

**UC Davis Health  
Sacramento, CA  
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine**

***PROVISIONS REGARDING CHILDREN, PETS AND PLANTS***      **Administrative Procedure 824.A**

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**PURPOSE:**

To define departmental policy on children (under the age of 18), pets, and plants in the laboratory.

**POLICY:**

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine prohibits children less than 18 years of age in the workplace 24 hours/day, 7 days per week. The Department allows the following exceptions: children under 18 years of age may visit offices, office areas or workplace waiting areas as long as visit is less than 30 minutes, the child is continually accompanied by a faculty or staff member and patient confidentiality is protected. Official UCDMC volunteers under the age of 18 participating in the Edmondson Fellowship or other UCDMC sanctioned programs are exempt from this policy.

Minors under the age of 14 are not permitted in Department of Pathology laboratories except when participating in an approved and supervised tour. This prohibition extends to the minor children related to laboratory personnel.

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine follows UC Davis Health Administrative Policy 1647: *Minors in Laboratories and Shops*.

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine strictly prohibits pets in the workplace at all times.

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine prohibits plants, and parts of plants such as flowers, in laboratory areas where testing is performed or specimens are processed. Plants and flowers in office and/or lounge area are acceptable.

**PROCEDURE/RESPONSIBILITY:**

A. Children and pets are not allowed in the workplace:

1. The workplace is a hazardous place and the potential for unexpected injury results in unnecessary liability and insurance risk.
2. It is inappropriate to have children or other non-employees present during discussion of any patient related information since this would violate patient confidentiality.
3. Faculty and staff could be distracted from their duties which could adversely affect patient care or teaching.

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4. Sick children in the workplace are a health risk to faculty and staff, and exposure to them may result in illness and subsequent absenteeism among employees.
  5. Pets represent unnecessary health and slip or fall hazards because they are frequently noisy, defecate or urinate on floors and may even bite.
- B. Plants and flowers may contain particles such as pollen, hair and dust which may be a source of contamination or interference in the specimen handling or testing environment.
- C. Faculty and staff are responsible for reporting all violations of this policy to one or more of the following: Laboratory Manager(s) for SESP, STC or Pathology Building; Laboratory Assistant Director; Laboratory Director; Chief Administrative Officer; Department Vice Chair; or Department Chair.

**REFERENCE:**

UCDH Administrative Policy 1647: *Minors in Laboratories and Shops*

