



New Process for Court-Ordered Drug Screens

The Well Being Administration is happy to announce a **new process for obtaining the results of drug testing** that will make it easier to request and receive the results in a timely fashion.

Drug testing is not meant to be punitive, but is a tool to help parents stay drug-free. It also helps Interventionists, a helping professional who is invested in the safety, permanence and well being of families, to put in early interventions that will help an individual get back into recovery quickly. The Well Being Administration can also offer consultations on how to use drug test results to help parents to continue to focus on recovery as an important goal towards reunification. Contact Program Specialist Valerie Kanya for more information at Valerie.Kanya@dc.gov or (202) 727-4283.



SUBMITTING A REQUEST

As of November 1st, all requests for drug screening results and consultations around results should be submitted on the form found online at <http://bit.ly/CFSAswsf> and sent to cfsa.wellbeing@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.

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 abuse 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 abuse as part of a child maltreatment or child abuse investigation and determine whether substance abuse 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).