

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL</b>	
	<b>Chapter 8:</b> Out-of-Home Services	<b>Effective Date:</b> June 1, 2008
	<b>Section 33:</b> Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and Other Communicable Diseases	<b>Version:</b> 1

<b>POLICY</b>	<b>OLD POLICY: N/A</b>
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The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will attempt to obtain written consent for medical testing and treatment from the child's parent, guardian, or custodian, for any children who:

1. Exhibit symptoms of a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) or other communicable disease (e.g., tuberculosis or hepatitis);
2. Have had documented exposure to an STD or other communicable disease, (e.g., infants born to mothers known to be infected an STD);
3. Ask to be tested;
4. Are recommended for testing by a medical doctor;
5. Have a history of high-risk behavior (e.g., intravenous drug use, multiple sexual partners, or prostitution);
6. Have present or past sexual partners who are infected with an STD or other communicable disease; or
7. Come from countries with a high transmission rate of communicable diseases.

If the parent, guardian, or custodian denies consent, DCS will consent to testing, when:

1. The child is exhibiting symptoms of an STD or other communicable disease; and/or
2. A medical doctor recommends testing.

If the parent, guardian, or custodian denies consent, DCS will convene a Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting (see separate policy, [5.7 Child and Family Team Meetings](#)), to determine whether DCS will pursue a court order for testing, when the child:

1. Has documented exposure to an STD or other communicable disease (e.g., infants born to mothers known to be infected);
2. Requests to be tested, if age appropriate;
3. Has a history of high-risk behavior (e.g., intravenous drug use, multiple sexual partners, or prostitution);
4. Has present or past sexual partners who are infected with an STD or other communicable disease; or
5. Is from a country with a high transmission rate of communicable diseases.

DCS will ensure that agency policies and procedures are followed regarding the sharing of confidential information about children who are infected with an STD or other communicable disease. See separate policy, [2.6 Sharing Confidential Information](#).

#### Code References

1. [IC 16-41-6-2: Informed consent; court ordered examinations](#)
2. [IC 31-32-12-1: Mental or physical examination or treatment](#)

## PROCEDURE

Upon recommendation of the CFT, the Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Ensure that any child who has documented exposure to an STD or other communicable disease is tested as soon as possible;
2. Ensure that any child who asks to be tested is evaluated by a physician to determine if STD or other communicable disease testing is necessary and appropriate; and
3. Coordinate the return of STD or other communicable disease test results to the attention of the FCM and CFT unless a court has requested direct receipt of the results. See separate policy, [5.7 Child and Family Team Meetings](#).

If a child tests positive for an STD or other communicable disease, the FCM will:

1. Upon receipt of positive test results, ensure that the following persons are immediately notified:
  - a. The parent, guardian, or custodian, unless rights have been terminated,
  - b. The resource parent(s),
  - c. The CFT,
  - d. The child,
  - e. Any additional DCS employees who work directly with the child,
  - f. The prospective adoptive family, if applicable, and
  - g. The court, if there are any court orders in effect regarding the child.
2. Prior to notifying the following additional parties that the child has an STD or other communicable disease, obtain a signed consent for release of information from the parent, guardian, or custodian (if applicable). In addition, obtain a signed confidentiality form from the individual with whom the information is being shared (e.g., persons who provide services directly to the child);
3. Partner with the resource parent(s) to ensure that the child receives appropriate medical examinations, treatments, and medications;
4. Connect the parent, guardian, or custodian and the resource parent(s) with community resources that offer education on caring for a child with an STD or other communicable disease; precautionary measures to prevent transmission; and counseling and/or support services;
5. Make any necessary revisions to the child's Case Plan; and
6. Follow agency policies and procedures regarding the sharing of confidential information about a child with an STD or other communicable disease. See separate policy, [2.6 Sharing Confidential Information](#).

## PRACTICE GUIDANCE

N/A

## FORMS AND TOOLS

N/A

## RELATED INFORMATION

### **Free Testing and Counseling Sites**

The Indiana State Department of Health operates free STD/HIV Counseling and Testing Sites (CTS) throughout the state. For more information about these sites, call 317-233-7840 or visit [http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/CTR\\_Sites\\_brochure\\_Updated\\_March\\_2016.pdf](http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/CTR_Sites_brochure_Updated_March_2016.pdf). Children may be counseled and tested at these sites without charge. Children under the age of 13 cannot be tested unless the adult accompanying them has consent forms that have been signed by the child's parent, guardian, or custodian or a court order.

### **Informing and Educating Resource Families**

Clear and accurate information about STDs and other communicable diseases and appropriate control measures must be given to resource parents to enable them to make informed decisions about their ability and willingness to provide care to infected children. If a resource parent(s) makes an informed decision, the possibility of having to move the child from the placement is decreased. Additionally, a resource parent(s) may need special training before he or she feels comfortable providing care for an infected child. For more information on available educational materials and trainings, contact the Indiana State Department of Health at 317-233-7051.

### **Discussing Child's STD/Other Communicable Diseases at Child and Family Team Meeting**

This issue should be handled on a case-by-case basis. If the FCM believes that a discussion about the child's STD or other communicable disease is relevant to the topic(s) on the agenda, he or she should contact the parent, guardian, or custodian (and child, if appropriate given the child's age and developmental level) in advance of the meeting to determine comfort level. If the parent, guardian, or custodian and/or child are not comfortable discussing the issue in front of the entire team, a solution may be to hold a smaller family team meeting to handle the issues relating to the STD or other communicable diseases.

### **Testing Costs**

If the child is eligible for and on Medicaid, Medicaid will pay for testing when there is a medical need to test. This includes testing for children who are symptomatic or for children who are asymptomatic but at high-risk.