



CARE AND TRANSPORT OF MINORS

PURPOSE

EMS providers are occasionally called to treat and transport minors. New York State does not allow a person under age 18, unless emancipated, to assume responsibility for their medical care. This policy defines an emancipated minor and outlines the treatment expectations of minors and emancipated minors.

POLICY

1. Definition of emancipation shall be a person between the ages of 16 and 18 who:
 - a. Live separate and apart from their parents
 - b. Do not receive any financial support from them
 - c. Live beyond the parent's custody and control
 - d. Are not in foster care
2. An emancipating event includes:
 - a. Marriage
 - b. Pregnancy (only for prenatal care)
 - c. Parenthood
 - d. Degree/Diploma
 - e. Military Service
3. If a minor is ill or injured in any way, they should be transported to a medical facility.
4. If a minor is between the ages of 16 and 18 and relates an emancipating event, they may make their own decisions regarding treatment and transport to include refusing such care.
5. If a minor is not injured use the following guidelines:



- a. A law enforcement officer has the legal authority to assume responsibility for a minor who is not injured until a parent/guardian can be located. If willing, the officer must sign the refusal form in the area for guardian.

- b. Make reasonable efforts to contact parent/guardian. Document who you spoke with and their treatment decision for the minor. Care and treatment should never be delayed to accomplish this.

- c. If contact with a parent/guardian cannot be made, contact Medical Control.