

# Salt River Fire Department EMS Policies and Procedures

## Patient Rights



05/2003

401.03

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to recognize the rights and privileges entitled to each citizen or visitor encountered by the members of the Salt River Fire Department.

### POLICY STATEMENT

The Salt River Fire Department respects the rights of each patient and recognizes that individuals have unique healthcare needs. Therefore, we respect our patient's personal dignity and seek to provide care based upon individual needs. These rights also apply to the people who may be legally responsible for making healthcare decisions. These individuals may include parents of patients under the age of eighteen, legal guardians, or those who have been given decision-making authority such as in a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.

### DECLARATIONS

Each citizen or visitor is entitled to the following rights:

- The right to considerate and respectful care regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, physical or mental condition, medical condition, sexual preference, or national origin.
- The right to know if other healthcare providers in supervised training are assisting with patient care.
- The right to agree to treatment before any procedure begins.
- The right to know about any specific procedure or treatment including risks and benefits of such care.
- The right to make decisions about healthcare, including the right to accept or refuse care as permitted by law. (If a patient refuses care, the risks of such refusal should be explained to the patient.)

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- The right to an explanation of potential risks if the patient refuses care.
- The right to personal privacy. Discussion of a case or exam will only occur with healthcare providers caring for that patient and other authorized persons. (See Policy on Confidentiality and Dissemination of Patient Information and Staff Member Verification)
- The right to privacy of medical records, including history of illness or disease. Without consent, medical records will not be released unless authorized by law.
- The right to know about the safety reasons for restraining a patient physically.
- The right to express concerns about any aspect of care, or services rendered.