

20.7, Health Services for Children/Youth in DCS Custody	
Application: All Department of Children's Services Employees and Contract Agency Providers	
Authority: TCA 37-5-105(3); 37-5-106; Mature Minor Doctrine Clarification Act	Standards: COA: PA-CFS 10.02; PA-CFS 17; PA-JJCM 5.03
Original Effective Date: 4/01/1998 Current Effective Date: 2/10/2025	Supersedes: 5/23/2023 Last Review Date: 2/01/2025
Glossary:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Qualified Medical Practitioner/Professional</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant 	

Policy Statement:

All children/youth in the custody of the Department of Children's Services (DCS) will receive timely and appropriate health care services.

Purpose:

To meet the medical, mental health, and developmental needs of children/youth in DCS custody by ensuring a comprehensive medical examination is completed upon entry into DCS custody to identify needs and ensure access to services to address those needs.

Procedures:

A. General Health Requirements

1. All custodial children/youth will receive an initial comprehensive medical examination to assess for medical and developmental needs.
2. Each child/youth in DCS custody, including those that are not eligible for TennCare, will receive routine medical, mental health, and developmental care and treatment, as medically necessary, as well as needed emergency services.
3. All health services for custodial children/youth will be completed by a licensed and qualified medical professional/mental health practitioner.

4. It is the responsibility of the Family Services Worker (FSW)/Juvenile Services Worker (JSW) to ensure necessary health services are provided and the documentation submitted to the Regional Health Unit for entry into the Electronic Record System
5. For more specific requirements and information regarding health services for custodial children/youth, reference the [**Protocol for Health Services for Children/Youth in DCS Custody.**](#)
6. See the [**Protocol for Mental Health Services for Children/Youth in DCS Custody**](#) for further information and requirements regarding mental health services for custodial children/youth.

Forms:

[**0727, Initial Intake, Placement and Well-Being Information and History**](#)

[**0708, Physical Examination for Wilder Youth**](#)

[**0689, Health Services Confirmation and Follow Up Notification**](#)

[**0206, Authorization for Routine Health Services for Minors**](#)

[**1096, Comprehensive Medical Examination/Well-Child Check-Up**](#)

[**1097, 72 Hour Health Screening Report**](#)

[**0811, Tennessee Early Intervention System \(TIES\) Referral**](#)

[**0093, Release from Medical Responsibility**](#)

[**1218, Good Cause Exception Request**](#)

Collateral Documents:

[**Protocol for Health Services for Children/Youth in DCS Custody**](#)

[**Protocol for Mental Health Services for Children/Youth in DCS Custody**](#)

[**20.5 Health Care Delivery at a Youth Development Center**](#)