



20.12, Dental Services for Children/Youth in DCS Custody

Application: All Department of Children's Services Employees and Contract Agency Staff

Authority: TCA 37-5-105 (3), 37-5-106

Standards: COA: PA-CFS 17.02

Original Effective Date: 10/1/98

Supersedes: 6/20/22

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Last Review Date: 12/18/24

Glossary:

- None

Policy Statement:

All children/youth in DCS custody shall be provided routine and emergency dental care as part of an overall healthcare program.

Purpose:

Regular dental care, including prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, as well as proper oral hygiene, is a basic and essential part of a child/youth's overall health and well-being. To restore and maintain the oral health of the children/youth in its care, it is important that DCS ensure the completion of routine dental exams and any recommended follow-up treatment.

Procedures:

A. Dental Services for Custodial Children/Youth

1. General Dental Service Requirements

- a) All children/youth in DCS custody who are twelve (12) months of age or older will receive an initial dental examination by a licensed and qualified medical professional.
- b) Each child/youth in DCS custody who is twelve (12) months of age or older will receive routine dental care, treatment for dental-related problems, cleanings, and emergency dental care as needed.

- c) Infants under twelve (12) months of age may be seen by a licensed dentist if an oral health problem is known or suspected.
- d) It is the responsibility of the Family Services Worker (FSW)/Juvenile Services Worker (JSW) to ensure necessary dental services are provided and the documentation submitted to the Regional Health Unit for entry into the Electronic Record System.
- e) For more specific requirements and information regarding dental services for custodial children/youth, reference the [Protocol for Dental Services for Children/Youth in DCS Custody.](#)

Forms:

[CS-0120, Dental Record](#)

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

Collateral Documents:

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