

HOPE HOUSING, TRAINING & SUPPORT LTD

Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy

It is in the terms and conditions of tenancy that service users can be tested for illegal drugs or alcohol.

The two different types of accommodation have different testing criteria. The dry/safe houses require total abstinence and therefore zero tolerance for alcohol, any illegal drug or misuse of prescription/over the counter drugs.

The other supported accommodation will have less rigid criteria, i.e. only class A and B drugs will cause the service user to have breached the terms of their license agreement and hence an eviction served that day.

Testing can be undertaken by any member of staff although usually it will be your designated support worker who will undertake this. Testing will be carried out on a regular basis when staff feel it is most appropriate, i.e. when someone first moves in, if someone has been away, or if they are displaying certain behaviours.

Service users will not be informed of the testing date or time so residents cannot plan to cheat a test. Drug tests will be either urine tests or saliva test. Alcohol tests will be a breathalyser test.

The results and procedure of the test will be carried out openly i.e. for the service user to be present whilst awaiting results.

If several service users are being tested at the same time, two or more staff will be conducting the tests.

If supervised testing is considered necessary i.e. an observed urine sample, then it will be undertaken by a support worker of the same sex.

If a test sample is considered as suspect then a second test will occur which will be supervised.

Failure to be willing to undertake a test will be treated as a positive result unless there are reasonable grounds to refuse.