

- I. Authority: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1798.
- II. Purpose: To establish the policy for prehospital treatment and transport of minors.
- III. Policy: The authority regarding treatment and/or transport of minor patients to receiving facilities rests with the medical director of the local EMS Agency.

A. Voluntary consent:

- 1. Treatment or transport of a minor child shall be with the verbal or written consent of the natural parents or court appointed guardian.

B. Involuntary consent:

- 1. In the absence of a natural parent or court appointed guardian, treatment and/or transport of a minor child who is unconscious or suffering from a life threatening illness or injury may be initiated without parental consent and in accordance with the laws for implied consent.
- 2. Treatment or transport may be authorized by a police officer who has placed a minor child in custody.
- 3. Treatment and/or transport of a minor child who is not unconscious or suffering from a life threatening illness or injury, where the natural parents or guardian are not present, will be under the direction of the Base Hospital Physician.

C. Transport to a receiving facility:

- 1. Minor children, without parents or guardian at the scene, shall be transported to the most accessible receiving or specialty care center.
- 2. If the minor child is not injured he/she may be released to a responsible adult (i.e. school nurse, law enforcement personnel or person of similar standing) at the scene. Release can only be authorized by the Base Hospital and an approved "medical release" must be signed by the person accepting responsibility.

3. Transport of minor children with parents/guardian at the scene or written consent for treatment from the parents/ guardian may be handled as an adult transport.
- D. See attached for applicable circumstances where parental consent is not needed for care in non-life threatening situations.

APPROVAL



Bruce E. Haynes, M.D.
EMS Medical Director