

Learn Your Rights

Take Part in Your Child's Health Care Decisions

Parent's Rights

We want you to be a part of your child's health care decisions. As long as the Family Support Team and court approves, parents have the right to:

- Go with your child to their doctor appointments
- Understand your Child's health and health care needs
- Give your child the care and medication they need while they are with you
- Know when your child's health or health care needs have changed
- Know all of the necessary information about your child's recommended treatment
- Know if your child has been prescribed a psychotropic medication before Children's Division gives permission for your child to take the medication
- Ask for contact information for your child's doctor so you can ask them questions directly
- Agree or disagree with your child's mental health treatment plan or any recommended psychotropic medications
 - If you disagree, your child's case manager will ask for a second review and will share that information with you if they are allowed to (if they are not able to share the information with you, you will get a letter that tells you why)
 - If you are not allowed to see this information or if you disagree with the treatment decision, you can file a **Service Delivery Grievance** form with the Children's Division within 5 business days or you can bring it up during juvenile court at any time

About Psychotropic Medications

A psychotropic medication may be any medicine that affects your child's mind, emotions or behavior. Some examples are:

- Antipsychotics
- Antidepressants
- Lithium
- Stimulants
- Alpha agonists
- Anxiolytics/hypnotics
- Anticonvulsants/mood stabilizers



Consent for Medical Treatment of a Child

When a child is in state custody, foster parents can give permission for any routine medical treatment for a child in their care, like:

- Preventative care
- Dental appointments
- Immunizations

The Children's Division must give permission for anything beyond routine care, like:

- Surgeries
- Hospitalizations
- Certain dental procedures
- Medical testing
- Behavioral therapy
- Psychiatric treatment (including psychotropic medication prescriptions)



How can I give permission for my child's care?

Any member of a child's Family Support Team can ask to give permission (consent) for a child's medical care instead, including psychotropic medications. **If you would like to do this, contact your child's case manager.** They may ask you to put what you are asking for in writing.

We will let the court know about your request as soon as we are able to. We will also ask that you have a chance to be heard by the court before a final decision is made.

Questions or concerns?

If you are worried about your child's health care and the treatment decisions that are being made, you can reach out to your child's case manager for help. If you are worried about your child taking a psychotropic medication you can email us directly at CD.PsyMedSettle@dss.mo.gov.

You can also file your concern with the Children's Division by filling out a **Service Delivery Grievance** form. You can get this form from any Children's Division office.