Minors Working on Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Approved Research Projects

**Policy.** Individuals under the age of 18 are considered minors and must assent to participation in IBC approved research and must have the written permission of their parent or guardian. This policy includes all persons under the age of 18 whether students, employees or volunteers.

OSHA mandates that no children under 16 years of age are allowed into any laboratory except with the special permission of the Environmental Health and Safety Officer or the Director of the Research and Education Center. Whenever visitors are allowed into a laboratory, it is the responsibility of the laboratory supervisor to ensure that they are supervised at all times, and that they follow the same rules as laboratory personnel. (Clemson University’s Chemical Hygiene Plan dated 4/15/05 section entitled SOP-Safe Practices with Chemical A.1.m. Visitors)

**Principal Investigator Responsibilities.** The Principal Investigator (PI) of the research project will revise and complete the “Minor Registration Form” before providing the form to the student(s) and parents/guardians for their review and signature.

- The “research activity” must be described in detail so that the student and parent/guardian can make an informed decision about all risks associated with the proposed activity.
- Hazard specific safety training **must be** completed by the PI with the minor.
- Personal protective equipment, specific to the hazard, must provide to the minor with instructions for use and disposal.
- Minor must be supervised at all times while in the facility and never left alone.
- Hours of work comply with federal and state laws.
- Laboratory/facility must be in full compliance with all applicable University safety programs and regulations.
- The PI responsible for the research activity must be identified so that students/parents/guardians know who to contact with questions or concerns about the activity.
- The date(s) of the proposed activity also must be clearly set forth for the students to consider.
- When tailoring the form, use clear, unambiguous and understandable language.
• Make sure that each student completes a separate release.

• Provide each student/parent/guardian with adequate time to review and sign the document.

Any questions about the form or waiver and release process, should be e-mailed to ogc-L@clemson.edu.

**Student/Parent/Guardian Responsibilities.** The minor and parent/guardian reviews and signs the Clemson University “Minor Registration Form”. In addition, the student signs the “Hazard Acknowledgment Form” which describes the nature of the hazards associated with the agent(s) under the IBC protocol as well as the policies and procedures that are to be followed.