

**MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
GUIDELINES FOR PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE**

**SUBJECT: 1100.08
MISCELLANEOUS:
CONSENT**

**ORIGINAL ISSUE 5/08
LATEST REVISION 5/08**

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1. Prior to treatment and transportation by the EMS crew, consent must be obtained whenever possible. Typically, a degree of informed consent is obtained from the patient. Informed consent may include: explaining to the patient the nature of the illness or injury, recommended treatment and risks, alternative treatment and risks and dangers of refusing treatment. In emergency situations, it may not be possible to address each of these areas, therefore the patient needs only to agree or not object to the general course of treatment.
 2. To consent for treatment, patients must be at least 18 years of age, the legal age of majority in the state of Missouri, except in certain specific situations. Those under the age of 18 may consent for treatment if:
 - They do not live with their parents and support themselves.
 - They have borne a child; in these instances they may also give consent for their child.
 - They are in the military.
 - They are seeking/need treatment for sexually transmitted disease, conditions related to pregnancy or for drug/alcohol abuse.
 3. Parents or guardians may consent for treatment for their minor child under the doctrine of substituted consent. Parents may **NOT** refuse emergency or life threatening treatment for their minor child, regardless of reasons, including religious beliefs. If necessary, the assistance of law enforcement may be enlisted. (This falls under the doctrine of implied consent).
 4. Unconscious or impaired persons may be treated under the doctrine of implied consent. In these situations another adult may **NOT** refuse treatment for the unconscious or incompetent patient.
 5. When any doubt remains as to the issue of consent, contact Medical Direction for advice. If unable to contact Medical Direction and consent is an issue, it is preferable to treat the patient.

“WHEN IN DOUBT, TREAT.”