

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 519  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/29/25

Short Title: Parents' Medical Bill of Rights.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 27, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT REVISING THE LAWS REGARDING WHEN MINORS CAN GIVE EFFECTIVE  
3 CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT ON THEIR OWN AUTHORITY AND WHEN  
4 PARENTS ARE ALLOWED ACCESS TO MINORS' MEDICAL RECORDS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. Part 1 of Article 1A of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes reads as  
7 rewritten:

8 "Article 1A.

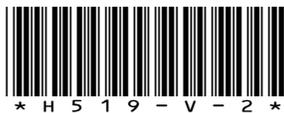
9 "Treatment of Minors.

10 "Part 1. General Provisions.

11 "§ 90-21.1. When ~~physician-providers~~ may treat minor without consent of parent, guardian  
12 or person in loco parentis.

13 It shall be lawful for any ~~physician-physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner~~  
14 licensed to practice ~~medicine~~ in North Carolina to render treatment to any minor without first  
15 obtaining the consent and approval of either the father or mother of said child, or any person  
16 acting as guardian, or any person standing in loco parentis to said child where:

- 17 (1) The parent or parents, the guardian, or a person standing in loco parentis to  
18 said child cannot be located or contacted with reasonable diligence during the  
19 time within which said minor needs to receive the treatment herein authorized,  
20 or  
21 (2) Where the identity of the child is unknown, or where the necessity for  
22 immediate treatment is so apparent that any effort to secure approval would  
23 delay the treatment so long as to endanger the life of said minor, or  
24 (3) Where an effort to contact a parent, guardian, or person standing in loco  
25 parentis would result in a delay that would seriously worsen the physical  
26 condition of said minor, or  
27 (4) Where the parents refuse to consent to a procedure, and the necessity for  
28 immediate treatment is so apparent that the delay required to obtain a court  
29 order would endanger the life or seriously worsen the physical condition of  
30 the child. No treatment shall be administered to a child over the parent's  
31 objection as herein authorized unless the ~~physician-physician, physician~~  
32 assistant, or nurse practitioner shall first obtain the opinion of another  
33 ~~physician-physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner~~ licensed to  
34 practice medicine in the State of North Carolina that such procedure is  
35 necessary to prevent immediate harm to the child.



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1           (5) Where the physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner has a  
2           reasonable belief the treatment is for a condition, disease, or injury triggering  
3           an obligation to report under G.S. 7B-301 or G.S. 90-21.20(c1).

4           (b) ~~Provided, however, that the~~ The refusal of a physician-physician, physician assistant,  
5           or nurse practitioner to use, perform or render treatment to a minor without the consent of the  
6           minor's parent, guardian, or person standing in the position of loco parentis, in accordance with  
7           this Article, shall not constitute grounds for a civil action or criminal proceedings against such  
8           ~~physician-~~ the physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner.

9           **"§ 90-21.2. "Treatment" defined.**

10          The word "treatment" as used in G.S. 90-21.1 is hereby defined to mean any medical  
11          procedure or treatment, including X rays, the administration of drugs, blood transfusions, use of  
12          anesthetics, and laboratory or other diagnostic procedures employed by or ordered by a ~~physician~~  
13          physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner licensed to practice ~~medicine~~ in the State of  
14          North Carolina that is used, employed, or ordered to be used or employed commensurate with  
15          the exercise of reasonable care and equal to the standards of medical practice normally employed  
16          in the community where said ~~physician-~~ physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner  
17          administers treatment to said minor.

18          **"§ 90-21.3. Performance of surgery on minor; obtaining second opinion as to necessity.**

19          The word "treatment" as defined in G.S. 90-21.2 shall also include any surgical procedure  
20          which in the opinion of the attending physician is necessary under the terms and conditions set  
21          out in G.S. 90-21.1; provided, however, no surgery shall be conducted upon a minor as herein  
22          authorized unless the surgeon shall first obtain the opinion of another physician licensed to  
23          practice medicine in the State of North Carolina that said surgery is necessary under the  
24          conditions set forth in G.S. 90-21.1; provided further, that in any emergency situation that shall  
25          arise in a rural community, or in a community where it is impossible for the surgeon to contact  
26          any other physician for the purpose of obtaining his opinion as to the necessity for immediate  
27          surgery, it shall not be necessary for the surgeon to obtain approval from another physician before  
28          performing such surgery as is necessary under the terms and conditions set forth in G.S. 90-21.1.

29          **"§ 90-21.4. Responsibility, liability and immunity of physicians.**

30          (a) Any ~~physician-~~ physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner licensed to practice  
31          ~~medicine~~ in North Carolina providing health services to a minor under the terms, conditions and  
32          circumstances of this Article shall not be held liable in any civil or criminal action for providing  
33          such services without having obtained permission from the minor's parent, legal guardian, person  
34          standing in loco parentis, or a legal custodian other than a parent when granted specific authority  
35          in a custody order to consent to medical or psychiatric treatment. The ~~physician-~~ physician,  
36          physician assistant, or nurse practitioner shall not be relieved on the basis of this Article from  
37          liability for negligence in the diagnosis and treatment of a minor.

38          (b) The ~~physician-~~ physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner shall not notify a  
39          parent, legal guardian, person standing in loco parentis, or a legal custodian other than a parent  
40          when granted specific authority in a custody order to consent to medical or psychiatric treatment,  
41          without the permission of the minor, concerning the medical health services set out in  
42          G.S. 90-21.5(a), unless the situation in the opinion of the attending ~~physician-~~ physician,  
43          physician assistant, or nurse practitioner indicates that notification is essential to the life or health  
44          of the minor. ~~If a parent, legal guardian[,] person standing in loco parentis, or a legal custodian~~  
45          ~~other than a parent when granted specific authority in a custody order to consent to medical or~~  
46          ~~psychiatric treatment contacts the physician concerning the treatment or medical services being~~  
47          ~~provided to the minor, the physician may give information.~~

48          **"§ 90-21.5. Minor's consent sufficient for certain medical health services.**

49          (a) ~~Subject to subsection (a1) of this section, any~~ Any minor may give effective consent  
50          to a ~~physician-~~ physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner licensed to practice ~~medicine~~  
51          in North Carolina for medical health services for the ~~prevention,~~ diagnosis and treatment of (i)

1 ~~venereal disease and other diseases reportable under G.S. 130A-135, (ii) pregnancy, (iii) abuse~~  
2 ~~of controlled substances or alcohol, and (iv) emotional disturbance.pregnancy.~~

3 (a1) Any minor age 16 or older may give effective consent to a physician, physician  
4 assistant, or nurse practitioner licensed to practice in North Carolina for medical health services  
5 for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease and other diseases reportable under  
6 G.S. 130A-135 if the disease can be treated with a prescription with a duration of 10 days or less.

7 (a2) This section does not authorize the inducing of an abortion, performance of a  
8 sterilization operation, or admission to a 24-hour facility licensed under Article 2 of Chapter  
9 122C of the General Statutes except as provided in G.S. 122C-223. This section does not prohibit  
10 the admission of a minor to a treatment facility upon his own written application in an emergency  
11 situation as authorized by G.S. 122C-223.

12 ~~(a1)(a3)~~ Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a health care provider  
13 shall obtain written consent from a parent or legal guardian prior to administering any vaccine  
14 that has been granted emergency use authorization and is not yet fully approved by the United  
15 States Food and Drug Administration to an individual under 18 years of age.

16 (b) Any minor who is emancipated may consent to any medical treatment, dental and  
17 health services for himself or for his child.

18 **"§ 90-21.5B. Parental access to minors' medical records.**

19 (a) Except as provided in this section, parents and legal guardians have the right to access  
20 and review all medical records of their minor child, including medical records of care for which  
21 the minor may give effective consent under G.S. 90-21.5.

22 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, parents and legal guardians do not  
23 have the right to access and review a minor's medical records if any of the following apply:

24 (1) The medical records are of health care described in G.S. 90-21.1(5).

25 (2) The medical records are of health care described in G.S. 90-21.5(a).

26 (3) The release of the medical records is prohibited by a valid court order.

27 (4) The parent or legal guardian is the subject of an investigation for a crime  
28 committed against the minor and a law enforcement agency or official has  
29 requested that the medical records not be released.

30 (c) For purposes of this section, medical record shall include any documentation of  
31 treatment regardless of medium, whether paper, electronic, or database storage."

32 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2025, and applies to acts  
33 occurring on or after that date.