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Title: Research or Services?

Author: Gerald P. Koocher and Patricia C. Keith-Spiegel, *Children, Ethics, and the Law: Professional Issues and Cases*, University of Nebraska Press, 1990.

Description: Parents are told that if they enroll their babies in a research project, the babies will receive an EEG to look for signs of brain damage. Babies not enrolled will not receive this diagnostic test.

Headings: Voluntariness and Undue Influence in Recruitment; Identifying and Managing Conflicts of Interest

Case Type: Illustrative

Research or Services?

Babies who had febrile convulsions were conscripted into a research project by the staff of a health maintenance organization (HMO). Parents were told that the babies would be given an EEG “to assure that brain damage had not occurred.” When a parent declined permission for her baby to be in the research but requested that the EEG be performed, she was told that this would not be possible unless the baby was enrolled in the study.