

PURPOSE STATEMENT

To establish consistent rules for whether minors may attend appointments alone or bring minor siblings, ensuring patient safety, proper consent, and compliance with legal requirements.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Family Allergy & Asthma providers, clinical staff, and administrative personnel.

PROCEDURE

1. General Rule

Patients under 18 are considered minors and generally must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to their appointments.

2. Minors Attending Alone

To ensure patient safety and compliance with consent requirements, the following guidelines apply to all minor patients at Family Allergy & Asthma (FAA):

- **Patients under 15 years of age:**
 - May not attend any appointments alone.
 - A parent, legal guardian, or other responsible adult designated in writing by the parent or guardian **must** accompany the patient and remain on the premises for the duration of the visit.
- **Patients aged 16 or 17:**
 - May attend allergy immunotherapy (IT) appointments only without a parent or guardian.
 - A signed parental consent form must be on file.
 - The parent or guardian must have attended the initial setup and follow-up visits.

- A parent/guardian **must be present for:**

- New patient visits,
- Initial Allergy Testing,
- First immunotherapy injection,
- Follow-up Appointments
- Any procedure involving significant risk (as determined by provider).

3. Minors Bringing Siblings

- Minors **may not** bring minor siblings to appointments without an adult.
- A minor sibling cannot serve as the responsible party for another child's care.
- Only a parent, legal guardian, or designated responsible adult (18 or older) may bring a minor patient to an appointment.

4. Exceptions

- Emancipated minors (married, legally emancipated, or active-duty military) may consent and attend independently with proof of status.
- State-specific exceptions (e.g., certain reproductive health, substance use, or mental health visits) will be honored according to state law, but do not typically apply to allergy care.

5. Documentation Requirements

- Written parental/guardian consent for unaccompanied minor visits must be kept in the EHR.
- Staff must confirm at check-in if a minor is permitted to attend alone.
- If no consent is on file, the appointment must be rescheduled or a parent/guardian contacted to provide authorization.

6. Safety Note for Immunotherapy

- Because allergy shots carry a risk of reaction, minors attending alone **must**:
 - Wait the required observation period,
 - Have an emergency contact number for the parent/guardian,
 - Not leave the clinic until cleared by staff.

Any questions regarding limits or exceptions should be directed to Compliance.