

Day-care

Medical consent forms are crucial

By Enterprise Staff

A medical consent form may be one of the most important items to give a child's day-care provider before the child is left in their care.

A consent form will allow the provider the ability to seek medical treatment for the child in the event of an emergency. If a consent form is not filled out prior to an incident then medical staff is required to locate the responsible guardian before treatment can be administered if it is a non-life threatening condition.

The Marketing and Foundation Coordinator at the Livingston Healthcare, Lea Chatham said in an e-mail this week, "There are a lot of summer necessities — sunscreen, bathing suits, etc. — but there are some things that parents and kids really can't live without, like medical consent forms. Any time someone other than a parent will be caring for a child, that person should have a medical consent form signed by the parent."

Chatham referred to a conversation with Judy Jenkins, patient services manager at Livingston HealthCare, "We

have a lot of people who bring kids into the ER for treatment for everything from a cough to a broken bone," said Jenkins, "To treat those kids we need the signed consent form. Often we have to wait while we try to reach the parents by phone. We do our best to make the child comfortable in the meantime, but we'd rather treat them quickly than have to wait. Having that form ready is really what's best for the kids."

In the event of an injury or illness and to prevent lengthening the child's discomfort, a parent or guardian may consider obtaining a medical consent form for their child before dropping them off with someone.

During a phone interview with Sandi Marlowe of the Livingston Health Care, Marlowe expressed the importance for parents to obtain a medical consent form before their child is dropped off at day-care. She said most people don't think something will happen to their child but it can.

For more information or to download a medical consent form free of charge, visit www.livingstonhealthcare.org or call 823-6261