

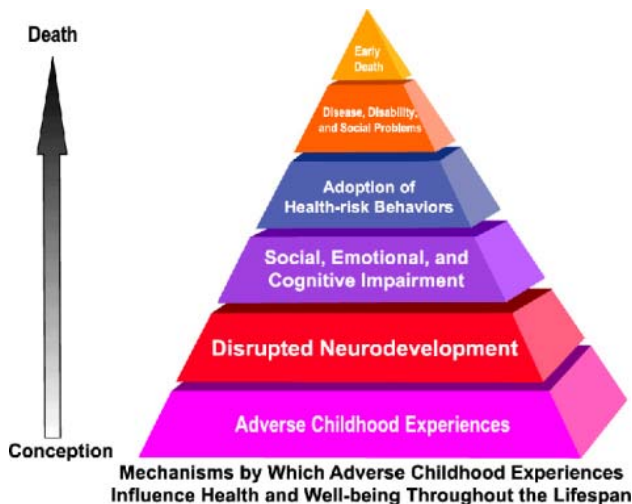
Do You Have a Drug Problem?

These are some signs of a drug problem:

- Taking more than the prescribed dose
- Frequent nosebleeds
- Change in appetite or sleep patterns
- Sudden weight loss or gain
- Deterioration in personal grooming
- Unusual injuries or accidents
- Shakes, tremors, or slurred speech
- Drop in attendance and performance at work or school
- Loss of interest in usual activities
- Change in relationships
- Increased arguments or fights
- Financial problems
- Silent, withdrawn behavior
- Sudden mood changes
- Paranoia
- Hyperactivity
- Lack of motivation (Source: <https://ncadd.org/>)

Effects on Children

Using drugs or growing up in households with substance abuse can have devastating effects on children. The brain does not mature until the mid-20s, so childhood trauma and substance abuse can permanently alter brain function. Children growing up around drugs may experience neglect, abuse, abandonment, anxiety, fear, concern, embarrassment, guilt, and other unhealthy responses.



The Rest is Still Unwritten

You were ordered to have a drug screen. You may feel panic or defeat. This brochure gives a brief overview of what to expect.

If you have a problem with alcohol or drugs, please seek help now.

Everyone wants you and your family to be healthy and safe. This could be a new chapter for you. Make it a good one.



www.wvcip.com

What a Drug Screen Means to Me and My Case

A Guide for Anyone Undergoing Drug Screening in West Virginia Courts

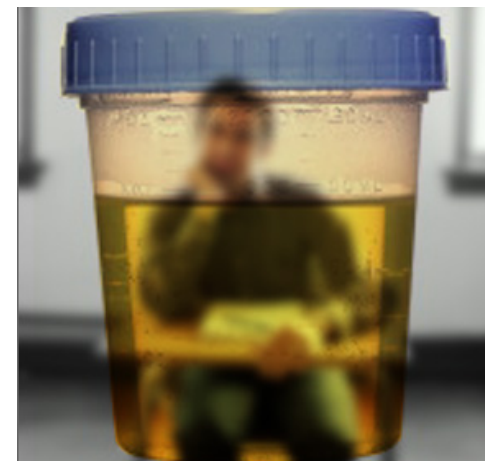


Photo by Tess Kalinoski, *Toronto Star*

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Court Improvement Program
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Drug Screening in West Virginia Courts

Why do courts order drug screening?

Drug screening is a tool courts use to see if you are using drugs.

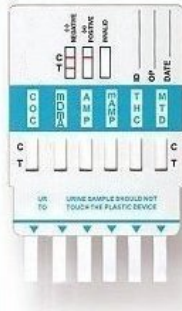
In family court cases and child abuse/neglect cases in circuit court, a judge may order you to undergo drug screening if he or she has reason to suspect that you are using drugs in a way that impairs your ability to care safely for your child.

In juvenile and criminal cases, drug screening may be a condition of probation.

What do I do if I have been ordered to take a drug screen?

You will want to follow the court's order and go to the drug screening as directed. If you have a lawyer, talk with him or her about your next steps. Skipping a drug screen looks bad, as if you are hiding drug use, and may be considered a positive by the court.

It is also not a good idea for you to try to cheat the screen. Attempts to cheat will only harm you and your family. Courts and probation officers are wise to schemes to cheat the screen.



How does the drug screen work?

Usually, a court officer will explain how the sample will be collected, either through urine or oral screening. He or she will go over what happens if you refuse to give a sample or tamper with it in some way. Your current prescriptions will be documented and verified.

There is usually no charge if you cannot afford to pay and have an approved financial affidavit in your case. Otherwise, the screen may cost from about \$9 to \$40, depending on the type and number of drugs screened. The fee is paid to the circuit clerk.

Read more in the "Probation Drug Testing Policy and Protocol," available at your local probation office.

What if my drug screen is positive?

Continued substance abuse has serious consequences. However, a positive drug screen is not the end of your world. What happens next is really up to you.

The courts want you to be healthy and safe for your family and community. Use this as an opportunity to seek help if you are struggling with an addiction.

Need help?

Know that you are not alone.

Depending on your case, you may talk with your lawyer, your child's guardian *ad litem*, a probation officer, or other people you trust about treatment options.

To find services in West Virginia near you, visit



Other resources

WV Help mobile app (available for iPhone and Android), developed by WV Children's Justice Task Force, gives local telephone numbers and resources when dealing with a victim experiencing crime, violence, or abuse

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Referral Line 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings www.aa.org

Narcotics Anonymous Meetings www.mrscna.org or <http://tristate-na.org/> (northern panhandle)

Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Covenant House "9-line" for teens 1-800-999-9999

National Runaway Hotline 1-800-621-4000

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1-888-373-7888

W.Va. Child and Adult Protective Services Hotline 1-800-352-6513

