

Termination of Treatment

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Suppose you are treating a minor, eleven years of age, with the consent of both parents. The court had ordered joint legal custody and the court order specifies that: "the consent of both parents shall be necessary in order to make any decisions with respect to the rendering of health care, whether physical or mental, to the minor." Prior to the commencement of treatment, you obtain the consent to treat from both parents, complying with whatever the requirements are for documenting such approval. Three months later, one of the joint custodians calls the therapist and says that he withdraws his consent. He demands that the therapy end. The other joint custodian wants treatment to continue. Must the therapist comply with the request to end or terminate therapy?