

Timeline: Child Identified in Drug Related Investigation

The purpose of this document is to provide a general timeline for a child victim identified in a drug related investigation.

Investigations	Protection	Interventions	Report	Parent/Caretaker	Outcome for Child
<p>Scenarios:</p> <p>1) Drug activity reported; investigative response expedited due to presence of children.</p> <p>2) Child found at the scene of a drug bust without prior awareness of child.</p> <p>3) Evidence of child found at scene, but no child present.</p> <p>Child identified through law enforcement investigation. As a result of suspected child abuse, neglect and/or endangerment, and mandated reporter, child protective service professional contacted.</p>	<p>Child Protective Services, appropriate social service component, and/or multidisciplinary response team contacted to respond to scene.</p> <p>Co-investigation ensues which includes sharing of information, case history, family history on criminal and civil sides, including history of driving offenses and domestic violence.</p> <p>If child is not present, efforts are made to identify the child's name, age, where child is educated or enrolled in daycare, and where medical care is typically sought. Plan is implemented to locate and ensure safety of child.</p>	<p>Medical examination for physical and/or sexual abuse, developmental assessment, screening for sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect on grounds that exposure to drug environments substantially increases the risk of harm to children thus creating reasonable suspicion of harm until otherwise proven.</p> <p>NCIC check to follow before placement of a child with a relative is approved. No relative placement should be approved with anyone with outstanding offenses or failure to provide evidence that they are in recovery, able to provide, and have not failed to protect the child(ren) discovered living in a drug home.</p>	<p>Within agency, report as required. By law, child abuse must be reported.</p>	<p>Arrested/Not arrested. Child must be placed in a safe environment with a non-culpable adult, parent, caregiver, or foster placement.</p> <p>It is important to note that period of risk of harm to a non-arrested adult and child may increase if drugs lost in seizure may have belonged to someone else. Unpaid drug debt and risk of "snitching" is a dangerous circumstance for a child to be exposed.</p>	<p>Permanency—relative placement, emancipation, foster care, adoption, reunification with parent in accordance with ASFA guidelines.</p>
<p>Child Protective Service professional identifies drug use and/or possession in home where the child is discovered.</p>	<p>Services center around the well-being of the child, monitoring of trauma will be ongoing, support offered for children.</p>	<p>Legal , Mental Health, Educational, Medical Examination of truancy and behavioral reports from school.</p>	<p>Assignment of a child advocate, or court appointed special advocate (CASA) and/or volunteer.</p>	<p>Criminal Drug Court (parent found guilty of drug crime; child likely remains with parent) Family Drug Court (civil court; child is in foster care or relative placement)</p>	<p>Foster care</p>
<p>Coordination with Victim Witness Program</p>	<p>Forensic interviewing</p>	<p>Therapeutic/Counseling: trauma assessment; evidence based therapy services</p>		<p>Treatment</p>	<p>Adoption</p>
<p>Community Mental Health</p>					<p>Parental rights terminated</p>