

## BUTLER COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

POLICY NO.: 10.6	SUBJECT: <b>SECOND OPINIONS</b>
	EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/28/03
	REVISION DATE: 10/24/06, 3/08, 11/15
	REVIEW DATE: 11/16/04, 10/24/06, 3/08, 11/15

**PURPOSE:**

To provide guidance for obtaining a second professional opinion of a child's or adult's medical, psychological or psychiatric condition or diagnosis, in an effort to provide the best possible medical, psychological or psychiatric care to children and families involved with BCCS.

**POLICY:**

The following may request a second opinion: a child in BCCS's custody; a parent; custodian; staff member; the Ombudsman; or any professional providing medical or therapeutic services to a child or adult pursuant to a BCCS's case plan. All such requests shall be completed in writing.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. The request for a second opinion of a medical doctor must be made in writing on the Second Opinion Request Form to the caseworker and/or caseworker supervisor and must state the reason(s) for a second opinion.
2. The assigned worker will submit a Family Conferencing Referral Form and a copy of the Second Opinion Request Form to the Conference Coordinator. The assigned worker will verbally notify the requestor, the custodian, and the child, if age appropriate of the Family Team Meeting. An Administrator will be notified of the Family Team Meeting. The Family Team Meeting will be held prior to any medical recommendations being followed. The Family Team Meeting will be scheduled within 5 business days of receipt of the Second Opinion Request Form. A second opinion shall be granted except upon a showing of good medical or legal cause not to provide said opinion. A denial of a second opinion due to a showing of good medical or legal cause shall be forwarded to the Director for review and final decision.
3. The custody status of the child does not affect a decision to obtain a second opinion. However, BCCS must have the written permission of the custodian before proceeding excluding those children in PPLA and PC. If the custodian refuses to give permission for the second opinion and the case is court involved, the Director shall consult with the Prosecutor's Office to determine if BCCS will attempt to obtain a juvenile court order granting permission for the second opinion.
4. The BCCS staff in consultation with the family will identify physicians, psychologists, and psychiatrists, chosen based upon recognized expertise and/or professional credentials relating to the injuries or conditions exhibited.

5. The person requesting the second opinion shall select one and notify the caseworker and/or supervisor of their choice for coordination of appointment scheduling and communication of the results of said examination.
6. Every effort shall be made to utilize a client's recommendation as to their preference for the second opinion. However, BCCS shall not incur any travel, lodging, or other expenses beyond those here-in stated in obtaining a second opinion, as a result of such a request. Extraordinary travel or other expenses shall be the responsibility of the party making the request to utilize an expert other than one recommended.
7. BCCS shall incur the usual and customary costs for obtaining the second opinion for children in the agency's custody. If, however, the child has health insurance, a claim shall be made to the designated insurance provider to pay for the second opinion. BCCS shall not incur any financial obligations associated with a request for second opinion for any adult involved with this agency; such costs shall be the sole responsibility of the individual client. The Director shall retain discretionary authority to waive fee payment.
8. All relevant releases and copies of the medical records and reports from the second opinion shall be provided to BCCS for further communication to the involved parties, including, but not limited to, the assigned caseworker, supervisor, and party requesting the second opinion. It remains the responsibility of the care provider to communicate the results of any second opinion directly to the patient.
9. The caseworker will be responsible for obtaining appropriate release of information forms from the custodian and/or client, and providing copies of first opinion records to the physician, psychologist, or psychiatrist performing the second opinion. No medical information shall be released without a signed release of information form from the appropriate party.

12-9-15  
Approval Date:

  
William Morrison, Director