

# SPECIALIZED CHILD WELFARE SUBJECT MATTER

## HIV Testing

21-5-1 Page 1 of 2

### Policy

The Department of Children and Families shall test children in its care for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) consistent with national standards, as follows:

- upon entry into care, all children shall have their risk for HIV exposure assessed by medical providers through the initial health assessment, admission physical to facilities or Multi-Disciplinary Examination;
- when necessary, children shall be referred to their primary care providers for further evaluation to determine the need for HIV testing;
- risk for HIV exposure shall be reassessed whenever events in a child's life may have placed him or her at risk of exposure;
- risk for HIV exposure shall be reassessed as part of a child's routine health care; and
- routine HIV screening shall be offered to all adolescents in DCF care.

**Note:** A minor may request HIV testing and does not need the consent of a parent or guardian. At the time of communicating the test result to the minor, the person ordering the test on behalf of the minor shall provide the minor with counseling or referrals for counseling, as needed, and work toward the goal of involving a minor's parents or legal guardian in the decision to seek and in the ongoing provision of medical treatment

**Legal reference:** Conn. Gen. Stat. §19a-582(a) and §19a-592.

**Cross-reference:** HIV Testing Practice Guide.

### Consent of Child

A child who is being tested for HIV and who can understand the implications of such testing, shall be told, prior to the test, that the test is for HIV and that such testing is voluntary and the child may choose not to be tested.

If the child declines HIV testing, the medical provider shall document the denial in the medical record.

### Parent Guardian Authorization

As with any medical testing, except when a child requests an HIV test, parental consent for HIV testing shall be required for any DCF-initiated testing when the child is in care through the Voluntary Services Program.

For children committed as neglected, abused or uncared for, DCF shall provide consent for testing when requested by a child's primary care provider as part of routine care. The RRG nurse shall be consulted if there are questions about the appropriateness of testing.

**Note:** Regardless of a child's legal status, a child may request HIV testing without consent of a parent or guardian. DCF shall honor such requests and arrange for the testing.

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21-5-1 Page 2 of 2

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**Confidentiality  
of Test  
Results and  
Release of  
Information**

Disclosure of information regarding an HIV test shall only be made with the written consent of the individual tested or the legal guardian.

DCF may seek or release information regarding the diagnosis or treatment of HIV for the purposes of case planning or the provision of services on behalf of a child who is committed as abused, neglected or uncared for.

The consent of a parent or guardian or the child (if the child sought testing without parental consent) is required for the release of any HIV information if the child is in placement under the Voluntary Services Program.

The DCF-2131-T, "Authorization for the Release of Information to the Department of Children and Families," and the DCF-2131-F, "Authorization for the Release of Information from the Department of Children and Families," shall be used to seek or release needed information.

**Note:** If the DCF-2131-T or DCF-2131-F has not been signed by the child, the signer's name, relationship to the child, and the signer's authority to consent to release of confidential medical information shall be noted.

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