

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

AUGUST 4, 2005

MEMORANDUM

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Guidelines for:

- Do Not Resuscitate Orders
- Removal of Life Support Order.

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: FREDERIC M. SIMMENS, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: CHILDREN IN CHILDREN'S DIVISION LEGAL CUSTODY WHOM THE DOCTORS RECOMMEND A DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER (DNR) OR REMOVAL OF LIFE SUPPORT.

SECTION 4.24 MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING AND 4.24.10.LIFE SUPPORT/SUSTAINING THERAPIES AND DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER (DNR) OR REMOVAL OF LIFE SUPPORT FOR THE CHILD IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE DIVISION.

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise staff of the protocol to follow involving children in Children's Division legal custody in which a doctor recommends a Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNR) or Removal of Life Support for the child.

In these situations, the Children's Division (CD), Department of Social Services (DSS), and the Division of Legal Services (DLS) will take the position that the decision is with the family or the court and is based on the best medical advice available. We will provide unbiased, objective facts to the court and family, but we will refrain from any recommendations as to the final outcome.

Our position in these cases includes recommending a hearing take place to allow the child's parents, the Guardian ad litem, the Juvenile Officer and any other interested parties to provide input. All available evidence shall be available to the court to assist in making a fully informed decision. In the instance where no other party has filed a motion or is willing to file, but medical doctors have advised that a DNR or removal of "Life Sustaining procedure" is in the best interest of the child, our role through a DLS Attorney should be to gather the medical opinions and present them to the court for a decision. Specific procedures for staff to follow can be found in Section 4.24.10 Life

Support/Sustaining Therapies: “Do Not Resuscitate Order” (DNR) or Removal of Life Support for Children in Children’s Division Legal Custody in the *Child Welfare Manual*.

NECESSARY ACTIONS: 1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff. 2. All comments and recommendations regarding this subject should be cleared through normal supervisory channels.	
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CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 4.24 Medical/Mental Health Planning• Section 4. 24.10. Life Support/Sustaining Therapies and Do Not Resuscitation Order (DNR) or Removal of Life Support for the Child in the Legal Custody of the Division	
Relative Statute: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A	
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A	
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A	
PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A	

FMS/VES