

# Parental Consent for Blood Donation



## Information

This form must be completed by a parent or legal guardian for blood donation by a minor when parental consent is required by state law or American Red Cross policy.

If you have questions or concerns about the blood donation process, please contact:

Name/Department: American Red Cross

Phone: (800) GIVE-LIFE (448-3543)

During Hours of Operation: Monday–Friday 7:00AM – 5:00PM

In giving consent for your son, daughter, or ward to donate blood, you have two options:

1. You may consent to whole blood donation only, or
2. You may consent to both whole blood donation and apheresis (*see back of form for details*).

## Parental Consent

I have read and understand:

- The information on the back of this form
- “A Student’s Guide to Blood Donation”
- Any research-related study sheets that may be provided

**Please Complete Section 1 OR Section 2** (Please use medium-point black pen.)

### 1. Whole Blood Donation Only:

*I hereby give permission for my son, daughter, or ward to make a whole blood donation to the American Red Cross.*

**Donor Name:** (son, daughter, or ward) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name*

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name*

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Today’s Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
*Signature* *m m / d d / y y y y*

**Optional Parent/Guardian Phone Number:** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Where you can be reached on the day of the blood donation*

### 2. Whole Blood Donation and Apheresis:

*I hereby give permission for my son, daughter, or ward to give blood by either whole blood donation or apheresis.*

**Donor Name:** (son, daughter, or ward) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name*

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name*

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Today’s Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
*Signature* *m m / d d / y y y y*

**Optional Parent/Guardian Phone Number:** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Where you can be reached on the day of the blood donation*

**For American Red Cross Use Only WBN/DIN →**

## **Information for Parents**

Please read the information below, which supplements the brochure called “A Student’s Guide to Blood Donation.”

### **Donor Screening**

- We will ask your son or daughter questions about his or her health and medication use, sexual behavior, travel, and other risk factors for infectious diseases during a private and confidential interview.
- Every donation is tested for HIV (the virus that causes AIDS), hepatitis B and hepatitis C viruses, and other infectious diseases.
- If any test result or response to the questions suggests that your son or daughter is disqualified from donating blood in the future or may have an infectious disease, his or her name will be added to a confidential list of people who have similar test results or risk factors. When required, we report donor information, including test results, to health departments and regulatory agencies.
- The tests are very sensitive and detect most infections. But it is also possible that donors who are not infected will have falsely positive results. We are required to notify and disqualify donors even when subsequent test results indicate that the donor is not infected.
- We will communicate test results that disqualify your son or daughter from future donation directly with your son or daughter. We maintain the confidentiality of information we obtain about a donor, and we will release a donor’s confidential information to his or her parents only with the donor’s consent.

### **Whole Blood Donation**

- Each whole blood donation uses a new, sterile needle to collect about a pint of blood from a vein in the donor’s arm.
- Most donors feel fine before and after donating blood, but some may have a lightheaded or dizzy feeling; an upset stomach; a black and blue mark, redness, or pain where the needle was; fainting or loss of consciousness and injury from related falls; or very rarely, nerve or artery damage.
- Young, first-time, and/or low-weight donors are more likely to experience reactions than other donors.
- Blood donation removes iron and may cause or aggravate iron-deficiency anemia.

### **Apheresis (automated collection procedures, including two-unit (double) red cell collections)**

- Apheresis is a type of blood donation in which we collect specific component(s) of the donor’s blood (platelets, plasma, or red cells). We place a needle in one or both of the donor’s arms and use a machine to draw blood and separate it into different parts. One or several of the blood components are removed, while the remainder and extra fluids are returned to the donor.
- Apheresis has the same risks as whole blood donation (see above). In addition, citrate is used during apheresis to prevent blood clotting, and citrate may cause chills, tingling sensations, feelings of anxiety, tremors, muscle cramping, numbness, nausea, vomiting, and/or convulsions. Donors may be given oral calcium supplements during the apheresis procedure to manage these symptoms. Very rarely, donors can experience allergic reactions (for example, skin rashes, hives, localized swelling, and/or flushing), air in the bloodstream, infection, or other complications.
- Repeated donation may result in iron depletion, anemia, fatigue, or changes in blood cell counts.

### **Research**

- We may use the information or left-over blood samples we collect from donors confidentially and anonymously for medical research, such as research on ways to increase the safety of the blood supply.
- By giving your son or daughter permission to donate blood, you are also consenting to the use of the donation and donor information for this type of research.