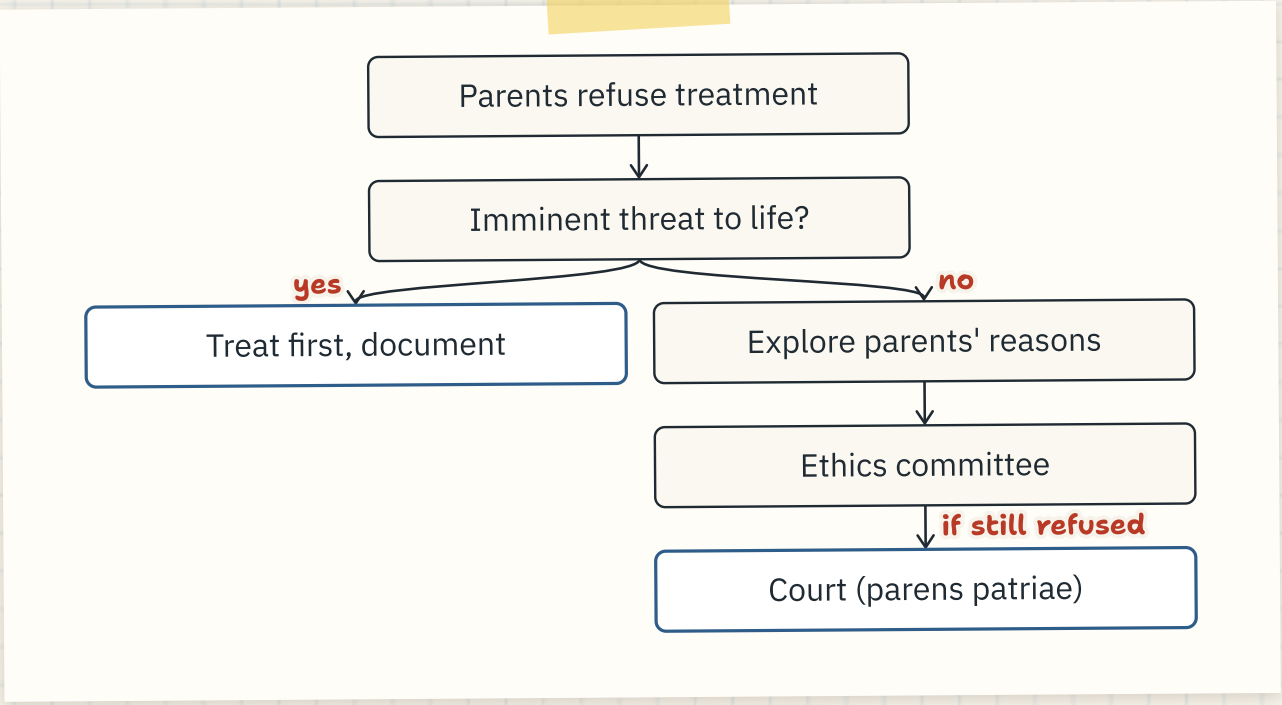
# Minors and consent

When a minor consents, and when parents can be overruled




## Step by step

1. Default: parent gives informed permission
2. Seek the child's assent
3. Parents cannot refuse life-saving care
4. Stable child: ethics committee, then court
5. True emergency: treat first

| Exception | Key point |
|---|---|
| Emancipated | Marriage, military service or court order |
| Mature minor | Some states; more than age |
| Specific services | STI care in every state |
| Emergency | Delay endangers life, no parent reachable |

Four ways a minor consents alone

### Parent refuses

**Stable: ethics, then court**

**Imminent threat to life: treat first**

## Exam traps

- Do not treat a stable child straight over the parents' refusal: explore, ethics, then court.
- Do not wait for a court or ethics review when life is at imminent risk.
- Every state allows minor consent for STI care; a few set a minimum age.
- Capacity in a minor is not age alone.

Minors and consent: when a child can decide and when parents cannot

Video, written lesson, practice question and sources: medservatory.com/usmle-step-2-ck/ethics-law-patient-safety/minors-consent-emancipation-mature-minor-parental-refusal

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