

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]  
SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

# SENATE BILL NO. 532

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2014

4160S.03T

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## AN ACT

To repeal sections 431.058, 431.061, and 431.062, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to consent provided by relative caregivers.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Sections 431.058, 431.061, and 431.062, RSMo, are repealed  
2 and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 431.058,  
3 431.061, and 431.062, to read as follows:

431.058. 1. [As used in this section, the following terms mean:

- 2 (1) "Child", a child less than eighteen years of age;  
3 (2) "Health care provider", a person licensed to practice medicine and  
4 surgery by the state board of registration for the healing arts, a person who holds  
5 a temporary permit to practice medicine and surgery issued by the state board  
6 of registration for the healing arts, a person engaged in a postgraduate training  
7 program in medicine and surgery approved by the state board of registration for  
8 the healing arts, a medical care facility licensed by the department of health and  
9 senior services, a health maintenance organization issued a certificate of  
10 authority by the director of the department of insurance, financial institutions  
11 and professional registration, a licensed professional nurse, a licensed practical  
12 nurse and a registered physician's assistant. The term "health care provider"  
13 shall also include the following entities: a professional corporation organized  
14 pursuant to the professional corporation law of Missouri by persons who are  
15 health care providers, a Missouri limited liability company organized for the  
16 purpose of rendering professional services by its members who are health care

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

17 providers, a partnership of persons who are health care providers or a Missouri  
18 not-for-profit corporation organized for the purpose of rendering professional  
19 services by persons who are health care providers;

20 (3) "Parent":

21 (a) A child's parent by birth or adoption;

22 (b) A child's legal guardian; or

23 (c) Any person who under court order is authorized to give consent for a  
24 child.

25 2. A parent may delegate in writing the parent's authority to consent to  
26 the immunization of a child to another adult.

27 3. Subject to the provisions of subsections 3 to 6 of this section, any adult  
28 may consent to the immunization of a child if a parent is not reasonably available  
29 and the authority to consent is not denied under subsection 4 of this section.

30 4. A person may not consent to the immunization of a child under  
31 subsection 3 of this section if:

32 (1) The person has actual knowledge that the parent has expressly refused  
33 to give consent to the immunization; or

34 (2) The parent has told the person that the person may not consent to the  
35 immunization of the child or, in the case of a written authorization, has  
36 withdrawn the authorization in writing.

37 5. For purposes of this section, a parent is not reasonably available if the  
38 location of the parent or legal guardian is unknown and could not be ascertained,  
39 despite diligent searching.

40 6. A person authorized to consent to the immunization of a child under  
41 the provisions of subsections 3 to 6 of this section shall confirm in writing that  
42 the parent is not reasonably available, and the written confirmation shall be  
43 included in the child's medical record.

44 7. A grandparent, brother or sister, aunt or uncle or stepparent of a child  
45 who is the primary caregiver of a child and who may consent to the immunization  
46 of the child pursuant to the provisions of subsection 2 of this section may delegate  
47 in writing the authority to consent to immunization of the child to another adult.

48 8. A health care provider may rely on a document from another state,  
49 territory or country that contains substantially the same information as is  
50 required in any immunization consent rules and regulations of the department  
51 of health and senior services if the document is presented for consent by a person  
52 as authorized pursuant to the provisions of this section.

53           9. A person who consents to immunization of a child under this section  
54 shall provide the health care provider with sufficient and accurate health  
55 information about the child for whom the consent is given and, if necessary,  
56 sufficient and accurate health information about the child's family to enable the  
57 person providing the consent and the health care provider to determine  
58 adequately the risks and benefits inherent in the proposed immunization and  
59 determine whether the immunization is advisable.

60           10. The responsibility of a health care provider to provide information to  
61 a person consenting to the immunization of a child as provided by this section is  
62 the same as the health care provider's responsibility to a parent.

63           11. Except for acts of willful misconduct or gross negligence, a person who  
64 consents to the immunization of a child as provided by this section shall not be  
65 liable for damages arising from any such immunization administered by a person  
66 authorized by law to administer immunizations in this state.] **As used in**  
67 **sections 431.058 to 431.062, the following terms shall mean:**

68           **(1) "Adult", a person who is eighteen years of age or older;**

69           **(2) "Child" or "minor", a person who is under eighteen years of**  
70 **age;**

71           **(3) "Educational services", enrollment of a child in a school to**  
72 **which the child has been or will be accepted for attendance and**  
73 **participation in any school activities, including extracurricular**  
74 **activities;**

75           **(4) "Health care provider", a person who is licensed, certified,**  
76 **registered, or otherwise authorized by law in this state to administer**  
77 **medical treatment in the practice of a health care profession or at a**  
78 **health care facility, and includes a health care facility;**

79           **(5) "Parent":**

80           **(a) A child's parent by birth or adoption;**

81           **(b) A child's legal guardian; or**

82           **(c) Any person who under court order is authorized to give**  
83 **consent for a child;**

84           **(6) "Relative caregiver", a competent adult who is related to a**  
85 **child by blood, marriage, or adoption who is not the parent and who**  
86 **represents in the affidavit described under subsection 8 of this section**  
87 **that the child lives with the adult and that the adult is responsible for**  
88 **the care of the child.**

89           **2. A relative caregiver acting pursuant to an affidavit described**  
90 **under subsection 8 of this section may consent to the medical treatment**  
91 **provided for under section 431.061 and for educational services for a**  
92 **child that a child cannot otherwise legally consent to if:**

93           **(1) The parent has delegated in writing the parent's authority to**  
94 **consent to such medical treatment or educational services; or**

95           **(2) After reasonable efforts have been made to obtain the consent**  
96 **of the parent for the medical treatment or educational services, the**  
97 **consent of the parent cannot be obtained.**

98           **3. The consent of a relative caregiver under this section shall be**  
99 **superceded by any contravening decision of the parent, provided the**  
100 **decision does not threaten the life, health, or safety of the child.**

101           **4. If the child stops living with the relative caregiver, the**  
102 **relative caregiver shall immediately notify any health care provider or**  
103 **school that has been given the affidavit under this section. The**  
104 **affidavit is invalid immediately upon receipt by the health care**  
105 **provider or school of the notice under this subsection.**

106           **5. An affidavit under this section expires one year after the date**  
107 **it is given to the health care provider or school. If the date the**  
108 **affidavit is given to a health care provider or school is unknown, it**  
109 **shall expire one year after the date the relative caregiver signs the**  
110 **affidavit.**

111           **6. Nothing in this section relieves a parent of liability for**  
112 **payment for medical treatment or educational services provided to a**  
113 **child pursuant to the valid consent of a relative caregiver under this**  
114 **section.**

115           **7. Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a cause of**  
116 **action against a relative caregiver who has complied with the**  
117 **provisions of this section.**

118           **8. A relative caregiver affidavit given to a health care provider**  
119 **or school is invalid unless it is signed and contains, at a minimum, the**  
120 **following information:**

121           **(1) The name of the child;**

122           **(2) The child's date of birth;**

123           **(3) The relative caregiver's name and date of birth and the**  
124 **address at which the relative caregiver lives with the child;**

125           **(4) The relationship of the relative caregiver to the child;**

126 (5) The driver's license or identification card number of the  
127 relative caregiver;

128 (6) The contact information of the parent;

129 (7) A description of any attempts that the relative caregiver has  
130 made to advise the parent of the relative caregiver's intent to consent  
131 to medical treatment or educational services for the child, and of any  
132 response to the relative caregiver provided by the parent;

133 (8) If applicable, a signed and dated delegation of authority to  
134 the relative caregiver by the parent to consent to educational services  
135 or medical treatment;

136 (9) If applicable, the reason why the relative caregiver is unable  
137 to contact the parent to advise the parent of the relative caregiver's  
138 intent to consent to medical treatment or educational services for the  
139 child;

140 (10) The date the relative caregiver signed the affidavit; and

141 (11) A declaration under penalty of perjury that the named child  
142 lives with the relative caregiver, that the relative caregiver is a  
143 competent adult and eighteen years of age or older and that the  
144 information provided in the affidavit is true and correct.

145 9. The affidavit permitted by this section may be in form and  
146 content substantially as follows:

147 THE STATE OF .....

148 COUNTY OF .....

149 AFFIDAVIT

150 Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared  
151 ..... (relative caregiver), who, being by me duly sworn, deposed as  
152 follows:

153 My name is ....., and I am of sound mind and am over eighteen  
154 (18) years of age. My date of birth, address, contact information, and  
155 driver's license or identification card numbers are..... . I am  
156 competent to testify to the following facts and matters:

157 I am a relative caregiver to ..... (name of child), whose date of  
158 birth is ..... . My relationship to the child is..... . The above  
159 mentioned child is living with me at..... (address) because of the  
160 following ..... (description of reasons why child lives with relative  
161 caregiver and any attempts that the relative caregiver has made to  
162 advise the parent of the relative caregiver's intent to consent to

163 **medical treatment or educational services for the child, and any**  
164 **response to the relative caregiver provided by the parent). The contact**  
165 **information for the parent is ..... (if known).**

166 **(If applicable) Attached is a signed and dated delegation of**  
167 **authority to me by the parent to consent to educational services or**  
168 **medical treatment.**

169 **(If applicable) The reason why I am unable to contact the parent**  
170 **to advise the parent of my intent to consent to medical treatment or**  
171 **educational services for the child is .....**

172 **Affiant**

173 **In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my**  
174 **official seal this ..... day of ....., 20... .**

175 .....

176 **(Signed)**

177 **(Seal)**

431.061. 1. In addition to such other persons as may be so authorized and  
2 empowered, any one of the following persons if otherwise competent to contract,  
3 is authorized and empowered to consent, either orally or otherwise, to any  
4 surgical, medical, or other treatment or procedures, **including immunizations,**  
5 not prohibited by law:

- 6 (1) Any adult eighteen years of age or older for himself;
- 7 (2) Any parent for his minor child in his legal custody;
- 8 (3) Any minor who has been lawfully married and any minor parent or  
9 legal custodian of a child for himself, his child and any child in his legal custody;
- 10 (4) Any minor for himself in case of:
  - 11 (a) Pregnancy, but excluding abortions;
  - 12 (b) Venereal disease;
  - 13 (c) Drug or substance abuse including those referred to in chapter 195;
- 14 (5) Any adult standing in loco parentis, whether serving formally or not,  
15 for his minor charge in case of emergency as defined in section 431.063;
- 16 (6) Any guardian of the person for his ward;
- 17 (7) [During the absence of a parent so authorized and empowered, any  
18 adult for his minor brother or sister;
- 19 (8) During the absence of a parent so authorized and empowered, any  
20 grandparent for his minor grandchild;
- 21 (9) "Absence" as used in (7) and (8) above shall mean absent at a time

22 when further delay occasioned by an attempt to obtain a consent may jeopardize  
23 the life, health or limb of the person affected, or may result in disfigurement or  
24 impairment of faculties] **Any relative caregiver of a minor child as**  
25 **provided for under section 431.058.**

26 2. [For purposes of consent to hospitalization or medical, surgical or other  
27 treatment or procedures, a "minor" shall be defined as any person under eighteen  
28 years of age and an "adult" shall be defined as any person eighteen years of age  
29 or older.

30 3.] The provisions of sections 431.061 and 431.063 shall be liberally  
31 construed, and all relationships set forth in subsection 1 of this section shall  
32 include the adoptive and step-relationship as well as the natural relationship and  
33 the relationship by the half blood as well as by the whole blood.

34 [4.] 3. A consent by one person so authorized and empowered shall be  
35 sufficient notwithstanding that there are other persons so authorized and  
36 empowered or that such other persons shall refuse or decline to consent or shall  
37 protest against the proposed surgical, medical or other treatment or procedures.

38 [5.] 4. Any person acting in good faith and not having been put on notice  
39 to the contrary shall be justified in relying on the representations of any person  
40 purporting to give such consent, including, but not limited to, his identity, his  
41 age, his marital status, and his relationship to any other person for whom the  
42 consent is purportedly given.

431.062. Whenever a minor is examined, treated, hospitalized, or receives  
2 medical or surgical care under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of section 431.061:

3 (1) His consent shall not be subject to disaffirmance or revocation because  
4 of minority;

5 (2) The parent, parents, [or] conservator, **or relative caregiver** shall  
6 not be liable for payment for such care unless the parent, parents, [or]  
7 conservator, **or relative caregiver** has expressly agreed to pay for such care;

8 (3) A physician or surgeon may, with or without the consent of the minor  
9 patient, advise the parent, parents, [or] conservator, **or relative caregiver** of  
10 the examination, treatment, hospitalization, medical and surgical care given or  
11 needed if the physician or surgeon has reason to know the whereabouts of the  
12 parent, parents, [or] conservator, **or relative caregiver**. Such notification or  
13 disclosure shall not constitute libel or slander, a violation of the right of privacy  
14 or a violation of the rule of privileged communication. In the event that the  
15 minor is found not to be pregnant or not afflicted with a venereal disease or not

16 suffering from drug or substance abuse, then no information with respect to any  
17 appointment, examination, test or other medical procedure shall be given to the  
18 parent, parents, conservator, **relative caregiver**, or any other person.

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