



Authorization to Consent to Medical Care and Treatment of a Minor

I, _____, am the biological or adoptive parent or legal guardian of _____, born on _____.

I hereby authorize any of the following provider(s):

to make healthcare decisions pertaining to my child, named above, providing consent for necessary evaluation (office visit), lab services, x-ray examination, or other office procedures. I also authorize the above named patient, _____, to consent to ordinary medical care and treatment. Any healthcare provider relying upon this consent for the specified care and treatment of my child, named above, may do so to the same extent and in the same manner as if I had personally consented to such care or treatment. This Authorization may be withdrawn only in writing and shall not be deemed withdrawn until such time as my child’s health care providers receive actual notice that I have withdrawn my consent as stated above.

This Authorization shall remain in effect until revoked in writing by the undersigned.

Parent or Legal Guardian’s Signature* Date _____
Witness’s Signature Date

Parent or Legal Guardian’s Printed Name

Street Address City State Zip

Daytime Phone Evening or Alternate Phone

**Parental signature required except for the exemptions under law (listed on reverse).*

For Clinic Purposes Only:

1. Form must be on yellow paper
2. Please file in “Advanced Directive”

MINORS/RULES FOR WHEN NEED CONSENT

A person under the age of 18 is a minor. As a general rule, the right to consent for care is a companion right to the consent to release of information. The consent for care (thus, release of information) regarding a minor falls to either the parent or the guardian of the minor. Either the parent may consent if the minor is legitimated or adopted. Legitimated means that the father has acknowledged paternity with the Department of Vital Records, if the parents are unmarried. In the case of a divorce, either parent may consent, regardless of custody, absent a court order to the contrary. RCW 26.09.184. If a minor patient calls for an appointment, they need to be informed they will have to come with a note from a parent who is outlined above. If a minor patient comes to an appointment without a note we need to refuse to see them. The following provide exceptions to the above:

1. **Emancipated Minors:** A minor married to a person eighteen (18) years of age is considered to be of full age. RCW 26.28.020
2. **Minor with Sexually Transmitted Disease:** A minor fourteen (14) years or older may consent to care for sexually transmitted disease and must consent to the release of information. RCW 70.24.110
3. **Minor with Drug or Alcohol Abuse Problems:** A minor (13) years of age or older may consent to outpatient treatment at a chemical dependency treatment program certified by DSHS. RCW 70.96A.095, RCW 70.96A.235, RCW 7096A.245
4. **Minor with Mental Illness:** A minor (13) years of age or older must consent to release of information if treated for mental illness on an outpatient basis. If the minor is receiving treatment on an inpatient basis, without parental consent, they must consent to the release of information. RCW 71.34.030, RCW 71.34.042, RCW 71.34.044
5. **Minor with Conditions of Pregnancy or Sexual Activity:** A minor (14) years of age has the right to consent to medical treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (RCW 70.24.110) and for abortions. (RCW70.02.130) Beyond these two specific areas, a minor also has a right, in the opinion of some hospitals to consent to treatment concerning his/her sexuality, reproduction right or pregnancy, in which even the release of information requires the minor's consent.
6. **Foster Parents:** When children are placed in foster homes, the agency or individual specified in the court order has authority to consent for child's health care. RCW 13.34.060
7. **Institutional Custody:** A caseworker is the legal representative for release of information. Section 4 WSHIMA
8. **Guardian:** A court-appointed person who has the general care and control of the minor may authorize release of information. Section 4 WSHIMA
9. **Power of Attorney:** A power of Attorney (in writing, signed by a notary) may be exercised on behalf of the minor's parents. RCW 7.70.065
10. A minor parent may consent to release of information for his/her child unless the minor is deemed by the health care provider to be too immature and lack capacity. Section 4 WSHIMA

If the minor has not been legally adopted, the stepparent cannot validly consent to release of information. Section 4 WSHIMA