



**Blood Transfusion Service**

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## Blood Donor Parental Consent

Your child has expressed interest in donating blood. State law requires that we obtain parental consent from potential donors who are 16 years of age. Some local schools have requested that we also obtain parental permission for all donations collected on school property. Therefore, we are providing the following information to help you determine if you wish to provide consent for your son or daughter to donate either whole blood, double red cells, or platelets by apheresis.

Blood Donation is as safe for donors in their mid to late teenage years as it is for older donors. There is no increased risk because of their younger age.

The eligibility criteria used to determine donor safety are identical for young donors to those applied to all other volunteer donors, regardless of age.

All donors are tested for a series of infectious diseases including Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS. In the remote event that your son/daughter has a positive test result, s/he will be notified according to federal guidelines which apply to all donors regardless of age. You will not be notified of these results unless your son/daughter provides written permission for you to be included in the notification process.

People in their mid to late teenage years have been donating blood routinely in other states for many years. They are no more likely to experience any of the side effects of donation than older donors.

Blood donation is critical to the ongoing welfare of our community.

Each blood donation can help save or improve the lives of up to four local patients.

Teaching our children about civic responsibility and community service through blood donation is a positive, pro-social action that hopefully will become a lifelong commitment.

There is no personal gain from blood donation, other than the mini-physical, screening blood tests, and the internal feeling of self-worth and fulfillment that come from knowing that our actions have helped save the life of another human being.

Your child will be asked to read and sign an additional informed consent at the time of donation.

If you have any questions or comments about blood donation or this process of parental consent, please call the MGH Blood Donor Center at (617) 726-8165.