Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs

This form applies to requests for meal modifications for children participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school nutrition programs. Schools and institutions are required to make reasonable meal modifications for children whose physical or mental impairment restricts their diet. For guidance on meal modifications and instructions for completing this form, see the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) *Guidance and Instructions: Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs*.

Note: The USDA requires that the medical statement includes information about the child's physical or mental impairment that is sufficient to allow the school food authority (SFA) to understand how the physical or mental impairment restricts the child's diet; an explanation of what must be done to accommodate the child's disability; and if appropriate, the food or foods to be omitted and recommended alternatives. **Schools and institutions should not deny or delay a requested meal modification because the medical statement does not provide sufficient information.** When necessary, schools and institutions should work with the child's parent or guardian to obtain the required information.

Section A – Completed by parent or guardian

1. Name of child: _____ 2. Birth date: _____
3. Name of parent or guardian: _____
4. Phone number (with area code): _____ 5. E-mail address: _____
6. Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
7. In accordance with the provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), I hereby authorize _____
   name of child's recognized medical authority
   to release such protected health information of my child as is necessary for the specific purpose of special diet information to _____ and I consent to allow the recognized medical authority to freely
   name of school district
   exchange the information listed on this form and in my child's records with the school district as necessary. I understand that I may refuse to sign this authorization without impact on the eligibility of my request for a special diet for my child. I understand that I may rescind permission to release this information at any time, except when the information has already been released.
8. Signature of parent or guardian: _____ 9. Date: _____

Section B – Completed by child's recognized medical authority

This section must be completed by the child's physician, physician assistant, doctor of osteopathy, or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). APRNs include nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse anesthetists who are licensed as APRNs.

10. **Physical or mental impairment:** Does the child have a physical or mental impairment that restricts the child's diet?
    ☐ **No** ☐ **Yes:** Describe how the child's physical or mental impairment restricts the child's diet.

11. **Diet plan:** Explain the meal modification for the child. Attach a specific diet plan, if needed.

Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs

Section B – Completed by child's recognized medical authority, continued

12. **Food omissions and substitutions:** List foods to be omitted from the child's diet and foods to be substituted**.**

13. **Food texture:** List foods that require a change in texture. Indicate "all" if all foods should be prepared in this manner.
    - ☐ Cut up or chopped into bite-size pieces: _____
    - ☐ Finely ground: _____
    - ☐ Pureed: _____

14. **Equipment:** List any special equipment or utensils needed.

15. **Additional information:** Indicate any other information about the child's eating or feeding patterns that will assist in providing the requested meal modification.

16. Name of recognized medical authority: _____ 17. Phone number (with area code): _____

18. Signature of recognized medical authority: _____ 19. Date: _____

20. Office Stamp:

This form is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/SpecDiet/MedicalStatementSNP.pdf.

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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