

	19610	AEMT Care of minors	
Nor-Cal EMS Policy & Procedure Manual		Treatment Guidelines	
Effective Date: 5/1/2025		Next Revision: 5/1/2028	
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## Definitions

**Minor-** Any person under the age of 18 years.

**Emancipated Minor-** A person under the age of 18 years who is married, on active duty in the military or emancipated by the courts.

**Legal Guardian-** An individual granted legal authority to care for another individual (Health Care Power of attorney, Legal Guardianship)

**Parent-** The lawful mother or father of a non-emancipated minor

**Emergency-** situation requiring immediate services for alleviation of severe pain or immediate diagnosis of unforeseen medical conditions which if not immediately diagnosed and treated would lead to serious disability or death.

## Policy

1) EMS personnel shall make every effort to inform a parent/legal guardian of a non-emancipated minor of the situation requiring EMS care, and where their child has been transported – unless criteria (below) not requiring consent are met.

2) If EMS personnel believe a parent or legal guardian is making a decision which appears to be endangering the health and welfare of a minor patient, law enforcement involvement shall be considered.

### Parental/Legal Guardian consent is NOT required if meets one of the following:

- 1) Minor has an **Emergency** Medical condition and parental/legal guardian is not available.
- 2) Minor is Emancipated.
- 3) Self-sufficient minor 15 years or older: living separate and apart from their parents and managing their own financial affairs.
- 4) 12 years or older and in need of medical care for infectious, contagious communicable disease or for sexually transmitted disease.
- 5) 12 years or older and in need of medical care for drug or alcohol abuse.
- 6) Is in need of medical care for pregnancy, rape or sexual assault.

### Providers may NOT inform Parental/Legal guardian without the MINOR'S consent in the following situations:

- 1) 12 years or older and in need of medical care for infectious, contagious and communicable disease or for sexually transmitted disease
- 2) Is pregnant and requires medical care related to pregnancy
- 3) Is in need of medical care for rape or sexual assault

**Minor Refusing Care** (If minor is refusing any indicated exam, treatment, or transport and does not meet the parental/guardian non-consent criteria)

- 1) EMS personnel shall make every effort to inform and obtain consent from parent/legal guardian
- 2) Make Base Hospital Contact and advise them of situation
- 3) Consider involving law enforcement, advise them of concerns.

4) Refer to **Refusal of care policy 05-0104**