

Safeguarding the Rights and Privacy of Children

From the Center for Health and Health Care in Schools — July 18, 2001.
Connecticut Bars School Personnel from Suggesting Psychotropic Drugs.

Connecticut has become the first state to enact a law barring school personnel from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for any child. Introduced in May 2001 by Lenny Winkler, assistant minority leader of Republicans in the Connecticut legislature and signed by Governor John Rowland, Public Act 01-024 reads:

Section 1. Each local and regional board of education shall adopt and implement

policies prohibiting any school personnel from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for any child. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit school medical staff from recommending that a child be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner, or prohibit school personnel from consulting with such practitioner with the consent of the parents or guardian of such child.

Section 2. The refusal of a parent or other person having control of a child to administer or consent to the administration of any psychotropic drug to such child shall

not, in and of itself, constitute grounds for the Department of Children and Families to take such child into custody or for any court of competent jurisdiction to order that such child be taken into custody by the department, unless such refusal causes such child to be neglected or abused, as defined in section 46b-120 of the general statutes.

The Connecticut law was put into effect on October 1, 2001. 🐦

RESOURCE

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