



**6. Complete your due diligence.**

- a. Determine if there are concerns about the type or number of medications the child is prescribed.
  - b. Review the case record to determine whether the child's mental health records are current.
  - c. Review the Child Resource Record during each monthly home visit. (NOTE: In some parts of Florida this is commonly referred to as the Red Folder.)
  - d. During the 30 day visit, check the medication bottle. Note the name of the prescribing physician, name of the medication, the dosage, and the date the medication was prescribed. Include this in your monthly written report.
  - e. ***If there is any missing information or you identify any concerns speak with your CAM and CBI Attorney to determine next steps.***
7. Coordinate with your CAM and CBI Attorney to access the **Med Consult Line** for any child ages 0 through 10 prescribed two or more psychotropic medications for a pre-consent review. (You may also call the line for a child age 11 or older or, any child on only one prescribed psychotropic medication for a free medical consultation.)
- a. The Med-Consult Line # is 1-866-453-2266.
  - b. The website is <https://psychiatry.ufl.edu/dcf>.
8. **Speak immediately with your CAM with any concerns.** It may be necessary for the CBI Attorney to request a court hearing on behalf of the child to ensure unmet needs is addressed before the next scheduled court date.

**PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION**

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1. **A child** taking a psychotropic medication **should be based** on thorough assessment of need as determined by a treating physician or psychiatrist and in consultation with the GAL Advocacy Team.
2. Understand **“Express/Informed Consent”**: \*
  - a. Except in the event of an emergency, express/ informed consent must be obtained prior to beginning any psychotropic medication.
  - b. Express/informed consent by the parents or legal guardians (not the out of home caregiver or case manager) **MUST** be obtained prior to the child taking any **new** psychotropic medications.
3. Be aware that the **court must authorize to initially provide or continue to provide** psychotropic medication to a child in the Department's custody.
4. **Talk with the child** about how the medication makes them feel.
5. **Talk** to the caregiver, teacher, case manager, and/or prescribing practitioner **to learn**:
  - a. What medications the child is taking and for what purpose?
  - b. How the child is reacting to the medication.
  - c. The positive or negative changes in behavior and attitude in the last month.
  - d. What is the child's behavior at school/home taking the medication vs. not taking the medication?
  - e. Are there any recommended changes to the medication (dosage or type)?
  - f. What alternatives have been explored in lieu of taking the psychotropic medications? For example, has the child responded favorably to counseling? Or exercise?

