

CALIFORNIA LAW REGARDING CONSENT FOR TREATMENT OF A MINOR

California law requires that healthcare providers verify the identity of each patient and obtain informed consent for care. In order to obtain proper consent, all children under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to each visit. The audiologist, child or parent may wish to have a child seen alone in the examining room, but the parent must still be present and available in the waiting room. California law does provide for some exceptions for minors under 18 years old; if the minor is married, on active duty in the armed forces, or has been declared emancipated by the courts they are not required to have a parent consent for care.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be asked to sign a consent form and provide a copy of driver's license or government issued identification at the time of visit. Guardians will also be asked to provide court issued guardianship documents. If a parent/guardian does not accompany the child to a visit, the audiologist will not, by law, examine or treat the child.

It is in the best interest of your child that parent(s)/guardian(s) are present at the appointment. Aside from legal reasons, the audiologist is better able to select the proper tests, arrive at an accurate diagnosis and treatment plan when a full understanding of your child's development as well as medical history, allergies, medications are available. We find that most other family members and caregivers do not have all of the necessary information. Therefore, we appreciate parent(s)/guardian(s) efforts to accompany their child to all of the healthcare visits.

If you are unable to be present at the visit we have a form available that will allow you to authorize another named adult to accompany your child to the appointment. The authorized adult may consent to the exam and/or treatment services. The authorized adult will be provided test results, including any diagnosis of hearing loss or auditory disorders and treatment recommendations.

Please complete the attached form if you would like to authorize a named adult to act on your behalf at the visit. A handwritten note is not acceptable.

If an authorized adult will be accompanying your child to the appointment, we will require:

- Completed authorization form (by parent/guardian)
- Photocopy of parent/guardian ID
- Authorized adults ID at the time of visit
- Completed medical history form (by parent/guardian)

If you have any questions about California law or our policies, please feel free to contact our office at (650) 579-4470.

Thank you,

The Hearing Resource Center