Informed Consent

Here are some things the medical consenter should discuss with the doctor:

☐ What is the child’s diagnosis and symptoms?

☐ How will the psychotropic medication help the child?

☐ Does the medication have risks?

☐ Are there alternatives such as options that do not require the child to take a psychotropic medication?

Other Questions to Ask the Doctor

☐ What is the name of the medication? Is it known by other names?

☐ What is the recommended dosage? How often will the medication be taken?

☐ How effective has it been for other children who have a similar condition to the child?

☐ How will the medication help the child? How long before I see improvement?

☐ Is this medication approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) for the child's condition? If not, (i.e., it is being prescribed "off-label"), why is this medicine being recommended?

☐ What are the side effects that occur with this medication and how will I know if the child is experiencing any of these effects?

☐ Is this medication addictive? Can it be abused?

☐ Does the child need laboratory tests (e.g. heart tests, blood tests, etc.) before taking the medication? Does the child need any tests while taking the medication?

☐ Will a child and adolescent psychiatrist monitor the child's response to the medication and change the dose if necessary? Who will check the child's progress and how often?

☐ Does the child need to avoid other medications or foods while taking this medication?

☐ Does this medication interact with other medications (prescription and/or over-the-counter) the child is taking?