

# Response to Dr. Ari Brown and the Immunization Action Coalition

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## Abstract

*Informed consent* is a crucial element of the foundation upon which ethical medical practice rests. Providing patients, parents, or guardians with an honest assessment of the risks and benefits of any medical procedure requires the physician to be, to the best of his or her ability, “informed.”

This document is produced by Thoughtful House Center for Children in response to one written by Dr. Ari Brown titled “Clear Answers and Smart Advice About Your Baby’s Shots,” which attempts to deal with the vaccine-autism controversy. Brown is an official spokesman for the American Academy of Pediatrics. Her document [1], is endorsed and published by the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC), a US organization funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the vaccine manufacturers. In short, it is the public relations arm of those who are legally and ethically responsible for vaccine safety. Given this background, one might reasonably expect a comprehensive, well researched, and persuasive overview. Since the topic of vaccination is so important and because we have major concerns about the accuracy of much of what this document says, we are providing a point-by-point response.

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