

**Medical Care: Consent**

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES**

<p><b>ORC:</b> 3701.242; 3701.243; 5153.11; 5153.16</p> <p><b>OAC:</b> 5101:2-5-14; 5101:2-42-66.2</p> <p><b>USC:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>CFR:</b> N/A</p>	<p><b>ORIGINAL:</b> 8/1/14</p> <p><b>REVISION/REVIEW:</b> 2/15/2024</p> <p><b>NEXT REVIEW:</b> 2/15/2029</p> <p><b>RELATED FORM(S):</b> Notice of Medical-Dental Care for Children in SCCS Custody AW-450</p> <p><b>RELATED PROCEDURE/POLICY(IES):</b> Psychotropic and Opioid Medication for Children in Substitute Care; Approvals and Authorizations in Social Services</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

- |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources<br><input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Safety & Security<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social Services - All Departments<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Services - Foster & Adoption |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

All Staff       Bargaining Unit       Non-Bargaining       Management

**POLICY:**

Summit County Children Services (SCCS) partners with Akron Children’s Hospital and its affiliates to ensure that children in agency custody receive both mandated and needed medical care. SCCS adheres to the philosophy that medical treatment should be given in partnership with parents or guardians whenever possible, and that parents should be kept informed and remain involved with their child's medical care and discharge planning.

Upon the advice of one or more reputable practicing physicians, the Executive Director or designee (as identified in the Approvals and Authorizations in Social Services policy), may consent to such medical, dental, and surgical care, including surgery and the administration of anesthetics, inoculations, and immunizations, or other care as appears to be necessary for any child who is in the temporary or permanent custody of such agency. For purposes of this policy, practicing physicians include medical doctors, dentists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and RNs.

**PROCEDURE:**

**Routine Medical Care**

Summit County Children Services believes that consent for medical treatment for children in agency custody should be given in partnership with parents or guardians whenever

possible. Therefore, at the time of removal or as soon as possible thereafter, the assigned caseworker discusses the child's medical needs with the parents. Consent is given in the most expeditious way possible. In accordance with the Approvals and Authorizations in Social Services policy, the caseworker, supervisor, medical staff, hotline screener, or case aide may provide consent for routine treatment for required medical and dental care, including but not limited to: physicals and check-ups; screenings, consultations and evaluations; therapeutic and diagnostic procedures; blood work and lab work; routine dental care (i.e., cleaning, x-rays); non-routine dental care that does not require general anesthesia (i.e., fillings, crowns, extractions, root canals); immunizations as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics; influenza vaccines; x-rays; and the administration of medications (i.e., antibiotics ) necessary or appropriate in the care and treatment of the child, etc.)

SCCS partners with Akron Children's Hospital and its affiliates for all medical care for children in agency custody. After the initial placement screening, if a caregiver lives more than 30 miles from an Akron Children's Hospital provider, they may choose to use other medical providers in cooperation with SCCS.

### **Surgical Consent**

In accordance with the Approvals and Authorizations in Social Services policy, the Executive Director or designee provides timely consent for surgical procedures for children in custody. Caregivers provide information regarding surgical procedures and needs of children in custody to the assigned caseworker as soon as possible to ensure timely consent. The assigned caseworker must seek to inform the child's parent/guardian if a child in Emergency Temporary Custody (ETC), Temporary Custody (TC), or in SCCS custody through a Juvenile Rule 6 requires surgery or general anesthesia for any procedure. The assigned caseworker must seek to inform parents of children in Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (PPLA) status of any surgery or general anesthesia for any procedure if the parent/guardian has remained actively involved with the child.

### **HIV Testing**

When an exchange of bodily fluids involving a child in SCCS custody has been alleged, the Director of Social Services or Social Services Department Director approves HIV testing as recommended by a medical professional. Parental consent is required for all other requests for HIV testing, except for children in Permanent Custody (PC) or Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (PPLA) status where parents are not involved. A chain of command memo requesting authorization must be submitted through the Director of Social Services.

Ohio law provides that minors, including children in SCCS custody, may request HIV testing without the consent or approval of a parent, guardian, or custodian (ORC 3701.242).

### **Psychotropic Medication**

Authorization for psychotropic medication is approved through the office of the Deputy Director of Social Services Resources in accordance with the Psychotropic and Opioid Medication for Children in Substitute Care policy. Unless safety threats exist, caseworkers invite parents to be present at the child's medical appointments to share information,

discuss concerns, and ask questions related to medication. Should parents not attend appointments and/or disagree with the prescribed medication, the caseworker encourages a consultation for the parent and medical provider.

See also "Psychotropic and Opioid Medication for Children in Substitute Care" policy.

### **Consent After Business Hours (Evenings, Weekends, and Holidays)**

During evenings, weekends, or holiday hours, the hotline staff may provide consent for routine medical authorizations, emergency room visits, or hospital admissions for a child in accordance with the Approvals and Authorizations in Social Services policy. SCCS staff present with the child at the time of the appointment or hospital admission may provide consent.

Any non-routine medical approvals are routed to the on-call supervisor. The scheduled administrative back-up person must contact the Deputy Director of Social Services, Deputy Director of Social Services Resources, or the Executive Director or Designee for any non-routine surgical procedure.