



Alberta College of
Speech-Language Pathologists
and Audiologists

Who, What, When, How, and Why: Updates to the ACSLPA Informed Consent for Service Guideline

Helpline for
technical issues:
587-525-7730
admin@acslpa.ca

Sharia Ali (she/her), R.SLP

SLP Advisor

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Agenda

1. Why the revision?
2. How was the guideline revised?
3. What does the guideline say?

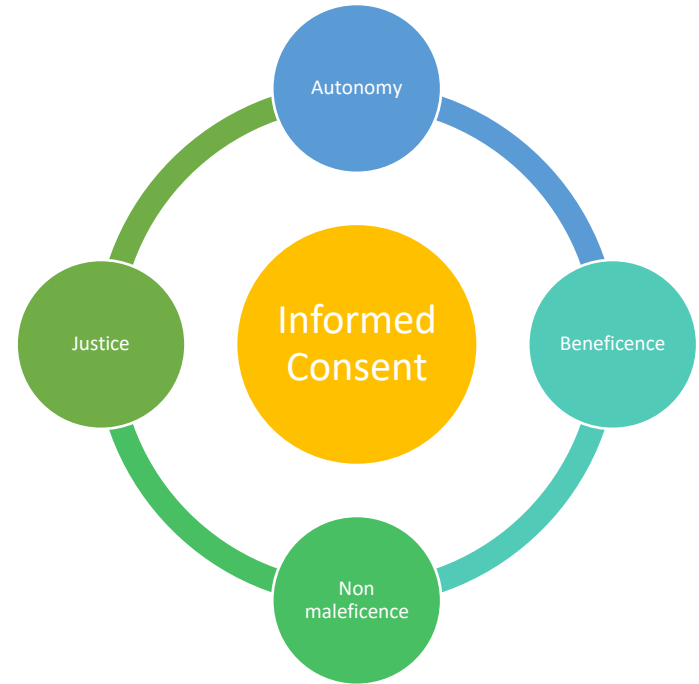
Why the Revisions?

- One of ACSLPA's older guidelines (2016)
- Practice guidance gap
 - Minors in care or family separation/divorce dynamics

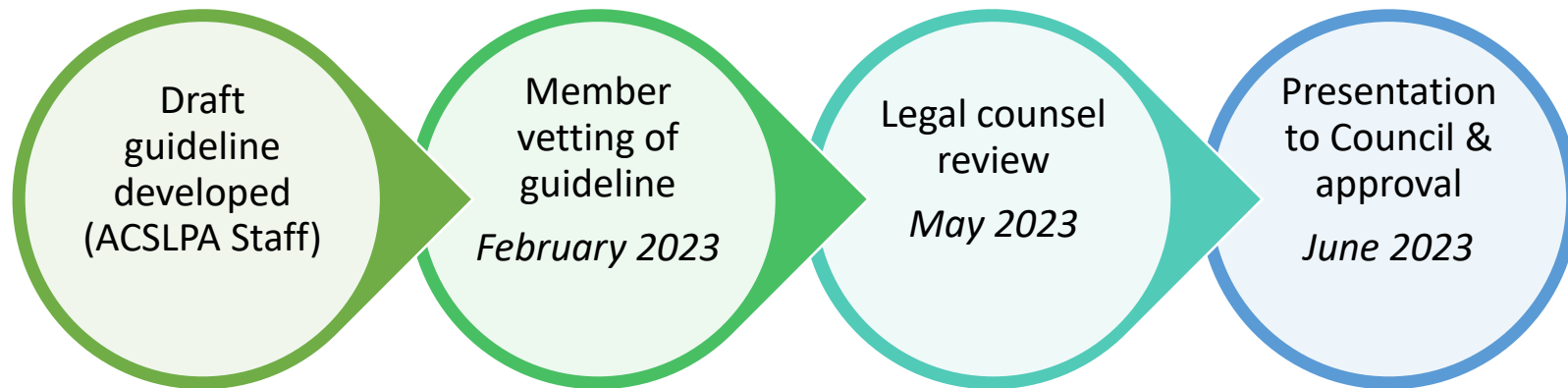


Why is it so important to get consent right?

- Consent is a foundation of ethical practice
- Significant implications for client and regulated member if not handled correctly
- Is a requirement of practice (See Standard of Practice 2.3 [Informed Consent](#))



How was the Guideline Revised?





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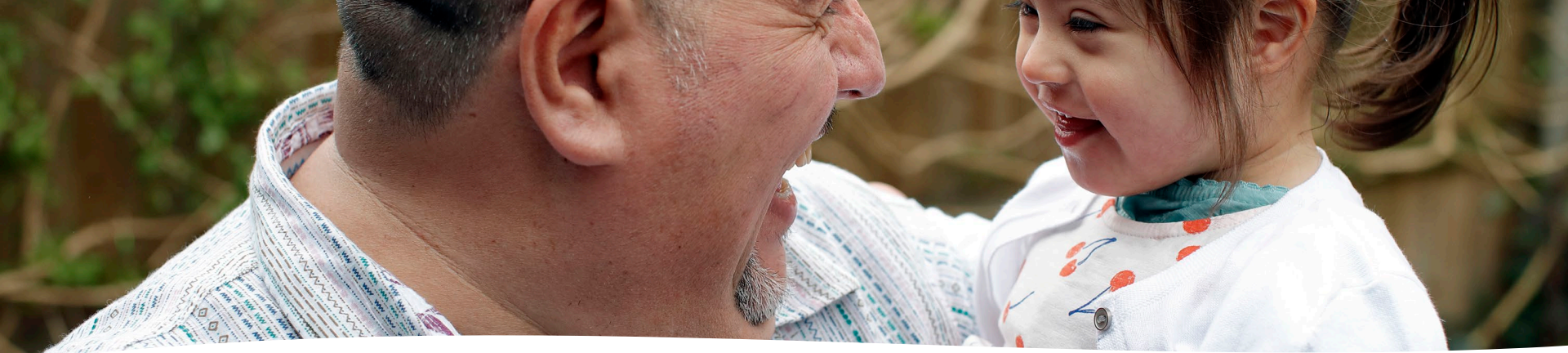
What does the Guideline Say?

Key Concepts of Informed Consent

[Guideline: Informed Consent for Service](#)

Who can Provide Consent?

- Client or a legally authorized representative
 - Must have competency* to give consent
- Involvement of others in care
 - Respect client's wishes
 - Share information *where consent is given*



Separated/ Divorced Parents (with *shared* custody)

- Typically, ***either*** parent can consent to services
- Whenever there are indications of ***disagreement*** → consent from ***both*** parents
- Whenever one parent ***refuses/withdraws*** consent → ***cease*** services

Caught up in custody cases? See:

- Guideline Appendix C
- [Professional Predicaments](#)
- SLP/Aud Advisor

When Should Consent be Obtained?

- Prior to providing any professional service
 - Screening
 - Assessment
 - Intervention
 - Research activities
- Substantial change in plan of care
- Change in diagnosis, symptoms, or circumstances
- Assignment to another individual (e.g., support personnel)
- Observation/participation from student or volunteer



Universal vs. Targeted Services

(When is consent
required?)

- Classroom-wide strategies (can be applied to any/all students) → general consent ok
- Any **individualized** services → informed consent required

Who is Responsible for Obtaining Consent?

- Professional most responsible for services
 - Best placed to answer any client questions
 - When procedural steps are assigned, member must:
 - Ensure consent is valid and informed
 - Be available to answer any questions from client



Consent and Screening (Who can obtain consent?)

- Professional should be involved in developing consent information
- Others can help with distribution/collection of forms
- Absence of response does not equal consent

How Should Consent be Obtained?



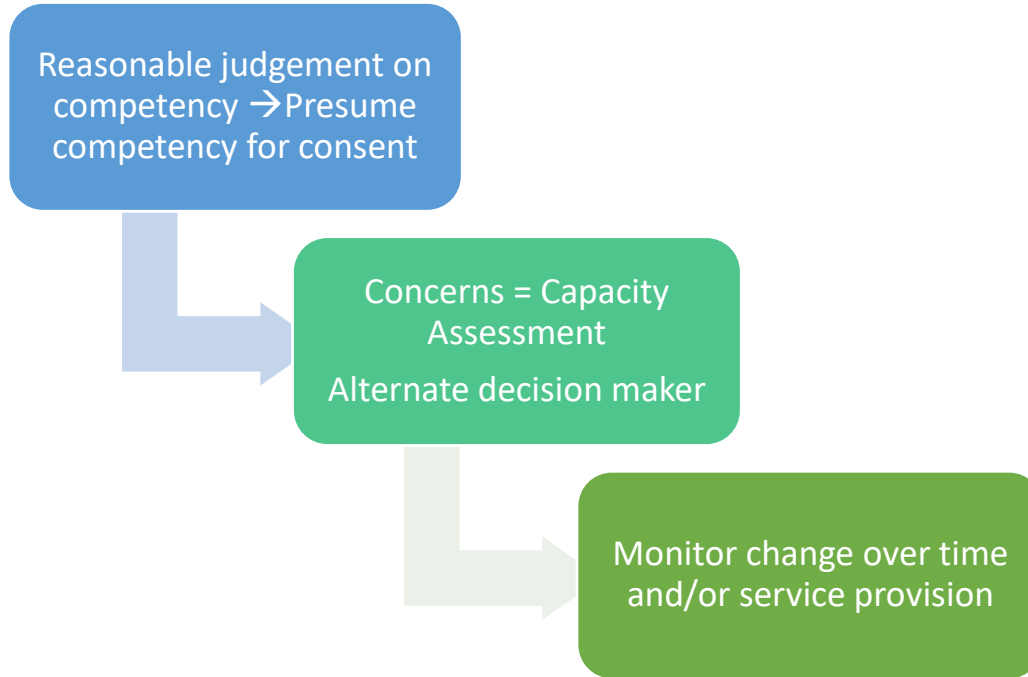
- Free of influence
- Not a 'one-time' event
- Collaborative
- Client competency to consent*
- Communication mode
- Expressed/IMPLIED
- Verbal/written

Informed Consent Discussions

- Nature/purpose of activity
- Name of person most responsible
- Intended duration
- Benefits and risks
- Alternatives
- Consequences of delay/refusal
- Option to refuse/withdraw **AT ANY TIME**
- Opportunity to ask questions

(Guideline pg. 3)

Competency for Consent



Mature Minors

- Aging = greater ability to make independent decisions
 - Mature minors → can give/refuse consent (cannot be overridden by guardian)
 - No set age limits/minimum
 - Decision made **prior** to service provision

Consider:

- *Complexity/seriousness of service*
- *Age, intelligence, maturity*
- *Seriousness of health concern*
- *Understanding of information*
- *Indications of independence*
- *Other relevant information*

Final Thought – Professional Judgement

- Minimum requirements or obligations MUST be met
- However, College cannot be overly prescriptive in guidance
- Situations may arise where you should use your professional judgement



Final Thought – Employer Policies

- Robust employer policy
 - Use as a resource
 - Practice in compliance with College and employer requirements
- Not so robust employer policy
 - Responsibility of member to ensure consent standards are met
 - Contact ACSLPA

And...

Document everything



Questions?

- slp@acslpa.ca
- Please take our 1-minute survey

2023 Post-Webinar Survey: Informed Consent Guideline

