

SIERRA-SACRAMENTO VALLEY EMS AGENCY ALS PROGRAM POLICY

REFERENCE NO. 851

SUBJECT: TREATMENT/TRANSPORT OF MINORS

PURPOSE:

To describe the guidelines for treatment and/or transport of a patient under the age of eighteen.

AUTHORITY:

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.

DEFINITIONS:

Minor: A person less than eighteen years of age.

Minor not requiring parental consent is a person who:

- Has an emergency medical condition and parent is not available
- Is married or previously married
- Is on active duty in the military
- Is 15 years or older, living separate and apart from his or her parents and managing his or her own financial affairs
- Is 12 years or older and in need of care for contagious reportable disease or condition, or for substance abuse
- Is an emancipated minor (decreed by court, identification card by DMV)
- Is pregnant and requires care related to the pregnancy
- Is in need of care for sexual assault

Legal Representative: A person who is granted custody or conservatorship of another person by a court of law.

Emergency: Condition or situation in which an individual has a need for immediate medical attention or where the potential for need is perceived by EMS personnel or a public safety agency.

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PRINCIPLES:**I. CONSENT:**

- A. **Actual Consent:** Treatment or transport of a minor child shall be with the verbal or written consent of the parents or legal representative.
- B. **Implied Consent:** In the absence of a parent or legal representative, emergency treatment and/or transport of a minor may be initiated without consent.

PROCEDURES:**I. TREATMENT/TRANSPORT OF MINORS:**

- A. In the absence of a parent or legal representative, minors with an emergency condition shall be treated and transported to the health facility most appropriate to the needs of the patient (e.g., Trauma Center, etc.)
- B. Hospital or provider agency personnel shall make every effort to inform a parent or legal representative of where their child has been transported.
- C. If prehospital care personnel believe a parent or other legal representative of a minor is making a decision which appears to be endangering the health and welfare of the minor by refusing indicated immediate care or transport, law enforcement authorities should be involved.

II. MINORS NOT REQUIRING TRANSPORT: (Please refer to Policy #850)

- A. A minor who is evaluated by EMS personnel and determined not to be injured, to have sustained only minor injuries, or to have illnesses or injuries not requiring immediate treatment or transportation, may be released to:
 - 1. Self, after base / modified base consult (consideration should be given to age, maturity, environment and other factors that may be pertinent to the situation).
 - 2. Parent or legal representative
 - 3. A responsible adult at the scene
 - 4. A designated care giver
 - 5. Law enforcement
- B. EMS personnel **shall** document on the Patient Care Report Form to whom the patient was released.

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CROSS REFERENCES:

Policy and Procedure Manual

Reference No. 850 – Patient Initiated Release at Scene (RAS) or Patient Initiated Refusal of Service (AMA) with Termination of Paramedic – Patient Relationship Algorithm