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Ethics at the beginning of life

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Proxy Consent, Parental Duties and Rights

The doctrine that patients are entitled give their of informed consent to treatments has been adapted to paediatrics so that parents many times have the right or authority to give informed consent by proxy. Parents are in this way supposed secure the well-being and the best interests of their child. However, many infants do not have interests based on personal values, goals and commitments, and there are many different ideas of how to raise children, what constitute acceptable well-being of a child. I will explore possible conflicts between different ideas of parental rights and duties in this context.