



Faculty and Parental Responsibility for Minors Under the Age of 18 in Ohio University Laboratories

Academic research and teaching laboratories are special environments for use by qualified and trained students, staff, faculty, and principle investigators (PI). Potentially dangerous equipment, situations, and substances commonly exist in the laboratory. These included, but are not limited to, energized equipment, radioactive materials, chemical hazards and toxins, infectious substances, and various physical hazards. Minors under the age of 18 years old should be restricted from these laboratories as a general practice.

Sometimes, registered Ohio University students working in labs may be under the age of 18. These students should receive at least the same amount of training and supervision as other students working in laboratories. Oversight by the faculty member, PI, or lab supervisor should be commensurate with their age, skill level, knowledge, and experience of the minor. The faculty member or PI must take full responsibility for all students working in their labs, regardless of age. Ohio University students are generally covered under the blanket protections afforded all university students, staff, and faculty.

While faculty and PI's have responsibility for all laboratory visitors, minors are of particular concern. Minors under the age of 18, who are not registered university students and are permitted in the lab by the faculty member and their parents, may not be afforded the same protections as registered university students in the laboratory. Laboratory access to these minors should be severely restricted and controlled. Direct supervision of minors while in the laboratory remains the responsibility of the faculty member or PI. Liability for any and all injury, exposure, or other unintentional or undesirable events involving minors in the laboratory is the responsibility of the faculty member and the parents.

This Advisory has been issued by Environmental Health & Safety, Legal Affairs, VP for Research, the Radiation Safety Committee, and the Institutional Biosafety Committees. If non-university minors are permitted inside the laboratory by the faculty members or PI, the faculty and minor will be asked to sign the 'informed consent' form below to be filed with EHS. The parent will be asked to give written permission for minors under the age of 18 on the form as well, acknowledging the risks and their responsibilities outlined above.

I understand and acknowledge the potential risks to minors under age 18 in the laboratory. I understand that said minor may not be covered under university protections afforded our students, staff, and faculty. I accept the responsibility for the safety of the minor listed above while in this laboratory(s).

Department / Building / Lab(s) #: _____

Minor: _____ **Dates Permitted in Lab:** _____

Parent: _____
Print Name Signature Today's Date

Faculty/PI: _____
Print Name Signature Today's Date

Please return completed form to Risk Management & Safety, 142 University Service Center