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Drug Testing: A Workforce In Dilemma

By James Warden

When I began my working career, drug testing was not even a word combination. I had never been exposed to drugs beyond the point of alcoholic beverages, and then only on special occasions and holidays. To contemplate daily usage of some foreign substance was beyond my realm of possibilities. I was not alone. That was twenty-five years and many drug issues ago.

Today, if you apply for a job, of any kind, you will be drug tested. Why? Because a lot has changed in twenty-five years. Today, the prevalence of drug abuse in every level of our society has grown beyond anyone's belief. Drugs have infected our teens, our adults, the rich, the poor; even the sanctuaries of our churches are no longer exempted. If you can manage to reach the age of thirteen, without exposure to marijuana, hallucinogenic substances, or the common place alcoholic beverage, you are an exception. With so many opportunities for experimentation, it's no wonder that we have a problem with drug addiction in our workplace. Once a young person becomes addicted to a drug, the chances of abstinence are low, until it begins to affect their ability to generate an income, or interact in relationships.

The point of intervention for most employers is to simply prohibit the employment of an individual that tests positive for drug use. The cost to employers for employees with drug or substance abuse problems is staggering. Employees will cost their twice as much in medical bills and workmen's compensation claims. Drug related crime is the second largest expense to an employer. Lost productivity for victims and lost employees due to incarceration for drug crimes accounts for the bulk of the drug related expense.

Thanks to the advent of drug testing in the workplace, drug use rates have continued to decline since 1992, and remain stabilized today around 7%. Implementing a drug testing program in your place of business has never been easier, and the cost is minimal. Businesses have access to many hundreds of companies that are drug testing administrators. These companies will provide your business with everything you need to drug test all employees, or randomly test a few employees. You simply notify the administrating company when you're ready to test, and they handle the rest. The administrator performs onsite interviewing and testing, proceeds to having the tests processed and providing you with the results.

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Drug testing for the most common illegal drugs is readily available, and some of the more difficult testing options can be incorporated at the customer's request. Drug test kits for the most common tests require the individual being tested to supply a certain amount of urine, in a tube, vial, or small cup. Introduction of a fairly new test strip further ensure the laboratory that the urine provided is not "borrowed" and brought into the testing facility. Other common forms of test methods are saliva, hair and blood. Generally speaking, however, urine provides the most reliable results at the most economical expense.

James Warden is an attorney with a background in workplace issues. His thoughts & comments about "Drug Tests & Testing" can be found at

<http://www.drug-tests-and-drug-testing.com>

Important Points To Consider When It Comes To Drug Testing

By Stephen White

For people who want to have a loved one undergo drug testing or for anyone who just wants to go through a drug testing, here are some highly important points to take note of when it comes to drug testing and substance abuse. It really is high time for people all across the United States, even the entire world, to really put some greater importance on the life threatening risks that are involved when it comes to drugs and various other substance abuses.

Some general information about the detection of drug abuse from drug testing: as compared to having a drug testing wherein they will take samples of the patient's blood, it is highly recommended that the medical technicians just use the patient's urine as the urine has been proven to be actually more reliable when it comes to the detection of any drug abuse. Unfortunately, it also a more expensive kind of drug testing. However, even if it is fairly easy for medical technicians to see whether or not a person has taken in some harmful drugs into one's system.

A urine drug testing, as goes with the blood drug testing, would not be able to provide the medical technicians with other relevant information with regards to the drug testing. Whether or not the patient is under the influence of the drug at a specific time is most unlikely to be determined by the urine drug testing.

Blood testing, however, in spite of being the lesser choice when it comes to drug testing will actually be able to help the medical technicians to obtain some more relevant information on whether or not the individual is actually under the influence of drugs during the time that he or she went through the drug testing. Although some experts say that this may tend to not be conclusive in all cases.

Another drug testing technique nowadays is through hair testing which is actually not recommended because a lot of laboratories are actually finding some difficulty with regards to the reliability of the results especially, as most often than not, drug testing through the hair usually poses "positive" results for the patient. A lot of people don't buy into this kind of drug testing since with the simple act of washing one's hair as well as being subjected to other hair "contaminants" can the patient actually

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saves his or herself from being detected with any substance abuse.

The laboratories that usually perform this kind of drug testing do not really have the ability to confirm the reliability as well as the accuracy of their hair testing's results. This can actually put lawyers who are defending a person who is said to have been under substance abuse in a precarious situation wherein the evidence to be presented in court may really not be that reliable. The urine drug testing's accuracy is also highly dependent on how the drug testing procedure has been carried out by the medical technician.

It is important to note that drug testing will only be extremely reliable and accurate if and only if every aspect of the drug testing process are done with much care. When mishandling happens, there is the great chance that the results of the drug testing may actually be inaccurate and unreliable. This is why when it comes to drug testing, the people who are going through with it should be fully aware of how the drug testing process should be appropriately done as well as exercise one's assertiveness by demanding that the clinic which is conducting the drug testing has to do it properly and according to the systems standards.

Unfortunately, most especially during this time wherein more and more people are getting lured into doing drugs as well as other substance abuse, a lot of the clinics that are conducting drug testing all over the United States are not really capable of providing the reliable results that people need due to the rampant mishandling and as well as the improper way that some clinics conduct their drug testings. Therefore, the top three most reliable aspects that people should need to look for in a drug test for it be considered as reliable: strict collection procedures, proper testing procedures and random notification.

For more great drug testing info and advice check out:

<http://www.drugtestinghq.com>



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