

Psychotropic Medications: Questions to Consider

Judges	GAL's	Attorney's	Case Workers
Why are medications being prescribed?	Does the child understand why he or she is taking this medication?	Were you able to obtain an accurate medical, behavioral, and psychological history from parents and past providers?	Who is prescribing the medication and what is the medication being used for? Who will provide ongoing monitoring of this medication?
How will this medication help improve this child's functioning?	Does the child agree with taking the medication?	Was careful consideration given to familial history of mental health needs and medication?	Could the parents/caregivers/other positive adults provide additional support to allow for a reduction in medications?
What other modes of treatment or interventions will also be provided to this child and his or her family?	Is a second opinion warranted? Who is giving the medications and is the child regularly getting the medication(s) prescribed?	Did the parents/caregivers give permission for this child to begin medications and if not, who did? Do the parents/caregivers understand why the medication(s) are needed and what the benefits and risks are of their child taking the medication(s)?	What are the possible side effects of this medication and how will they be handled? Case workers are key players in coordination around communicating pertinent information on psychotropic medications for children on their case loads.