

First Aid on Children

Where possible, consent of a parent or guardian should be sought prior to undertaking first aid on a minor. Substitute decision-makers, such as parents or guardians of minors, can refuse treatment but only if in the "best interests" of their charge.

If the casualty is unable to provide informed consent, and no responsible person is present the legal requirement to obtain parental / guardian consent is typically waved under emergency / life-threatening circumstances. Under the common law doctrine of **emergency**, a doctor or other healthcare professionals may treat a patient as long as they act reasonably and honestly believes on reasonable grounds that the treatment is necessary to prevent a serious threat to the casualty's life or health (Note: various Australian states have different definitions of emergency treatment and their own legislation allowing urgent treatment, hence professional advice should be sought).

In most professional settings involving the care of children, parental / caregiver consent is required on registration to allow appropriately trained workers or volunteers to respond in the event of an emergency situation, including provision of provide first aid if appropriate, or to contact an ambulance.