



Practice Points

Contraception for Youth in Foster Care

Youth in foster care under the age of majority (18 years old) should be afforded the choice to obtain or refuse birth control. Children's Service Workers shall ensure youth receive sexual health education including information on birth control, but the decision for a youth to be prescribed birth control should involve the youth and the youth's medical provider. Missouri law does not require minors to have parental consent to obtain contraception, although it is the practice of some medical providers. If the medical provider requires signed parental/guardian consent, the Children's Division, resource provider, or parent – if appropriate - may provide the written consent.

Staff should take particular care when placing youth in residential treatment programs as consents for birth control are commonly included in the facility's intake packet. The birth control consent should not be signed by the Children's Service Worker. This is the youth's choice to be made after consultation with the youth's physician. If the decision is to prescribe the youth contraception, and the medical provider requires signed parental/guardian consent, the Children's Division or parent, if appropriate, may provide the written consent.

The Residential Program Unit will survey residential facilities for reproductive health services practices, including having consent forms for birth control within the intake packet. Facilities will be informed of the Children's Division's guidance and practice with regard to consent for contraception as described above.

Please see [Section 4.24.2](#) of the Child Welfare Manual for more information.

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