

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Child and Family Services Agency**  
**HEALTHCARE QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE**  
**Medical Consents**



**Contact the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) Clinical and Health Services Administration (CHSA) On-Call Information Line at 202-498-8456, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. For purposes of this tip sheet, the term “child” includes both infants and youth, as applicable.**

### **Medical Consents Policy**

1. A parent or legal guardian must provide consent for CFSA to obtain medical records, except for routine evaluations and treatments.
2. Minors (persons under the age of 18) may consent to their reproductive health services without agreement from a parent or guardian.

*Note: CFSA cannot provide funds for pregnancy termination. The social worker cannot assist with the process.*

3. When parental rights have been terminated, CFSA is the legal guardian of the child and may provide medical consent for services (e.g., a test or examination) until the child is adopted.
4. When CFSA has physical custody of the child within the 72-hour period before an initial Family Court hearing, CFSA may consent to the following procedures without parental consent:
  - a. Medical evaluations
  - b. Emergency medical treatments
  - c. Outpatient psychiatric evaluations
  - d. Emergency outpatient psychiatric treatments

*Note: in keeping with best practices, CFSA shall inform the child’s parents or legal guardians if any of the above procedures occur.*

5. CFSA may not consent during the 72-hour time period to non-emergency outpatient medical, dental, or psychiatric treatments. Nor shall CFSA consent to an autopsy without reasonable efforts to obtain consent from the birth mother, father, or legal guardian.

To read this online policy in its entirety, click on [Medical Consents](#) or visit CFSA’s online policy manual at <http://cfsa.dc.gov/>.