

Psychotropic Medication of Foster Children and Other Wards of the Court

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SUGGESTIONS FOR QUESTIONS TO PRESCRIBING PSYCHIATRIST

- Was the psychiatrist given access to information concerning
 - Developmental, psychosocial, educational, and mental health history
 - Placement history
 - Child Welfare History
- What problem is the medication prescribed to address?
- Are there alternatives to the prescribed medication?
- What are the contraindications of use for the prescribed medication?
- What is the anticipated length of time the child will be on this medication?
- How often do you evaluate the continued need for medication?
- How will effectiveness of the prescribed medication be evaluated?
- Do you perceive the benefits of the medication to outweigh the potential “costs” of the child being on medication?
- What are the side effects of the prescribed medication?
- What should be done if the child displays severe side effects?
- What are the recommendations for managing side effects?
- What are the interactions of this medication with other medications the child is taking?
- Would you consider lowering the dosage or eliminating the use of the prescribed medication because....