



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI681087129**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Process for consent for looked after children.

You have requested the following information:

Request information regarding consent for medical procedures for children where the local authority holds parental responsibility. I do not need information regarding the Children Act(s), rather the processes/guidelines within the Local Authority.

- 1. Who (job title) in your Local Authority would sign a consent form for a child needing a medical procedure when the Local Authority has parental responsibility?
- Is this person the same person as the child's named social worker and if not, is there any requirement for them to have met/know the child?**

Parental consent is also sought in the first instance. The Operational lead who is the corporate parent also signs medical consents for children in care.

The child's social worker does not have delegated responsibility to sign medical consent forms. The operational lead will not have met every child, but will know about them and their circumstances.

- 2. What guidance or guidelines are provided to social workers about providing consent for looked after children undergoing medical procedures? Including both guidance on the law and who can actually provide consent, as well as any guidance on the purpose of consent and informed consent itself.**

Social workers do not sign medical consent forms

3. Do social workers get any training in giving consent for medical procedures?

See response to Questions 1 and 2.

4. Is there any guidance on what to do if they are asked to consent for something they think is not in the child's best interests or if they do not want to give consent?

A meeting is always undertaken with the medical consultants, and they provide a written report outlining why needed and any associated risks. This is then considered prior to decision making regarding consent being given or not by corporate parent and parents.

5. Is there a process for maintaining and updating these guidelines?

Guidance is always kept under review.

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If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance