



## **OFFICE POLICY FOR MINOR PATIENTS UNDER THE AGE OF 16**

A parent or legal guardian must attend the initial appointment for any patient under the age of 18 or who is not an emancipated minor by law and all appointments involving invasive treatments.

Should you desire to have a grandparent, childcare provider or another family member over the age of 18 accompany your child to any subsequent follow up visits you are required to fill out **Non-Parent Minor Consent Form**. This form will also give us permission to discuss your child's care with the adult accompanying them and for the adult to authorize treatment.

Minor patients between the ages of 16-17 and are not considered an emancipated minor by law may be seen for subsequent follow up visits only when a **Minor Consent Form** is presented at their office visit. This form can be supplied by our office staff and also found on our website. *Patients under the age of 16 are not permitted to be seen without a parent or legal guardian present.*

### **WE CAN NOT ACCEPT MINOR CONSENTS IN THE FORM OF AN EMAIL.**

Our office has this strict policy for several reasons:

1. Federal laws concerning privacy issues require that our office not disclose any medical information of a patient - including those patients under 18 years of age - unless it is the parent or legal guardian of the minor patient.
2. A minor patient cannot consent to any required additional procedures, or to any changes in a treatment plan that could arise.
3. Our office will not assume responsibility for the safety, care or whereabouts of a minor patient once the visit is completed or before the patient is seen. A responsible adult caregiver must be present.

For these reasons, and others, we enforce our minor patient policy and make this policy know on our website and our new patient paperwork. Minor patients who present for an appointment without a proper guardian or the required minor consent will not be seen.

Our office can provide parents and guardians with the proper minor forms to fill out and they can also be found on our website **Precisionskininstitute.com** so that another person other than a parent or legal guardian may accompany the child to their appointment.

Your cooperation with this office policy is essential to limit our liability and is much appreciated.