

Policy: Carer's Authority to Provide Consents

Policy Purpose

To ensure all Carers of a child in the care of the CEO are supported to provide routine consents for the child to participate in activities or receive a service.

Policy Statement

Case Managers must ensure that children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) have the opportunity to participate in activities, interact socially with other children and engage with their family and community. Territory Families partners closely with Carers to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in care.

Case Managers should always encourage routine decision making by Carers. Carers (Kinship Carers, Foster Carers, Purchased Home Based Carers and Managers of Therapeutic Residential Care facilities) are to be permitted and encouraged to provide consent for children in their care to participate in routine activities or services.

Territory Families consent is not required for most day-to-day decisions. Carers are authorised and encouraged to provide consent for a child to participate in routine activities or receive a routine service, including medical and dental care. Carers should contact the child's Case Manager if they are unsure about providing consent in any particular circumstance.

Case Managers must ensure that the Carer understands their responsibilities and the types of activities for which they have the authority to provide consent. It is important that children and Carers receive a consistent experience from Territory Families.

Territory Families' consent is required in some circumstances where the decision relates to high risk activities, there are family and cultural considerations or where we require the CEO to make the decision due to potential long term consequences. This includes, but is not limited to, high risk activities and complex health care.

Territory Families approval is also required for surgical procedures involving a general anaesthetic and other medical decisions (e.g. immunisations, palliative care) and treatments that may have significant side effects (e.g. psychotropic medication).

Urgent situations may arise where it is essential that immediate consent is provided for a child to receive medical or dental care (including out of hours or weekends). If the treatment requires Territory Families' consent, and the Case Manager is not immediately available, health practitioners and Carers are to be advised to contact Central Intake.

Territory Families consent is always required for interstate and overseas travel. Case Managers must ensure that consents are considered and provided in a timely manner to ensure that the child does not miss an opportunity to participate. Carers are to be advised of the expected time frame for consent to be provided.

Related Documents

[Procedure: Carer's Authority to Provide Consents](#)

[Guideline: Decision making for Carers](#)

Authorised by:

Executive Leadership Group	30/10/2019	Active from:	3/12/2019
Version 1.0	This policy replaces the 'Overnight Stays' policy.		
Review due:	November 21	Maintenance:	Operational Policy: tf.policy@nt.gov.au 61:F2019/15163