

Guidelines for the Transport of Minors

Designation of Condition: These guidelines are designed to help crews with the difficult job of handling minor patients (<18 years of age) and the situation when a minor has a child.

For minors to make a decision regarding healthcare, they must be emancipated. They must be 16 years of age **AND**:

- Married
- Divorced
- Active military
- Legally declared emancipated in a court of law

Pregnancy in and of itself does not emancipate a minor

When in doubt:

- Use [EMS Act, Section 24-10B.-9.1](#), to transport the patient against their will. Err on the side of transport versus cancellation.
- Contact an [MCEP](#)

When a minor over the age of 16 is evaluated and is uninjured and is refusing further care, the patient can sign the liability release as acknowledgment of evaluation and refusal but this does not absolve the agencies of liability. The minor must be left in a safe environment. Utilize law enforcement and MCEP as necessary.

In certain circumstances, young minors may be left in the care of others who have been left in charge of the minor. Specific caretakers (in loco parentis), including a non-minor sibling or other non-guardian family member, a school bus driver, or an adult group leader (church, scouts, etc.), may take responsibility if they have assumed responsibility for the child and sign the liability release.

An emancipated minor can make decisions for her minor child. There is no law that allows a minor mother to, or prohibits a minor mother from, making decisions for her minor child. Therefore, if the minor mother is not making a decision in the best interest of the child, this would be an area to utilize the EMS Act noted above, an MCEP, or law enforcement if necessary.

- An exception is children 14–18 years of age who have been sexually assaulted. These patients can consent for treatment and can request parents not be contacted.

NOTE: When dealing with emancipation issues, document statements made by the parties involved when the appropriate documentation (marriage certificate, court order, etc.) is not readily available. Remember to err on the side of patient care.