

## Information for Foster Parents and Residential Staff

South Carolina Department of Social Services issued two new medical consent policies this year. The purpose of these policies is to foster timely medical care and improve psychotropic medication oversight.

### **ROUTINE MEDICAL CONSENT FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE: POLICY 510.7.**

#### **SECONDARY MEDICAL CONSENTERS**

When the agency has authority to consent to routine medical care for the children in foster care, the SCDSS foster case manager or supervisor are the typical primary consenters. However, the case manager or other consenter must consult with and involve the birth parents, the child, and other kin in making health care decisions, unless doing so is not in the best interest of the child.

When SCDSS case manager is unable to attend an appointment and consent to routine medical care, the case managers or supervisor may designate up to two secondary medical consenters. Secondary consenters are usually the child's live in caregivers such as foster parents and relatives.

Routine medical consent does not include consenting to major medical treatment such as surgeries, anesthesia or life-threatening conditions.



#### **Examples of Routine Medical Care:**

##### **Preventive Care:**

- Well child exams
- Laboratory testing including sexually transmitted infections, HIV testing, or X-Rays
- Dental checkups and routine treatment such as fillings and braces
- Immunizations
- Vision, hearing, developmental, or trauma screening
- Allied health care services such as physical, speech, or occupational therapy and dietetic services

Designated secondary medical consenters must complete the “Health Care Oversight and Psychotropic Medications Training” developed by SCDSS. A case manager must determine that a secondary medical consenter is reliable.

This training is required initially to be designated as secondary medical consenter, and then annually thereafter.

“Health Care Oversight and Psychotropic Medications Training” and additional information on the two medical consent policies in “DSS Instructional Webinar” can be accessed via the following step by step instructions:

1. Follow this link and sign up as user:  
<https://scjcca.expertlearning.net/>
2. Go to “Course Categories”
3. Then click on “COURSES”
4. Choose the course titled “Health care oversight and psychotropic medications training”
5. Watch the entire webinar and complete the quiz with at least 70% to print the certificate of completion.
6. Take the certificate to a DSS case manager who can then issue DSS Form 2055, SCDSS Designation of Medical Consenter.

**QUESTIONS?** Email us at: [childhealth@dss.sc.gov](mailto:childhealth@dss.sc.gov) or call The Office of Child Health and Well-Being at (803) 898-7788. We are here to help.