



Ethics

Children: Legal & Ethical Issues

Definitions

Assent	Developmentally appropriate awareness of condition. - knowing what to expect with tests or treatments - assessing child's knowledge and response to tests or treatment - soliciting child's willingness; but if refusal will not be honored, child should not be deceived
Emancipated minor	A person under the age of 18 or 21 (but usually at least 16) who is legally considered to be an adult due to circumstances that are defined by state law. For example, marriage usually leads to a minor being considered emancipated. (Each state differs as to the circumstances leading to emancipation so check your state law).
Minor	A person under the age of 18 or 21 (depending on state law) who cannot legally make healthcare decisions for him or herself independently (also cannot enter into legal contracts, etc. without parental permission).