



**FAMILY LAW FOCUSED DRUG & ALCOHOL  
QUARTERLY NEWS / VIEWS & HELPFUL HINTS**

Summer 2013 / 2014

What should I request in Court Orders with respect to drug and alcohol testing?

Drug and alcohol testing can be complicated. Which test? How often? Random or announced? For how long?

Urine testing (drugs):

Consideration should be given to which drugs; how often; will it be random and how quickly should a sample be collected. Issues with possible 'cheating' need to be managed and compliant, meaningful testing should be performed.

LFT and / or CDT testing (alcohol):

**Which tests and for how long?** Depending on the issues it may involve a single test or ongoing testing. Interpretation can also be complicated and may require some corroborating evidence of excessive alcohol use.

Hair testing (drugs):

Issues relating to the length of hair to be tested, the drugs that testing can and cannot detect all need to be considered together with the interpretation of the results.

The simplest and most effective solution to address all these issues is a phone call or email us draft orders to review:

- Each matter is unique. IFC together with other toxicology providers can help you formulate a drug testing strategy that is specific to the needs and questions that require answering in your specific matter
- In the case of IFC, we can:
  - ◆ recommend a drug testing protocol
  - ◆ review or prepare draft Orders
  - ◆ recommend laboratories for drug and alcohol testing
  - ◆ prepare a report and facilitate affidavit preparation for Court.
- Pathology labs and GPs do not perform hair testing and as such if required, IFC can also facilitate hair testing (i.e. hair collection and testing) and provide an Expert Report interpreting the results with respect to the issues raised and the questions posed in the specific matter.

If you require some help, please call for some free-advice.

Recent Questions from Lawyers

- **Q: Will drugs such as oxycodone (Endone; OxyContin) and buprenorphine (Subutex; Suboxone), two drugs that are widely misused, be detected in a urine drug screen?**

A: Routine urine drug testing according to current practices will only detect the opiates codeine and morphine. As such a urine drug test if done without specific direction, will not detect these commonly abused opiates.

As outlined in previous Newsletters, routine drug testing only look for and detect a small number of drugs. As such a knowledgeable person may simply use and misuse a 'non-detectable' drug in order to avoid detection.

And a Reminder.....

- We also provide newsletters for lawyers specialising in Criminal Law and Personal Injury, Workplace and Insurance Law - Please let us know if you would like to receive or previous newsletters listed below

**PAST NEWSLETTERS (Contact IFC for copies) -**

- ❖ How do I organise laboratory testing for alcohol or drug use or abuse?
- ❖ Synthetic Drugs - What are they and what are the implications for Family Lawyers
- ❖ What to do if you suspect drug use
- ❖ General techniques and strategies to establish ongoing drug use or abstinence
- ❖ Common techniques used to avoid drug positive urine test results. Issues you should be aware of
- ❖ How to establish alcohol abuse or confirm abstinence
- ❖ How to interpret liver function tests (LFTs)

**HAVE YOUR GENERAL QUESTIONS ANSWERED via LinkedIn -  
A lawyer's resource to have general Drug and Alcohol-related questions answered**

Come join our LinkedIn forum to have your general drug and alcohol-related questions answered.

[http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3976423&trk=hb\\_side\\_g](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3976423&trk=hb_side_g)

Newsletter provided courtesy of:

**Independent Forensic Consulting**  
*Experts in Drug & Alcohol-Related Matters*

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