TRANSPORT OF MINORS

I. AUTHORITY:

California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220 and 1798.

II. APPLICATION:

This policy describes the guidelines for treatment and/or transport of a minor child.

III. GUIDELINES:

A. General Policy

It is the policy of the EMS system that minors shall receive rapid evaluation and treatment under implied consent.

B. Consent

1. Voluntary Consent: Treatment and/or transport of a minor child shall be with verbal or written consent of the natural parents or court appointed guardian, when available.

2. Implied Consent: In the absence of a natural parent or court appointed guardian, evaluation, treatment and/or transport of a minor child shall not be delayed pending parental consent. Treatment or transport may be authorized by a police officer who has placed a minor child in custody.

C. Transport to an Emergency Receiving Center (ERC)

1. A minor child who needs emergency evaluation and possibly treatment without parents or a legal guardian on-scene, shall be transported to the nearest or most appropriate ERC or appropriate specialty care hospital under base hospital direction.

2. A minor child who is evaluated by EMS personnel and determined not to be injured, or has sustained only minor injuries, may be released to:

   a. Self, if 16 years-old or older
   b. Parents or guardian
   c. A responsible adult or caretaker at the scene.

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