Medical University of South Carolina

Guidelines on Minors
Studying or Observing in a MUSC Laboratory

Introduction and Application

The Medical University of South Carolina ("MUSC") has a responsibility to promote a safe and healthy environment for employees, students and guests of the University. Minors, (individuals under the age of 18 years) often seek opportunities to study, work and observe in laboratories at MUSC. These guidelines are intended to provide direction for program managers, laboratory managers and investigators regarding minors working or observing in MUSC laboratories. These guidelines apply to laboratories where chemical carcinogens, reagents, biological, or radiological agents are used or stored.

The Fair Labor Standards Act, Child Labor Provision and South Carolina law defines a minor as any individual under the age of 18 years.

Authorization

The Office of the Provost is responsible for implementing and monitoring these guidelines. Project organizers and/or faculty should submit a completed consent form to the Office of the Provost for authorization to allow a minor to work, study, or observe in a laboratory.

Guidelines

1. Before any minor may work, study, or observe in a laboratory at MUSC, the parent or guardian of the minor must acknowledge in writing that they have been informed of the minor’s participation in the program, have been informed of the scope of the project and give their written consent to such participation. The "Consent For Minors Studying Or Observing In A MUSC Laboratory" (Consent Form) will be used for this purpose. The Department of Human Resources will retain the signed form. Minors enrolled, or employed at MUSC are not required to obtain this parental/guardian consent.

The Office of the Provost should forward this completed and authorized consent form and other required documentation for review to the Department of Human Resources Management prior to the minor working, studying or observing in a laboratory.

2. The project organizer and/or faculty member in the designated project area shall be responsible for ensuring that all minors participating in the project are trained and supervised as required by these guidelines and that all required documentation has been obtained.

3. The project organizer and/or faculty member in the designated project area shall be responsible for ensuring that all minors participating in the project are trained in the proper use of equipment, techniques, fire procedures and other processes and procedures as required for the project area, and for obtaining all required documentation.

4. The project organizer and/or faculty member in the project area is responsible for ensuring that immunizations, safety-related training and issuance of personal protective equipment has been completed before the minor may participate in the project.

5. No minor may participate in activities where they could be exposed to potentially infectious materials such as Hepatitis B virus (HBV), Hepatitis C virus (HCV), and Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV) including human body fluids and unfixed human tissues or organs, and blood and tissues of animals who are deliberately infected with HBV, HIV, or HCV.

6. The minor must be directly supervised at all times by a qualified MUSC faculty or staff member.

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7. Minors may observe in live animal care or procedure areas, but are not permitted to have any direct physical contact with live animals.

8. Minors must not be allowed to work with or have direct contact with radioactive substances, non-ionizing or ionizing radiation, including but not limited to lasers.

9. No minor shall participate in activities in which there is potential for exposure to reagents, carcinogens, reproductive toxins, or highly toxic agents: substances that cause damage to living tissue, impairment of the central nervous system, severe illness or death when inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the skin.

10. The supervisor, manager or principal investigator or faculty member may place additional restrictions on the presence of minors in their specific work areas.

References:


U.S. Department of Labor, Title 29, code of Federal Regulations, Parts 570 and 1910.