

Caring for Children in Foster Care in the First 30 Days

Information for Medical Consenters, Foster Parents and Kinship Caregivers

All children entering DFPS legal custody need a good assessment of both physical and behavioral health needs right away. This means that children and youth who come to live with you must have **both** the Texas Health Steps medical checkup **and** the CANS assessment **within 30 days** of coming into the legal custody of DFPS to assure they get the best care.



Texas Health Steps!

Texas Health Steps is health care for children birth through age 20 who have Medicaid. Texas Health Steps gives your child free medical checkups starting at birth and keeps your child healthy. During the Texas Health Steps medical checkup, the doctor will look at your child from head to toe checking for health problems that you may not know about. The doctor will also see if your child is growing and developing like other children their age.

- ▶ All children entering conservatorship must have a Texas Health Steps medical checkup **within 30 days** of coming into the legal custody of DFPS.
- ▶ Texas Health Steps medical checkups must be performed by a medical provider enrolled in Medicaid as a Texas Health Steps provider and who is contracted with STAR Health, the healthcare program just for children in foster care.
- ▶ STAR Health member connection representatives call caregivers immediately once a child is enrolled in STAR Health to offer assistance scheduling the Texas Health Steps medical checkup **within 30 days**.

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)

Children and youth aged 3-17 must also have a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment **within 30 days** of coming into the legal custody of DFPS to find out if the child or youth has any behavioral health needs such as therapy. STAR Health clinicians provide CANS assessments to help caseworkers plan for all needed services.

Need help finding a doctor for your child's Texas Health Steps medical checkup?
Need assistance finding a Star Health clinician for the CANS appointment?

Call STAR Health Member Services

1-866-912-6283

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.