

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services	Effective Date: September 1, 2014
	Section 35: Sex Education and Family Planning Services	Version: 2

POLICY

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will ensure that all children in out-of-home care have access to sex education and family planning services based upon the child’s age and developmental level. Family planning services may include but not be limited to the following:

1. Patient education;
2. Counseling;
3. Safe and effective contraceptive methods;
4. Medical exams; and
5. School-based health services.

DCS will not authorize the use of prescription birth control by children in out-of-home care. DCS may seek a court order to authorize the use of birth control, if the following conditions apply:

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 separate policy, [5.7 Child and Family Team Meetings](#).

Code References

1. [IC 16-41-6-8: Informing pregnant woman of information; documenting information given and a refusal of test; information if test results positive; confidentiality](#)
2. [IC 16-34-2: Requirements for Performance of Abortion; Criminal Penalties](#)

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Ensure that all children in out-of-home care have access to appropriate medical care and sex education services;
2. Ensure that female children in out-of-home care have access to appropriate feminine hygiene supplies, as needed; and
3. Make appropriate referrals, if a child asks for additional family planning information and/or services.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

[NEW] DCS Clinical Specialists or DCS Nurses are available to FCMs/field staff for consultation regarding relevant questions, concerns, and/or circumstances regarding prescriptions, family planning, or referrals for appropriate services.

FORMS AND TOOLS

N/A

RELATED INFORMATION

[REVISED] Family Planning Services

DCS does not have a required age at which a child must be offered family planning services; instead, this will be a case specific decision. Age appropriate family planning information should be available to all children. It is important to understand that research indicates that a history of sexual abuse may increase the likelihood of early-onset sexual activity in children. If at any time a child asks for additional family planning information and/or services, a referral should be made immediately.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Screening for Pregnant Women

In accordance with Indiana Law ([IC 16-41-6-8](#)), all pregnant women are required to be tested for HIV infection. The woman does have the right to refuse such testing, and the refusal will be noted in the pregnant woman's medical records. For more information on HIV testing, see separate policy, [8.31 HIV-AIDS](#).