CARE OF MINORS IN THE FILED

I. **PURPOSE**

To provide guidelines for EMS field personnel for treatment and/or transport of minors in the field.

II. **PROCEDURE**

Treatment and/or Transport of Minors

- In the absence of a parent or legal representative, minors with an emergency condition shall be treated and transported to the medical facility most appropriate to the needs of the patient.

- In the absence of a parent or legal representative, minors with a non-emergency condition require EMS field personnel to make reasonable effort to contact a parent or legal representative before initiating treatment and/or transport. If a parent or legal representative cannot be reached and minor is transported, EMS field personnel shall make every effort to inform the parent or legal representative of where the minor has been transported, and request that law enforcement accompany the minor patient to the hospital.

Minors Not Requiring Immediate Treatment and/or Transport

- A minor evaluated by EMS field personnel and determined not to be injured, to have sustained only minor injuries, or to have an illness or injury not requiring immediate treatment and/or transportation, may be released to:

  ➢ Parent or legal representative.

  ➢ Designated care giver over 18 years of age.

  ➢ Law enforcement.

  ➢ EMS field personnel shall document on the patient care report to whom the minor was released.

Minor Attempting to Refuse Indicated Care

- Attempt to contact parent or legal representative for permission to treat and/or transport.

- If parent or legal representative cannot be contacted, contact law enforcement and request minor to be taken into temporary custody for treatment and/or transport.

Base Hospital Contact

- Base hospital contact is required, prior to EMS field personnel leaving the scene, for the following situations:

  ➢ Minors under the age of nine (9) whose parents or guardians are refusing care.

  ➢ Minors who in the opinion of EMS field personnel, do not require treatment or transport.

- See ICEMA Reference - #9030 - Destination.

III.   **REFERENCE**

Number	**Name**
9030	Destination