-patient relationship.

**\*EMERGENCY TREATMENT OF MINORS WITHOUT PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT**

Per N.C.G.S. 90-21.1, a physician MAY treat a minor without parent/guardian consent in the following situations:

- (1) Parent/guardian cannot be located or contacted with reasonable diligence during time within which minor needs to receive treatment, OR
- (2) Where minor's identity is unknown, or where immediate treatment necessity is so apparent that efforts to secure approval would delay treatment so long as to endanger the life of the minor, OR
- (3) Where efforts to contact parent/guardian would result in delay that would seriously worsen minor's physical condition, OR
- (4) Where parent/guardian refuses to consent to procedure and immediate treatment necessity is so apparent that delay required to obtain a court order would endanger the life or seriously worsen physical condition of the minor AND second physician agrees that such procedure is necessary to prevent immediate harm to the minor

**PHYSICIAN'S REFUSAL TO USE, PERFORM OR RENDER TREATMENT TO MINOR WITHOUT PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE GROUNDS FOR CIVIL ACTION OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.**

**I have read and understand the above:**

**Signatures:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian (Circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian (Circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date