



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES

### CHILD WELFARE POLICY

#### Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services

#### Section 35: Sex Education and Family Planning Services

**Effective Date:** December 1, 2024

**Version:** 4

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#### POLICY OVERVIEW

Sex education and family planning services are provided to children in out-of-home care, as age and developmentally appropriate.

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#### PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will ensure children in out-of-home care receive sex education and family planning services based upon the child's age and developmental level, which may include, but are not limited to:

1. Counseling;
2. Patient/parent education, which may include information about safe and effective contraceptive methods;
3. Medical exams, including pregnancy tests and tests for sexually transmitted infection (STI) (formerly known as sexually transmitted diseases [STDs]) (see policy 8.31 Testing and Treatment for HIV, STDs, and Other Communicable Diseases); and

**Note:** In accordance with IC 16-36-1-3(d), a person may consent to their own medical/hospital care or treatment if the person has or believes they have been exposed to a STI.

4. School-based health services.

DCS will not authorize the use of prescription birth control by children in out-of-home care. If a youth is already on birth control when entering out-of-home care, DCS will obtain copies of the medical records and needed consents.

If the child's primary care physician recommends a prescription for birth control for any medical reason, DCS may seek a court order to authorize the use of a prescription for birth control if:

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 policy 5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings).

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Ensure all children in out-of-home care have access to appropriate medical care and sex education services;
2. Ensure appropriate personal hygiene supplies are provided, as needed; and

3. Make appropriate referrals if a youth asks for additional family planning information and/or services.

**Note:** 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.

The FCM Supervisor will assist the FCM, as needed, to ensure children receive age and developmentally appropriate services and have access to appropriate medical care and sex education services.

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## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### Definitions

N/A

### Forms and Tools

N/A

### Related Policies

- [5.07 Child and Family Team \(CFT\) Meetings](#)
- [8.31 Testing and Treatment for HIV, STDs, and Other Communicable Diseases](#)

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## 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 59.11: 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](#)

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## PRACTICE GUIDANCE- DCS POLICY 8.35

*Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.*

N/A

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