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Purpose: Obtaining legal consent for child and adolescent psychiatric evaluations.

Policy: Decisions about psychiatric, other behavioral health and medical care must be made by the child's legal guardian(s), who must be physically present to provide consent, have an opportunity to be fully informed of the evaluation process, be provided with an opportunity to ask questions, and in order for identity to be verified. In the situation of a parental separation or divorce (except in the case of one parent having sole physical and legal custody), both parents MUST consent, in writing, to the psychiatric evaluation, and both parents are invited and encouraged (as they are able) to participate in the process of evaluation and treatment. If one parent retains sole physical and legal custody, this parent MUST provide legal documentation of this in order for the psychiatric evaluation to occur as scheduled. Both parents, regardless of custody, have a legal right to medical records.