

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services Section 26: Authorization of Health Care Services	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 6

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will make every effort to make sure a child gets timely health care for their needs.

POLICY STATEMENT

General Rule

1. DCS will get consent from the parent, guardian, or custodian before approving **non-routine** health care treatment for the child, when possible;
2. Unless it is an emergency, DCS will ask the court for approval, before any treatments that require anesthesia; and
3. Youth age 18 or older may consent to their own health care.

Emergencies

The resource parent(s) must contact DCS as soon as possible to update them on the child's condition and give the medical provider consent for treatment.

Exceptions

1. Resource parent(s) do not need prior approval for:
 - a. Routine health care treatment; and
 - b. Emergency health care treatment, including mental health, when there is no time to contact DCS.
2. For youth age 18 or older, deemed incompetent or unable to consent, DCS must get a court order before approving non-routine health care treatment.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 16-36: Medical Consent](#)
- [465 IAC 2-1.5-19: Care of children; health](#)