

DEPARTMENT OF CARE MANAGEMENT

Section Subject	Policies & Procedures 6.6 Departmental Operations	11/22/91 - Effective 02/03/2009- Reviewed 12/27/2005 - Revised Care Management - Author
Policy	Obtaining (Court Or Judicial Ordered) Consent To Treat Minor Patients that are Jehovah Witnesses	

Obtaining (Court or Judicial Ordered) Consent to Treat Minor Patients that are Jehovah Witnesses

Policy Overview

Some Jehovah Witness patients, based on their interpretation of Scripture, may refuse blood and blood products while hospitalized. Courts have upheld the right of adults to refuse treatment. However, when the life of a minor child is endangered by the refusal of blood and blood products, Children's Protective Services (CPS) may petition the court in order to take temporary managing conservatorship of the minor. If the physician determines that medical intervention is needed the following procedure can be instituted.

Audience

Care Management staff.

Parental Refusal

The parent(s) of the minor child must sign a statement that they refuse the recommended transfusion and/or surgical intervention. Either the Refusal of Treatment form (# 5009- reverse) or a Surgical Consent (#6000) may be used.

Physician's Responsibility

The faculty physician must write a letter to the appropriate county CPS agency. This letter may be written on progress note paper. The Care Manager may help draft the letter in order to expedite the process.

Letter's Required Consents

The letter **must** include the following:

- patient's name
- patient's age
- diagnosis
- treatment plan
- a statement that the parent(s) have refused treatment, and
- a statement that refusing transfusion will lead to death or irreparable harm.
- faculty physician signature and contact number

Contacting CPS

In most cases, when there is Care Management staff available, the Care Manager will be the person contacting CPS. However, if Care Management staff is not available, the physician or his/her designee may call CPS.

DEPARTMENT OF CARE MANAGEMENT

Section Subject	Policies & Procedures Departmental Operations	6.6	11/22/91 - Effective 02/03/2009- Reviewed 12/27/2005 - Revised Care Management - Author
Policy	Obtaining (Court Or Judicial Ordered) Consent To Treat Minor Patients that are Jehovah Witnesses		

Statewide CPS Telephone The number to reach any CPS agency is 1-800-252-5400.

Care Management The Care Manager staff's role is to provide the family with emotional support and advocacy as needed and to assist the medical staff with obtaining CPS jurisdiction.

Documentation All parts of this process must be documented by the Care Management staff in the patient's medical record. Any verbal orders from CPS should be documented with name of authorizing person, title, and phone number and time reached. This should be followed by a copy of the court order or emergency removal form as soon as it is available.