

# What is Consent?

*English text of information that is presented in Low German.*

## Consent means: giving your permission.

Here in Canada usually your word or a handshake is not enough for an agreement. It is very common that you will be asked to sign your name – giving proof that you know this is happening, why and that you are agreeing to this. So, you will be asked to sign your name on a paper. It is important that you only sign papers when you understand what you are signing.

## When is consent needed?

Before your information is shared with anyone, you will be asked for consent – remember, that consent is permission to share your information, with another help and for a certain length of time.

Here are some examples of consent – at the hospital they will ask for consent before doing an operation. A teacher will ask for consent from a parent before the child can participate on a school trip. Other helpers may ask for your consent before they help you to make sure you understand what is happening

## Who can give consent?

In Canada, people over the age of 18 can give consent for themselves. People under 18 years old need consent from their parent to participate in school trips, or receive their immunizations. Remember the school trip I talked about? A student who is 17 or younger needs a parent's consent to go on a trip. If a student is 18 or older, they can give consent themselves.

As a parent you may be required to sign a consent form for your child for school, at a clinic, at hospitals, and so on. This means that you know about this activity and that you are in favour of this happening. At school, children can only participate in a school trip when you have given your permission. Or, the nurse at school gives your child the vaccination only with your consent.

As a parent or guardian, you need to give permission for your child to participate in certain activities or receive the treatment or care that you or your child needs.

It is important to remember that when your child is 18 years and older, their personal information is protected and this means also from you. When your children are 18 years old then, Doctors, and other helpers have to protect your 18 year old's private information the same way they protect yours.

Before you give your consent, it is important that you understand why your information needs to be shared, what information will be shared and with whom, how the information will be used. This is called 'Informed Consent'.