

## **Child Guardianship and Surgical Consent**

Many children live with adult caregivers other than a biological parent. I understand that in many such cases, the child and the caregiver have very strong and real emotional bonds with each other, as strong and real as with any other parent-child relationship. However, River Ridge Oral and Maxillofacial Surgical Center's policy is very clear on the requirements for surgical consent, and special procedures must be followed in these cases.

**Consent can only be given by the legal guardian of the child.** This is not necessarily the person(s) with whom the child lives, but that person or organization determined by a court of law to be the guardian.

**If you are the legal, court appointed guardian, you must be here to sign surgical consent and stay for the duration of the child's surgery.** If you are not the biological parent of the child, and you are giving consent in person on the day of surgery, **you must have the official court document stating that you are the child's guardian with you.**

If it is not possible to obtain consent as outlined here, or if you do not come to River Ridge with the appropriate court document, **the surgery will be cancelled and rescheduled.** There can be no exceptions to this policy.

Thank you for understanding