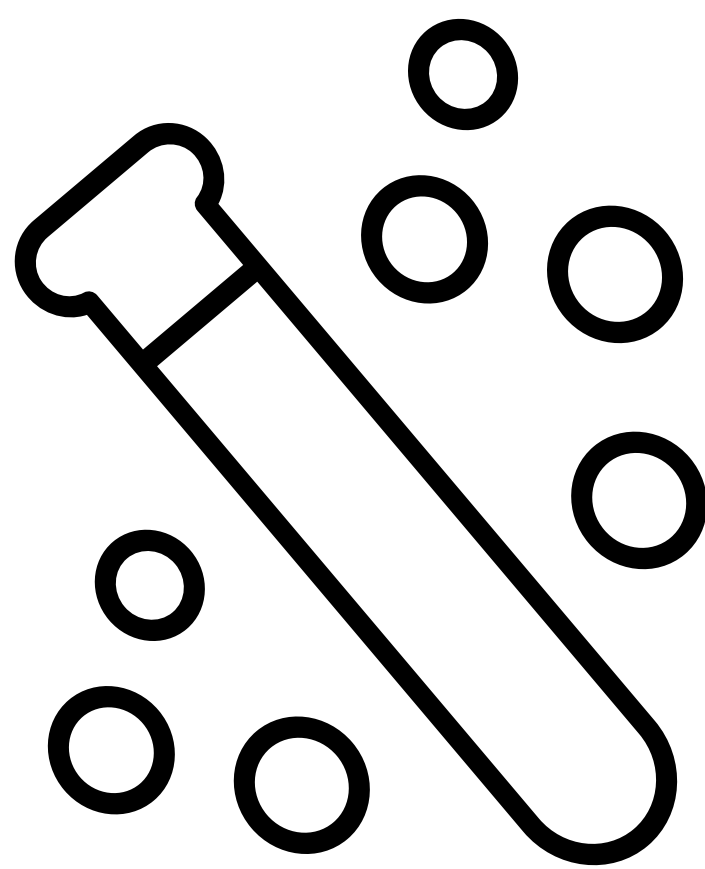


DRUG TESTING & CHILD WELFARE

Guidelines Based on Current Practices

WHY DRUG TEST?



Drug testing can

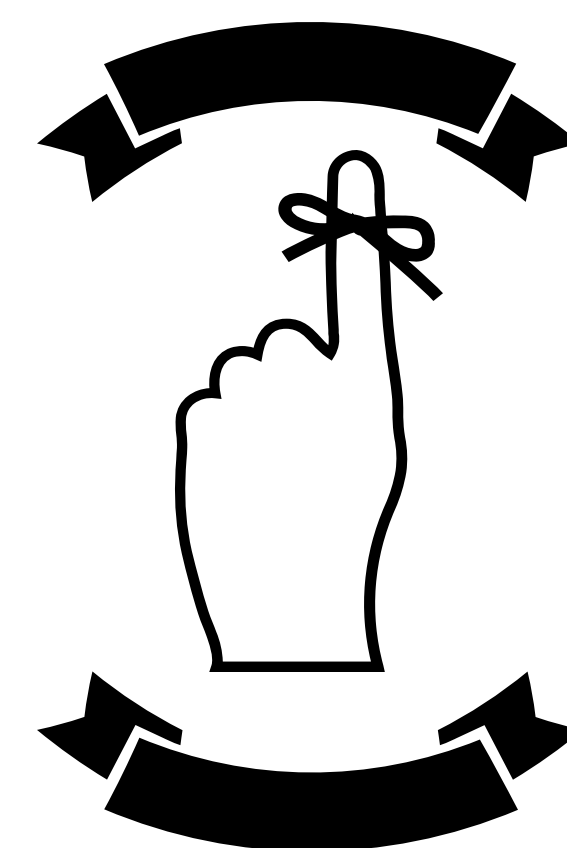
- Help motivate parents for treatment
- Provide positive reinforcement & discourage substance use
- Be a part of comprehensive case & treatment planning & risk assessment

REMEMBER

A positive drug test alone DOES NOT mean a child is unsafe and needs to be removed

In child welfare, drug testing:

- Can be a tool to help parents gain sobriety
- Can help monitor and improve family well-being
- Should **NOT** be used punitively
- Is an opportunity for a parent to show progress



Relapse is an expected part of the recovery process

Work with treatment provider to develop testing and relapse prevention plans

Addiction and recovery look different for everyone

WHAT WORKS



Random testing is best regardless of test method



Discuss with parents:

- The purpose of the testing
- How results are used to aid in parent treatment and as a part of child welfare assessment



Discuss the drug test results with the parent:

- Use negative tests to encourage and motivate the parent
- Use positive tests to review and adjust treatment plan

How Often and How Long to Test?

Drug Testing & Scheduling Depends on:

- Parents' progress in treatment
- How long substance can be detected
- Severity and pattern of substance use
- Previous testing results
- Treatment participation
- Any changes in appearance or demeanor

For Parents With Good Progress:

Suggested Schedule

Time from Testing Start	Suggested Frequency
0-30 Days	2 Times per Week
31-60 Days	1 Time per Week
61-120 Days	2 Times per Month
121+ Days	Monthly to Conclusion

