*Parents Rights Over Their Children’s Bodily Autonomy.*

# Course Information

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*Parents Rights over their children’s bodily autonomy is mainly for senior social work majors. This class mainly focuses on social work majors because they will have to help provide a basic support of services through counseling or administration in their work force. This class goes through different units on medical decisions parents have to decide and even the roles doctors play in helping a parent decide a child’s medical needs.*

# Course Description

*Parents Rights over their children’s bodily autonomy revolved around surrounding an idea that parents have the ultimate say in deciding their child’s medical needs.*

# Course Schedule

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## **Unit 1: Boys Circumcision**

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| **BIG Question:** Is circumcision justified by cultural and religious beliefs?  |
| **Argument of the Unit:** *Parents do not have the right to decide on if their infants can be circumcised just because they want to.*  |
| **Key Words:** *Circumcision, Parents, Non-Therapeutic, Autonomy, Cultural Benefits, Physical Cases and Non-Physical Cases, Metaphysical* |
| **Link to Reading:** [*Can Culture Justify Infant Circumcision?*](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1sgfjvhBAINKnFITbDq2Q1huNyLtucf5e)  |
| **Annotation of Reading:** *In “Can Culture Justify Infant Circumcision?” The article is trying to figure out whether parents have the right to children's bodily autonomy through circumcision. The main way the article is trying to figure that out is through cultural and religious form. One point that’s for infant circumcision states that it, avoids pain later in life, helps keep better hygiene and the value of the boys sexual pleasure. For the religious form there are three arguments. First circumcision might claim that it helps with salvation with god. Second, circumcision represents the welcoming to a community. Third, circumcision represents a way of seeing members of certain religions. In the article there are two main people that come up, Mazor and Benatar. Mazor argues that children having a circumcision as an infant will avoid future discomfort or achieve metaphysical salvation. He also explains that parents are much better at positioning their child for circumcision because they know what is best for them. For Benatar’s claims he states, he thinks social and cultural benefits outweigh the cost of circumcision. The last philosopher is Joel Feinberg, he states that, children have something called, “the rights in trust” which is is a right that children cannot exercise right now, but will be able to once they reach adulthood. Overall this text shows how circumcision is not only used for religious or cultural beliefs. It is a key topic for introducing students to the idea of parents rights to their children’s bodily autonomy.*  |

## **Unit 2: The Roles of Family and Parental Rights**

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| **BIG Question:** Who has the right to children's bodily integrity, parents or the state? |
| **Argument of the Unit:** *Parents have the right to majority of their children's bodily autonomy as long as it does not intel abuse or neglect from the parent.*  |
| **Keywords:** *Liberal View, Parentalsit View, Autonomy, Parents, State, decision making*  |
| **Link to Reading:** [*Conflicting Views of the Family and the Role of Parental Rights*](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jaGC2T6uApZOIndueQoBMolhGmlo5fFL) |
| **Annotation of Reading:** *In “Conflicting Views of the Family and Role of Parental Rights,” this article is explaining who has the overall rights of children's bodily integrity. The main argument the article is stating is that parents have the overall rights to their children’s body, unless the parents are trying to abuse them. The article shows two different views of family, The Liberal View and The Parentalist View. The liberal View focuses on how parents should act in a guiding manner for their children to ensure that they will choose their interpretation of a good citizen later in life. The parentalist view focuses on protecting the right of parents while they immerse their children into their own beliefs, even if their beliefs clast with what most think. The paternalistic view also beliefs that they can limit the government's authority to intervene in family’s lives. While the liberal view would award the government more influence to help create rules that strengthen a child’s development of what a good citizen is. Overall this text shows what parents role is in taking care of their children. It is a key topic for introducing students to the idea of what rights parents have versus the state.*  |

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## **Unit 3: Cleft Lips**

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| **BIG Question:** Why do so many chinese children suffer from cleft lips? |
| **Argument of the Unit:** China is able to give out 50,000 cleft lip surgeries a year, but they are not even getting half of that. |
| **Keywords:** Predictably, Self-Disappointment, Palate, Deformities and Smile Train Foundation  |
| **Link to Reading:** [Bringing Back Smiles](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1RGNeE01h2HBINbOeOFk5VBkXU7vTJ7fv) |
| **Annotation of Reading:** *In “Bringing Back Smiles” this article is explaining how it is hard for chinese children to get cleft lip surgeries because they live in a rural area and don’t know it’s free. The main argument of the article is that China can give up to 50,000 cleft lip surgeries a year, but only 20,000 chinese people are showing up. This article goes through a little chinese girls journey of how she got her cleft lip fixed. The article explains that until she had the surgery she was consistently getting made fun of and getting weird looks. The people in charge of this are the, “Bringing Back Smiles Foundation.” With this organization it shows that they are trying to make and impact on helping families with getting their cleft lips fixed. Overall this text shows that parents should get certain surgeries done for their child as soon as possible. It is a key topic for introducing students to the idea of how parents should take ownership of their children’s bodily autonomy to ensure not only there physical health, but their mental health.*  |

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## **Unit 4: Cutting Babies Tongue-Ties**

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| **BIG Question:** Do babies really need to have their tongue-tied? |
| **Argument of the Unit:** Parents should get their babies tongue-tied if they are having problems with breastfeeding. |
| **Keywords:** Tongue-ties, frenulotomy, breastfeeding, infection and lactation |
| **Link to Reading:** [Dr Luisa Dillner's health dilemma: should you cut your baby's tongue-tie?](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1C90rzQGvBxaoXgsm6o7xWozyT7OWE48m) |
| **Annotation of Reading:** *In “Dr Luisa Dillner’s health dilemma: should you cut your baby’s tongue-tie?” this article is explaining what tongue-tying is. The main argument of this article is that parents don’t need to get their babies tongue-tied unless it is causing their child problems. Normally the tongue is loosely connected to the floor of the mouth, but for some babies it is connected shorter and tighter to the mouth. The article goes through the problems and solutions of having a babies tongue-tied. The problem with have a babies tongue-tied is that is may lead to infections or ulcers under the tongue. While these may be the complications of surgery the problems of not having a babies tongue-tied are, problems with breastfeeding, struggle with sucking on bottles and even problems with kissing later in life. Overall this text shows how certain surgeries are not required for children, but in the long run it might help them. It is a key topic for introducing students into the idea that at the beginning of children's lives parents have a right to their child's medical needs.*  |

## **Unit 5: Intersex**

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| **BIG Question:** What to do if you have an intersex baby? |
| **Argument of the Unit:** To listen to the doctor and make the best decision on what gender to choose for the baby. |
| **Keywords:** Androgynous Genitalia, Transitioned, Pediatric Endocrinologist, Urologist and Labia |
| **Link to Reading:** [What to Do if You Have an Intersex Child](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1KczQ_V5JPwsnrT4raVrrUe64yZpZ0iqc%5C) |
| **Annotation of Reading:** *In “What to Do if you Have an Intersex Child” the article explains what intersex is and what you should do if you have an intersex baby. The main argument of the article is having an intersex baby can be challenging, but parents and doctors will have to make a choice on the baby's gender. Intersex babies are a person with a reproductive anatomy that doesn’t fit the typical stigma of a girl or boy gender. The article also explains how you should decide on what your baby’s gender should be. Doctors help parents decide by, genital appearance and potential for fertility. Mainly if a child is having any issues with their gender that they were placed with, then the parents should talk with them and express what happened in their infantry years. Overall this text shows how parents and doctors both help with a child’s bodily autonomy. It is a key topic for introducing students into the idea parents and doctors both have a role in helping with a child’s medical needs.*  |

## **Unit 6: ADHD Medication**

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| **BIG Question:** Is ADHD medication being prescribed too often? |
| **Argument of the Unit:** How ADHD is becoming increasingly more common in anyone who appears to need it. |
| **Keywords:** Adderall, Pep-Pill, Ritalin, Adrenaline, Norepinephrine, Catecholamine System and Smart Drugs  |
| **Link to Reading:** [Take Your Pills- Netflix](https://www.netflix.com/watch/80117831?trackId=13752289&tctx=0%2C0%2C7e29d33bb8a78dd9e7eaacd391b8b26b17ab62e3%3A3ccdd7d880d0fba87e8d063afd2d5d272d9e29ca%2C%2C)  |
| **Annotation of Reading:** *“Take Your Pills” is about the history of ADHD medication and who is using it. The main argument of this film is that everyone is using ADHD medication and is too easily accessible. This film seems to show that these medications are becoming increasingly easier to obtain. The film explains that there is no longer just a cure for hyperactive kids, prescription drugs are everywhere now, college campuses, Wall Street and even Silicon Valley. But the film shows how there are costs to taking these prescriptions. These are sleeping issues, low appetite and even weight loss. This film shows how some people believe that these medications show a world of endless possibilities and others believe that it is chain of unfortunate events. It shows us how our world believes that pills are becoming an exemplifying drug of this time period. Even though it is becoming one of the most helpful drugs as a society we can not forget that this is still a drug and it is highly addictive. Overall this film shows how ADHD is becoming a normal drug to take day to day. It is a key topic for introducing students to the idea of what is happening in our society with drugs and who we should blame for these issues, doctors, parents or even teachers.*  |

## **Unit 7: Doctors Role in Helping Parents Decide**

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| **BIG Question:** If parents disagree with doctors on their child’s treatment, who should have the final say?  |
| **Argument of the Unit:** Parents have the overall say in their child’s medical life, unless it will end up hurting the child.  |
| **Keywords:** Palliative Care, Zone of Parental Discretion, Physiotherapy, Ethics, Conventional Treatment |
| **Link to Reading:** [When parents disagree with doctors on a child’s treatment, who should have the final say?](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1teVOL7vpUnU-ipSvq-qxg46IJ-KDbUrI) |
| **Annotation of Reading:** *In “When parents disagree with doctors on child’s treatment, who should have the final say?” This article is explaining who has the say in a child’s medical treatment. The main argument is that the parent has the overall right to their child’s medical treatment, unless it is unethical. The article goes through what can happen when doctors and parents disagree on what is right for the child’s medical needs. The main approach the article came up with is, “Zone of Parental Discretion,” this helps doctors decide if the parents decision for their child should be overturned. Parents seem to have the right to overturn treatments for religious purposes too. If a parent is trying to choose an option of treatment for their child that is harmful like, refusing certain treatments to ensure their child can get better. Than they will be overturned by the doctor. Overall this text shows how doctors and parents have a role in taking care of the wellbeing of children. It is a key topic for introducing students to the idea of what it will be like raising a child and trying to ensure they are making the right choice for their children.*  |