

Minor Consent for Vaccination Summary Guidance

Minors may self-consent if:

- Declared emancipated by a court;
- Married to spouse who is an adult; or
- Determined by a health care provider to be a “mature minor”

Authorized adults who may consent for minors (in order of priority):

- **Adult who has court permission to make health care decisions for the minor** (legal guardian, custodian, out-of-home placement order);
- **Parent** (unless court order is provided to Public Health which deprives the parent of ability to consent);
- **Alternative Caregiver:** A competent adult to whom a parent has granted written permission to make health care decisions for the minor;
- **Kinship Caregiver:** A competent adult relative representing self as responsible for the minor’s health care; or
- **Special Rule for Homeless Children:** Consent may be obtained from a school nurse, school counselor, or homeless student liaison for necessary, nonemergency care (such as vaccination) where the child is not under the care of a parent or DCYF.

Public Health staff may accept written or verbal consent, or a written note from an authorized adult, and may rely on the adult’s representation unless there is notice that the information is false.

Instructions for unaccompanied minors:

- **Written consent:**
 - Vaccinate unaccompanied minors who provide written consent form pre-signed by authorized adult. Do not require additional steps to verify that signature is of authorized adult.
 - Vaccinate unaccompanied minors who state they are legally emancipated or married to an adult. Have these minors sign consent form.
- **Verbal consent:**
 - Vaccinate unaccompanied minors (not emancipated, not married to an adult) who do not have written consent from authorized adult, if staff can get verbal consent by phone from person claiming to be authorized adult. Document verbal consent.