

CONSENT FOR DENTAL TREATMENT

I understand that **DENTAL TREATMENT** is associated with inherent risks, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. **Injury to the nerves as a result of local anesthesia:** This would include injuries causing numbness of the lips, the tongue, or other tissues of the mouth or face. This numbness is usually of a temporary nature, but permanent numbness is a possibility. If numbness persists more than 24 hours postoperatively, please call our office.
2. **Soreness of the gums:** Temporary soreness may result from the placement of a rubber dam, or any restoration that extends below the gumline (e.g. stainless steel crowns). This soreness usually goes away within 48 hours.
3. **Sensitivity of teeth:** Placement of any dental restoration can result in a tooth that is sensitive to hot and/or cold. If these symptoms persist for more than a few weeks, it may be an indication that further treatment is necessary.
4. **Breakage, dislodgement, or bond failure:** Due to the fact that teeth are subjected to extreme forces from chewing, grinding, and possible trauma, it is possible that bonded restorations (white fillings) or even amalgam restorations (silver fillings) can be fractured or dislodged, resulting in leakage, recurrent decay, or infection. The dentist has no control over the forces to which the tooth/restoration is subjected.
5. **Aesthetics:** Although dental materials are constantly improving, it is possible that bonded restorations may wear down, lose their luster, or discolor. The dentist has no control over these factors.
6. **For dental extractions:**
 - Bleeding, bruising, or swelling: bleeding may persist for several hours. If profuse, please call our office. Some swelling is normal, but if severe, please call our office. Bruising may persist for some time, but generally heals uneventfully.
 - Injury to adjacent teeth or restorations: This is a possibility no matter how carefully the surgery is performed.
 - Infection: Due to the non-sterile nature of the mouth, or perhaps due to an existing infection, post-operative infection is a possibility. Some infections can be very serious. If severe swelling occurs, particularly if associated with fever or malaise, please call our office as soon as possible.
7. **For endodontically treated teeth:**
 - Pulpotomies: In a small percentage of cases, the patient's body "rejects" the nerve treatment, resulting in a failed pulpotomy and the need for extraction. The dentist has no control over the body's biological response to treatment.
 - Pulpectomies: For teeth requiring a pulpectomy, the long term prognosis is guarded. A significant percentage of pulpectomized primary teeth ("baby teeth") will ultimately need to be extracted. This treatment is generally used when short term retention of a primary tooth is important to long term dental health.
8. **IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO SEEK ATTENTION SHOULD ANY COMPLICATIONS OCCUR POST-OPERATIVELY AND I SHALL DILIGENTLY FOLLOW ANY INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO ME BY THE DENTIST.**
9. **For those children receiving nitrous oxide analgesia:** Potential side effects include dizziness, nausea, and vomiting. Nitrous oxide should be avoided if your child has just eaten a large meal.

INFORMED CONSENT: I have been given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed treatment and have received answers to my satisfaction. I have been given alternatives to this treatment, including the option of rendering *no* treatment. I understand and assume any and all risks associated with the procedures, and I understand that no guarantees have been made regarding the outcome of the treatment. By signing this form, I am freely giving my consent to allow and authorize Dr. Kahl and/or Dr. Kirkham and their associates to render treatment, including any anesthetics or medications.

I acknowledge receiving:

Patient Information Pamphlet Parent Guidelines

Patient's Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian's Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Witness

Date