

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Care and Treatment of Minors



Department: Operations

SOP#114

Applicable to: All Staff

Effective Date: 1 July 2020

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Authority: Chief Of Operations

Applicable CAAS Standard:

Revised Effective Date:

Purpose:

The purpose of this Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) is to outline the position of Brighton Volunteer Ambulance (BVA) regarding the care and treatment of minors.

Scope:

The scope of this document applies to all road staff, and is taken directly from the MLREMS policy.

Guideline:

1. The Guideline is taken directly from the MLREMS Care and Treatment of Minors Policy.
2. **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.
3. **POLICY**
 - 3.1. Definition of emancipation shall be a person between the ages of 16 and 18 who:
 - 3.1.1. Live separate and apart from their parents
 - 3.1.2. Do not receive any financial support from them
 - 3.1.3. Live beyond the parent's custody and control
 - 3.1.4. Are not in foster care
 - 3.2. An emancipating event includes:
 - 3.2.1. Marriage
 - 3.2.2. Pregnancy (only for prenatal care)
 - 3.2.3. Parenthood
 - 3.2.4. Degree/Diploma
 - 3.2.5. Military Service
 - 3.3. If a minor is ill or injured in any way, they should be transported to a medical facility.
 - 3.4. If a minor is between the ages of 16 and 18 and relates to an emancipating event, they may make their own decisions regarding treatment and transport to include refusing such care.
 - 3.5. If a minor is not injured use the following guidelines:
 - 3.5.1. 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 the guardian.
 - 3.5.2. Make reasonable efforts to contact parent/guardians. Document who you spoke with and their treatment decision for the minor. Care and treatment should never be delayed to accomplish this.
 - 3.5.3. If contact with a parent/guardian cannot be made, contact Medical Control.

This document supersedes any documents on the topic dated prior to the effective date noted above.