

## CHILD WELFARE UPDATE

<b>Title:</b>	<b>DHS Drug Testing Authorization System</b>
<b>Publish Date:</b>	07/23/2021
<b>Effective Date:</b>	August 3, 2021
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<b>Background Information:</b>	<p><b>Background Information:</b> DHS field staff use the Drug Testing Authorization System when there is a need to authorize drug testing during a child abuse assessment or for ongoing child welfare cases.</p> <p><b>Stakeholder Engagement:</b> Various DHS stakeholders have been engaged over the years in evaluating the DHS drug testing policies and practices and are in support of the move to a research based approach that includes the use of behavioral indicators in determining when drug testing is needed.</p> <p><b>Reason for the Change:</b> The DHS Drug Testing Authorization System was redesigned to promote the use of behavioral indicators in determining the need for testing and to support best practice with regard to the type of test that is authorized and the frequency and duration of testing.</p>

<p><b>What Is Changing:</b></p>	<p><b>What Is Changing:</b> The changes that are being made with the implementation of the DHS Drug Testing Authorization system include: the guidelines for authorizing drug testing, the role of behavioral indicators in drug testing, the addition of guidance features within the system, and the collection of drug testing data.</p> <p><b>Who Is Impacted:</b> DHS Child Protection Workers, Case Managers, and Supervisors</p>
<p><b>What Is Not Changing:</b></p>	<p>The redesign is not a shift in philosophy for DHS as it follows and supports the current DHS Drug Testing Protocols that whenever possible, drug testing should be limited to those situations in which behavioral, relational, psychological and/or physical indicators exist which could potentially affect a child's safety.</p>
<p><b>Expected Benefits:</b></p>	<p>The redesigned DHS Drug Authorization System will support best practices in drug testing and will provide system guidance features for workers in choosing the type of test to authorize, based on what drugs are detected for each test type and the detection times for different types of drugs.</p>