



RANDOLPH COUNTY
Department of Social Services

Beth W. Duncan
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PRESS RELEASE

“Drug Testing Implemented for Receipt of Work First Benefits in North Carolina”

North Carolina General Statute 108A-29.1, requires substance use screening and testing for the illegal use of controlled substances, if there is reasonable suspicion, for each Work First Program applicant or recipient as a condition of eligibility to receive assistance. On August 1, 2015 the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) /Division of Social Services implemented the drug testing policy for the Work First Family Assistance (WFFA) program. The policy applies to parents who receive WFFA for their children, with the exception of parents who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Here is how it works. At application, and at each review, parents are required to undergo a written substance use screening. If the score on the screening indicates that there is a reasonable suspicion of the illegal use of controlled substances, the individual will be asked to complete a urine drug test. The results of the drug test are confidential and cannot be released to law enforcement. If the individual has a criminal conviction related to illegal controlled substances within the last three years the individual will also be referred for a urine drug test.

The test will look for the presence of the following substances: cannabinoids (marijuana, weed); cocaine (cocaine and crack); methamphetamines (meth, crystal, crank); amphetamines (speed, uppers); opiates (heroin, opium); and phencyclidine (angel dust, PCP).

If a parent refuses to take the written screening, or to complete the urine test, or if the results of the urine test reveals the presence of one or more of the substance that is tested for, the individual is ineligible to receive WFFA. However, according to state statute, the remainder of the family may be eligible. A protective payee will be appointed to manage the WFFA payment if the parent tests positive.

North Carolina DHHS has contracted with Fortes Laboratories to provide the testing. Fortes is certified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide drug and alcohol testing. In order to provide the testing for Work First clients in all 100 counties, Fortes has established a network of testing sites across the state.

If you have questions about the Work First Family Assistance Program, call or visit your local county DSS. In Randolph County call 336-683-8009. You can also visit: <http://www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/> or the state web site at: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dss/> .

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