

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services	Effective Date: June 1, 2008
	Section 35: Sex Education and Family Planning Services	Version: 1

POLICY	OLD POLICY: N/A
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The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will assure that all children in out-of-home care have access to sex education and family planning services based upon the child's age and developmental level. Family planning services may include but not be limited to the following:

1. Patient education;
2. Counseling;
3. Safe and effective contraceptive methods;
4. Medical exams; and
5. School-based health services.

DCS will not authorize the use of prescription birth control by children in out-of-home care.

Note: DCS may seek a court order to authorize the use of birth control, if the following conditions apply:

1. The child's parent, guardian, or custodian refuses to authorize the prescription; and
2. The Child and Family Team (CFT) determines that such a prescription is in the best interest of the child. See separate policy, [5.7 Child and Family Team Meetings](#).

Code References

1. [IC 16-41-6-8: Informing pregnant woman of information; documenting information given and a refusal of test; information if test results positive; confidentiality.](#)
2. [IC 16-34-2: Requirements for Performance of Abortion; Criminal Penalties.](#)

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Ensure that all youth in out-of-home care have access to appropriate medical care and sex education services;
2. Ensure that female youth in out-of-home care have access to appropriate feminine hygiene supplies, as needed; and
3. Make appropriate referrals, if a youth asks for additional family planning information and/or services.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

N/A

FORMS AND TOOLS

N/A

RELATED INFORMATION

Custody of the Infant

A mother automatically has custody of her child when the baby is born. The fact that the mother is a minor (under 18 years old) does not take away her right to custody, nor does the fact that the mother is in out-of-home care. For more information, see separate policy, [8.36 Expectant Youth and Youth with Children](#).

Age to Begin Offering Family Planning Services

DCS does not have a required age at which a youth must be offered family planning services; instead, this will be a case specific decision. Research indicates that youth in foster care are more likely to be sexually active and to engage in sexual activity at a younger age. History of sexual abuse may increase the likelihood of such behaviors. For these reasons, age appropriate family planning information should be available to all youth. If at any time a youth asks for more family planning information and/or services, a referral should be made immediately.

HIV Screening for Pregnant Women

In accordance with Indiana Law ([IC 16-41-6-8](#)), all pregnant women are required to be tested for HIV infection. The woman does have the right to refuse such testing, and the refusal will be noted in the pregnant woman's medical records. For more information on HIV testing, see separate policy, [8.31 HIV-AIDS](#).