

# DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN (DEC) CHECKLIST CARD FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

## COLOR

CUT TO INSIDE OF LINE, FOLD, AND LAMINATE

FOLD



- Collect physical evidence.
- Determine and report care and custody of child for prior 72 hours.
- Run criminal history of culpable & non-culpable individual(s).
- If child is not present, but there is evidence of their presence, document as previously detailed and coordinate with Child Protective Services to implement a plan to locate and ensure safety of child.
- Coordinate with mental health professionals.
- Notify prosecutor. Provide copies of photographs and reports.
- Report as directed by employing agency.
- Refer to your local Victim Witness Coordinator, Child Protective Service professional and/or Multidisciplinary Response Team (MRT).

### RESOURCES:

Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline ■ 1-800-422-4453 ■ [www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org).  
National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children ■ [www.nadec.org](http://www.nadec.org)  
National Drug Endangered Child Training & Advocacy Center (NDEC-TAC) ■ [www.ndec-tac.org](http://www.ndec-tac.org)  
National Child Advocacy Center ■ [www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org)

## Drug Endangered Child (DEC) Checklist for Law Enforcement

Prior to an enforcement action, **identify potential child victim** aka drug endangered child. **Collaborate** with Child Protective Services and/or Multidisciplinary Response Team.

### On scene, if child present:

- Document child name, DOB, address, special considerations; name of parent/caretaker/guardian and telephone number.
- Coordinate with victim advocate and medical and/or public health professional. Determine responsibility for urine evidence collection.
- Photograph child.
- Document physical condition of child.
- Measure height and reach of the child to location of the drug(s), weapon(s), hazard(s), and/or pornography.
- If clandestine lab investigation, ensure on-site or off-site decontamination.
- Interview child as witness; if available, utilize child forensic interviewer.
- Document and photograph inside and outside of residence, living conditions, cleanliness of home, functioning utilities, available food, etc.

BACK

FRONT

## BLACK & WHITE

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Provided as a public service by the Interagency Task Force on Drug Endangered Children,

[www.WhiteHouseDrugPolicy.gov/children](http://www.WhiteHouseDrugPolicy.gov/children)