

# Parent Consent

---

Parent consent is written approval by a parent (obtaining a parent's signature). Consent means the parent:

- Has been fully informed of all the information relevant to the activity for which consent is sought in the parent's native language.
- Understands and agrees in writing to the activity for which the parent's consent is sought, and the consent form describes that activity and lists the early intervention records (if any) that will be released and to whom they will be released.
- Understands that the granting of consent is voluntary and may be revoked at any time.
- Understands that consent may be granted for some activities without jeopardizing other activities.

If a parent revokes consent, the revocation is not retroactive (it does not apply to an action that occurred before the consent was revoked.)

A parent's informed written consent must be obtained prior to the following activities:

- Administering screening to determine whether the child is suspected of having a developmental delay or disability.
- Conducting all evaluations and assessments (initial and ongoing).
- Conducting a family assessment.
- Providing early intervention services.
- Using public benefits or insurance (Medicaid) or private insurance to pay for services.

NOTE: In Idaho, Medicaid (the program managing public benefits) and the Infant Toddler Program are both housed within the same agency, the Department of Health and Welfare. The consent obtained by Medicaid when the family applies for public benefits allows sharing information between programs within the agency. This consent provides the necessary authorization to share personally identifiable information for billing purposes.

- Sharing/releasing personally identifiable information.

If a parent or guardian refuses to give consent:

- The Service Coordinator makes an effort to ensure that the parent is fully aware of the nature of the screening, evaluation and assessments, or the services that would be available.

- The Service Coordinator makes an effort to ensure that the parent understands the child will not be able to receive screening, evaluation and assessments, or the services without consent.

If a parent does not provide consent, no action will be taken to coerce the parent. In this instance, the Infant Toddler Program may not use the due process or hearing procedures to challenge a parent's refusal to provide consent.

If refusal to consent for evaluation or assessment constitutes neglect or abuse as defined in the Child Protective Act, Idaho Code Sec. 16-1601 et seq. the Service Coordinator will notify the parent of their concerns and then make a verbal or written referral to Child Protection Services.

- The evaluation/assessment may be provided without parental consent only when ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction. If a guardian has been appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, they may consent for the needed evaluation/assessment.

A parent may determine whether the child or other family members will accept or decline any early intervention service(s) under Part C at any time in accordance with Idaho law and federal regulations. A parent may also decline a service (except the administrative functions required under the regulations for Service Coordination) after first accepting it without jeopardizing other early intervention services under the Infant Toddler Program.