

Do You Suspect a Drug Endangered Child?



What to look for:

- Evidence of children in the home
- Evidence of physical, sexual, mental abuse of children
- Child's appearance (e.g., poor overall hygiene, including dental; inappropriate or insufficient clothing; etc.)
- Drugs and/or drug paraphernalia
- Weapons (e.g., guns, knives, etc.)
- Pornography/sex paraphernalia
- Chemicals
- Any strong odors
- Food availability in refrigerator and cupboards
- Sleeping conditions/arrangements
- Fire hazards
- Pest and animal hazards (e.g., rodents, roaches, feces, etc.)
- Poor home conditions
 - Building code violations
 - Exposed wiring
 - Broken windows
 - Holes in flooring or wall
 - Functional utilities (water, gas, air)
 - Presence of mold
- Evidence, or lack thereof, of school attendance

****If you suspect a Meth lab – get out, call Hazmat****

Law Enforcement Steps to Take:

- Notify Supervisor/NARC unit
- Contact Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Document all evidence
 - Record smells
 - Take pictures, measurements
 - Videotape home, surroundings
 - Record interviews, if standard practice
- Establish who lives in the home
- Establish caretaker
- Interview neighbors
- Coordinate interview of children with CPS
 - Remember to be child-friendly (i.e., no leading questions)
 - Encourage the children to draw pictures
- Follow established medical protocols
- Charge child crime (endangerment charge) as applicable
- Decontaminate (as needed)

Child Protective Services Steps to Take:

- Respond in a timely manner
- Coordinate investigative steps with law enforcement
- Obtain general description of home environment, including:
 - environmental hazards,
 - children's access to drugs,
 - pictures and measurements, etc.
- Share case history, family history, and prior history with CPS with law enforcement
- Document all evidence (record interviews, if standard practice)
- Establish who lives in the home
- Establish caretaker
- Interview neighbors
- Coordinate interview of child with law enforcement
 - Remember to be child-friendly (i.e., no leading questions)
 - Encourage the children to draw pictures
- Arrange transport of child
- Follow established medical protocols

Additional Resources:

Fire • Enforcement • EMS • Hazmat • Compensation Medical • Welfare Fraud

**For more information on drug endangered children, visit our web site
www.NationalIDEC.org**



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