

COURT-ORDERED DRUG TESTING

Drug testing is a tool to help parents stay drug-free. Also, it helps professionals who are invested in the safety, permanence and well-being of families, to put in early interventions that will help individuals in the recovery process. The Office of Well-Being Administration can provide consultations on how to utilize the drug test results to help parents continue to focus on recovery as an important goal towards reunification. For more information, please contact Kimberly Cobb, the Clinical Support Service Specialist Supervisor at Kimberly.Cobb@dc.gov or (202) 247-1559.

The Purpose of Drug Testing in Child Welfare:

Child welfare agencies can use drug testing to motivate parents who use substances to become involved in treatment and to provide motivation and positive reinforcement for parents in the early stages of recovery. Child welfare settings employ drug tests for different purposes than substance use treatment settings. Some of the more frequent uses for child welfare drug testing, in concert with other tools, are to:

- Motivate parents newly in recovery to keep the course of maintaining their sobriety.
- Provide proof of or rule out substance use as part of a child maltreatment or child abuse investigation and determine whether substance use is associated with child risk.
- Monitor whether a parent is continuing to use during an open child welfare case; provide evidence that family reunification is warranted or unwarranted.
- Provide documented evidence that the parent is drug-free (courts often order such documentation).

How to Submit a Request:

All requests for drug screening results and consultations around results should be submitted on the form found online (titled "Request for Drug Test Results") and sent to cfsa.sudseices@dc.gov.

Response Within 48 Hours:

Staff will respond to requests for results within 48 business hours and will be able to make suggestions about how to use the results as an intervention with parents impacted by substance use.