

CITY OF BARSTOW

CALIFORNIA

POLICIES and PROCEDURES MANUAL:

POLICE

Subject: CONSENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR JUVENILES

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this order is to establish a procedure for obtaining consent for medical treatment of juveniles whose parent or guardian is unavailable to provide permission.

BACKGROUND

Section 739 W&I authorizes medical care upon recommendation of a duly licensed physician when a parent or guardian is unavailable, unwilling, or unable to provide permission. To avoid liability problems and to ensure the safety of juveniles needing medical care, the procedure for authorizing treatment has been modified. Consent for treatment may be obtained through the written recommendation of two physicians or through the authorization of a Judge of the Juvenile Court. A judicial order may be received via telephonic contact through the County's Child Protective Services.

PROCEDURE

In emergency cases wherein juveniles are in need of immediate medical care, the following procedure should be followed.

The officer involved should attempt to make contact with the parents of the affected juvenile. If contact cannot be made, he should then notify the hospital. At the discretion of the hospital physicians, two doctors will sign a consent for treatment. In the event that two physicians are not available or the hospital does not adhere to this policy, the hospital personnel will then telephone the San Bernardino County Child Protection Services at 383-1227 or 829-7270 and inform them of the circumstances. Each of these agencies has a 24-hour emergency number for reaching a Judge of the Juvenile Court to obtain verbal medical treatment authorization.

In either case, all necessary documentation is completed by the hospital and the Social Services Agency. In the event that any problems arise at the hospital regarding consent, officers are to refer hospital authorities to one of the above listed phone numbers. Officers will complete an incident report documenting the procedures followed in all circumstances.

Reference:

Effective Date

Revision No.

Section

March 01, 1988

Page 1 of 1

507