

Providing Consent for Medical Procedures

Resource parents, placement providers, and OKDHS can consent to routine and ordinary medical care and treatment of children. In general, this means non-invasive examinations, procedures, and preventative care. [OKDHS Policy](#) lists the following as some examples of routine and ordinary medical care and treatment:

- physical, medical, and dental examinations/screenings/assessments;
- clinical laboratory tests, including blood testing;
- preventative care;
- x-rays, stitches, casts;
- psychotropic medication; and,
- immunizations/vaccinations.

Only parents (if the parents still have parental rights) or the Judge over the child's Juvenile Deprived case can consent to extraordinary medical care. **This means that foster parents, placement providers, and OKDHS cannot consent to medical care or treatment like surgery, procedures that involve general anesthesia, care that requires blood transfusions, invasive examinations and procedures, or experimental treatments.** The processes for obtaining consent for extraordinary medical care looks different across the State, so speak with your resource specialist and the child's permanency planning specialist to get the best help.

If the child is involved in a life-threatening emergency and extraordinary medical care is needed immediately, the medical professionals caring for the child may make the decision whether or not the child should get lifesaving, extraordinary medical care.

Please remember that, if parents still have their parental rights, OKDHS must make sure that parents know what kind of medical care their child is receiving and that they are involved in that child's medical care. For this reason, it is important let the child's assigned permanency planning specialist know what care and treatment the child in your home is receiving. When possible, let OKDHS know about medical care ahead of time, so that OKDHS can involve the child's parents. If OKDHS cannot be told about medical care beforehand, please tell OKDHS what has happened as soon as possible afterward. And, if it is safe and appropriate, we encourage you to let know the parents know as well.

Parents who still have parental rights can raise concern for any medical treatment or care their child might be receiving, and they can also refuse to consent to medical care or treatment for any reason. But, if the resource parent, placement provider, OKDHS, and/or the Court earnestly believe this medical treatment or care is in the child's best interest, OKDHS and the Court may give consent in place of the parents. Still, OKDHS must make attempts to understand and respond to the parents' concerns and refusals before providing consent if the parents do not want to—including putting the parent in touch with the prescribing medical professionals.