

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 4: Assessment Section 16: Clinical Evaluations & Drug Testing	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 8

POLICY OVERVIEW

Medical exams, psychological tests, drug screens, and substance use evaluations may be done on an alleged child victim, any child who lives in the home, and/or any parent, guardian, or custodian of an alleged child victim during an Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) assessment to check the health and well-being of the child.

POLICY STATEMENT

The juvenile court may order that the child be temporarily confined for up to 14 days, excluding weekends and legal holidays, to complete a mental or physical exam.

Medical Exams

DCS will seek a medical exam of the alleged child victim when one (1) or more of the following conditions exist:

1. They have an injury that would cause a reasonable person to believe medical attention is needed;
2. The allegations include sexual abuse involving penetration, and it is believed the information gathered during the exam will help make an assessment finding;

Note: The extent and type of evaluation for allegations involving sexual abuse will be decided by a doctor, who will likely consider the length of time that has passed since the incident and the age of the child.

3. They have been removed from a property that contains a contaminating controlled substance; or
4. They are under two (2) years of age and a head injury or shaking is alleged even if there are no visible injuries.

Psychological Testing

DCS will seek psychological testing of the alleged child victim when approved by the DCS Local Office Director (LOD) and one (1) or more of the following conditions exist:

1. The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment shows a need for a full mental health assessment; or
2. They show behaviors that would cause a reasonable person to believe the child is a danger to self and/or others.

Substance Use Evaluations and Screening

DCS will pursue a drug screen and/or a substance use evaluation of the alleged child victim when one (1) or more of the following conditions exist:

1. They may have had access to illegal substances;
2. Their behavior indicates they may have used or been exposed to illegal substances; and/or
3. There are allegations or other indications that they may have used or been exposed to illegal substances.

Assessing Caregivers

DCS may ask the alleged victim's parent, guardian, or custodian to voluntarily submit to a medical exam, psychological test, drug screen, and/or substance use evaluation, if there is an indication of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N) or the allegations involve CA/N which may be due to:

1. Illegal substance use;
2. Alcohol use; or
3. Mental incompetence.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 16-39-3-8: Child in need of services; petition for emergency hearing on request for records of parent, guardian, or custodian](#)
- [IC 31-32-12: Chapter 12. Mental or Physical Examinations](#)
- [IC 31-32-12-2: Temporary confinement of child](#)
- [IC 31-33-8-7: Scope of investigation by department of child services; order for access to home, school, or other place, or for mental or physical examinations; petition to interview child; order; requirements](#)