

ALDERMAN RICHARD A. LAWRENCE

Press Release:

October 11, 2007

Re: Parental Notification Ordinance

This ordinance is intended to protect the health, welfare and safety of the children of Aurora. Recent events brought to my attention indicate that there are medical facilities with doctors in the State of Illinois that will perform medical procedures and/or prescribe medication to children without informing and/or receiving consent from a parent or guardian. As an Alderman in the City of Aurora, and more importantly, a father of two daughters, this is completely unacceptable. In the City of Aurora, there are many laws that are designed to protect children from their own immaturity and/or inexperience.

Some examples of rules and laws:

- 1) Schools are not allowed to give a child an aspirin.
- 2) Children are not allowed to bring cough drops or Chap Stick to school
- 3) Children under the age of 18 cannot get their ears pierced without parental consent.
- 4) Children under the age of 16 have a curfew of 10:00 pm every night without being accompanied by an adult, 17 years old curfew is 11:00 pm.
- 5) Children under 18 cannot buy or smoke cigarettes
- 6) Children under the age of 18 can not enter into a contract
- 7) Children Under the age of 18 cannot purchase or own a toy gun.

As a City of Home Rule, we not only have the right, but a duty to our citizens to pass an ordinance that will further protect our children and preserve and promote the sanctity of family. The vast majority of children do not have the ability to research a doctor's history or qualification. A Doctorate of Medicine and a license in the State of Illinois to practice medicine does not certify a person's competence or abilities as a physician. It is essential that a child have the guidance of a parent or guardian in choosing a qualified doctor and making an educated decision regarding a medical procedure or medication. Without a parental consultation, it would be difficult for any doctor to know and/or be confident about a child's medical history. Any doctor or facility that would engage in performing a non-emergency procedure without parental involvement or without knowing the child's medical history, would be reckless by their actions and should not be sanctioned by the City of Aurora. In the instance of a life-threatening emergency as a result of or during a medical procedure without parental consent further endangers the child's life by causing delays of important decisions that need to be made by a parent or guardian. A parent's lack of knowledge of a medical procedure their children may have undergone denies the parent the ability to track and aid in the child's recovery and or any complication that may occur and further put the child's life in danger.

It is extremely important for the City of Aurora to take the lead on this issue. I look forward to the City Council's input as well as input from members in the medical field and citizens of Aurora in a public hearing to insure the safety and welfare of our children.

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