

Did You Know?

Substance Affected Infants

According to **KAR 922 1:330 Section 2 (8)**, DCBS shall accept a report of neglect due to a caretaker's use of drugs or alcohol that results in a child born exposed to drugs or alcohol, as documented by a healthcare provider.

[SOP 2.3 Acceptance Criteria and Reports That Don't Meet](#) indicates that an infant born with non-prescribed drugs in their system or showing signs of withdrawal from non-prescribed drugs is considered a substance affected infant.

Research indicates that certain substances, if used during pregnancy, will most likely result in the infant being exposed and affected.

Additional information is needed to determine if an infant is, or should be, considered substance affected.

- A positive prenatal drug screen **alone** does not meet the threshold to indicate that an infant is, or should be, considered substance affected.
- A mother with a positive drug screen upon admission/delivery **alone** does not meet the threshold to indicate that an infant is, or should be, considered substance affected.

In order to assess the totality of the safety threat and risk to the infant, additional information is needed. Information should be documented to show how the infant is affected.

The referral source should be asked to provide information such as:

- When was the most recent prenatal positive and/or the frequency of prenatal positives? What substance?
- What prescriptions is the mother currently prescribed? Has this been verified?
- Was the drug screen completed upon admission or after medications to assist with pain management were administered?
- Did the mother seek/complete treatment? Where did she receive treatment? Has treatment been verified? Is the mother compliant with treatment?
- Is the infant showing withdrawal symptoms? What symptoms is the infant experiencing? Was the infant positive at birth? Did the hospital collect cord blood and/or meconium for testing? When will those results be available?
- Is there history of substance exposed pregnancies/infants or history of agency involvement for substance misuse, etc.? The central intake SSW will document these details in the intake summary/narrative.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this information, please contact:

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