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5 THINGS YOUR CHILD'S CARETAKER SHOULD HAVE OR KNOW

By: Sabrina Winters, Attorney at Law

I took my daughter to the pediatrician the other day for her yearly check up. And while I was waiting to check in I heard the nurse say to the woman in front of me: "If you are not the parent we will need something in writing from a parent to treat the child." It turns out that the woman in front of me was the little girl's aunt and she was watching her niece for the week while the parents were away. Of course, as luck would have it, the little girl got sick.

I tell my clients who have minor children all the time to make certain that whomever is caring for your child, that they have the proper forms to present in case your child needs something while you are not there to do it yourself. There is also information that should be immediately known when asked.

1. **Health Care Power of Attorney for Minor:** This document allows you as the parent of a minor child to name a person to make medical decisions for your child when you are not available to do so yourself. It can be as inclusive or limiting as you would like it to be. If you have multiple children, they each should have one. It should be on file with your pediatrician. I would suggest naming whatever family member typically watches your child. When it comes to naming a nanny or babysitter, I would hesitate doing so until you have had a full discussion with your Charlotte estate planning attorney. There could be some decisions you don't want them making.
2. **Complete the forms that your pediatrician requires:** I asked my pediatrician what they required. Of course they said the Health Care Power of Attorney for Minors would be enough. But, if I did not have that, then they have a *Parental Consent to Treat for*

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Minor or Incapable Adult form as well as more permanent authorization. Each form has specific details to include and should be read very carefully before submitting it. Of course each pediatrician will have their own form, so ask yours directly.

3. Every possible phone number to contact you. In this case, too much information is a good thing.
4. **Child's blood type:** Many parents don't even know this off the top of their head. In case of a serious accident, this would be some big information to know immediately.
5. **Medical and or food allergies:** If your child ends up in the emergency room, whoever takes them should know what allergies to medication the child has and or any food allergies. There are some medications that cannot be given if the child has a food allergy.

If you would like additional information on how we can help put together a complete plan so that your child is protected, contact our Charlotte estate planning office at 704-843-1446 and we will be glad to chat with you!