

# Memorandum

CDP26-12

**DATE:** June 18, 2026

**TO:** Children's Division and Foster Care Case Management

**FROM:** Sara Smith, Children's Division Director

**SUBJECT:** **New Policy and Guide for Drug Testing**

**OVERVIEW:**

This memo is to inform staff of the new policy: CWM 1.5.5 Caregiver Capacity and Impairment, Drug Testing and the Drug Testing Checklist Guide (CD-350).

The Children's Division may need drug or alcohol testing of parents, caregivers, or children to assess child safety, parental protective capacities, and to comply with court orders. Drug test results can provide crucial information to guide informed decision-making and treatment planning. This policy offers guidance to assist worker understanding and communication when making referrals to drug-testing providers and analyzing test results.

The Drug Testing Checklist Guide (CD-350) has been created as an optional tool that can be used when making a drug test referral. The checklist provides a guide to ensure the test requested is the test completed. The checklist can be sent with the referral to the drug testing provider.

For questions or concerns, please contact:

Melissa Lett, Program Development Specialist, at [Melissa.L.Lett@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Melissa.L.Lett@dss.mo.gov)

Lauren Hall, Program Coordinator, at [Lauren.Hall@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Lauren.Hall@dss.mo.gov)

Christina Barnett, Deputy Director, at [Christina.Barnett@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Christina.Barnett@dss.mo.gov)

**CHILD WELFARE MANUAL POLICY AND COLLATERAL DOCUMENTATION:**

**NEW:** [Drug Testing Checklist Guide \(CD-350\)](#)  
[CWM 1.5.5 Caregiver Capacity and Impairment, Drug Testing](#)

**EXISTING:** [CWM 1.5 Understanding and Assessing Child Safety](#)  
[CWM 1.5.6 CA/N Reports and Non-CA/N Referrals Involving Fentanyl](#)  
[PA24-CM-02 Requesting Testing of Specific Drugs for Drug Tests from Drug Testing Providers](#)

**ADDITIONAL:** [United States Drug Enforcement Administration \(DEA\)](#)  
[The National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)  
[Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)  
[National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare](#)

[Children's Treatment Services: Attachment A, Catalog of Services](#)

**NECESSARY ACTION:**

1. *Review this memorandum with all Children's Division and Foster Care Case Management team members.*
2. *Review Child Welfare Manual chapters and forms as indicated above.*