

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services Section 32: Substance Use Assessment and Testing for a Child in Out-of-Home Care	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 2

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will refer a child for a substance use assessment if there is concern for the child's overall safety, health, and well-being.

POLICY STATEMENT

Depending on the assessment information received, DCS will make sure the child has access to counseling, treatment, and medical services as recommended.

DCS will obtain consent from the child's parent, guardian, or custodian before referring the child for substance use testing or ask for a court order if testing is recommended and consent was not granted.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 12-23-12: Voluntary and Involuntary Treatment by Division for Minors](#)
- [42 CFR Part 2: Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records; Subpart C 2.31 Form of Written Consent](#)