

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services Section 35: Sex Education and Family Planning Services	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 5

POLICY OVERVIEW

Children in out-of-home care will receive sex education and family planning services, as age and developmentally appropriate.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will make sure children have access to the following services including, but not limited to:

1. Counseling;
2. Parent education, including birth control methods;
3. Medical exams, including pregnancy tests and tests for sexually transmitted infections (STI); and

Note: According to state law, a person may consent to their own medical/hospital care if they have an STI or have been exposed to an STI.

4. School-based health services.

DCS will not approve birth control prescriptions for children in out-of-home care. If a youth is already on birth control when entering out-of-home care, DCS will collect copies of the medical records and needed consents.

If the child's doctor recommends birth control for any medical reason, DCS may seek a court order if:

1. The parent, guardian, or custodian refuses to approve the prescription; and
2. The Child and Family Team (CFT) decides the prescription is in the child's best interest.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 16-34-2: Requirements for Performance of Abortion; Criminal Penalties](#)
- [IC 16-36-1-3: Consent for own health care; minor's blood donation](#)
- [42 CFR 59: Title X Family Planning; Confidentiality](#)
- [42 USC 1396a\(a\)\(7\): Family Planning Services; State Plan: Medicaid](#)
- [42 USC 1396d\(a\)\(4\)\(C\): Family Planning Services; Definitions](#)