

# Medical, Legal, and Ethical Issues

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## National EMS Education Standard Competencies

### Preparatory

Applies fundamental knowledge of the emergency medical services (EMS) system, safety/well-being of the emergency medical technician (EMT), medical/legal, and ethical issues to the provision of emergency care.

### Medical/Legal and Ethics

- › Consent/refusal of care (pp 85–90)
- › Confidentiality (p 90)
- › Advanced directives (pp 90–92)
- › Tort and criminal actions (pp 98–100)
- › Evidence preservation (p 102)
- › Statutory responsibilities (pp 94–98)
- › Mandatory reporting (pp 101–102)
- › Ethical principles/moral obligations (pp 102–103)
- › End-of-life issues (pp 92–94)

### Knowledge Objectives

1. Define consent and how it relates to decision making. (p 85)
2. Compare expressed consent, implied consent, and involuntary consent. (pp 86–87)
3. Discuss consent by minors for treatment or transport. (p 87)
4. Describe local EMS system protocols for using forcible restraint. (p 88)
5. Discuss the EMT's role and obligations if a patient refuses treatment or transport. (pp 88–90)

6. Describe the relationship between patient communications, confidentiality, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). (p 90)
7. Discuss the importance of do not resuscitate (DNR) orders and local protocols as they relate to the EMS environment. (pp 90–92)
8. Describe the physical, presumptive, and definitive signs of death. (pp 92–93)
9. Explain how to manage patients who are identified as organ donors. (p 94)
10. Recognize the importance of medical identification devices in treating the patient. (p 94)
11. Discuss the scope of practice and standards of care. (pp 94–97)
12. Describe the EMT's legal duty to act. (pp 97–98)
13. Discuss the issues of negligence, abandonment, assault and battery, and kidnapping and their implications for the EMT. (pp 98–99)
14. Explain the reporting requirements for special situations, including abuse, drug- or felony-related injuries, childbirth, and crime scenes. (pp 101–102)
15. Define ethics and morality and their implications for the EMT. (pp 102–103)
16. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the EMT in court. (pp 103–105)

### Skills Objectives

There are no skills objectives for this chapter.