

What to expect from Kids First/Clearstart

Order for Drug Testing & Assessment, if Needed

1. When an individual has been ordered to undergo testing and a potential Clearstart assessment, he or she must telephone the Kids First Administrator on the day of the drug/alcohol screens to schedule an appointment to review the screen results. It can take up to two (2) weeks for the Kids First Program to receive drug/alcohol screen results from the testing facility. The meeting to review the screen results will be approximately two weeks from the day the individual has screened and contacted Kids First to schedule the appointment.
2. Attorneys, opposing parties and the Clerk's office can expect to receive the screen results once the individual has met with the Kids First Administrator. An Assignment List or a Non-compliance notice will be attached to the screen results. The Assignment List will indicate whether or not the individual who was screened is required to submit to a substance abuse disorder assessment with Clearstart. A Non-compliance notice will indicate if the individual has failed to comply with the drug testing order.
3. In the event an individual has screened, met with the Kids First Administrator, and has begun their Clearstart assessment (3 meetings with Licensed Clinicians), he or she will be instructed to contact a hotline number daily; if their number/color has been called, he or she will have 24 hours to submit to a random drug screen at the facility designated by Clearstart. After the final meeting and once the individual has completed the Clearstart assessment, a report with recommendations, if any, will be provided by Clearstart to the Kids First Administrator. When Kids First receives the report from Clearstart, the attorneys involved in the case, the opposing party, the Clerk's office, and the individual who was assessed, will be sent a copy of the report. The individual will have a hearing date with a Hearing Officer to review and discuss the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Clearstart report. If the tested individual timely objects to the hearing officer's recommendations regarding implementation, a hearing will be scheduled before the judge assigned to the case.

Order for Drug Testing Only

1. When an individual has been ordered to undergo a drug/alcohol test only, upon receipt of the drug/alcohol screens by the Kids First Program, copies will be emailed to Attorney(s), the tested individual and the opposing party, and filed with the Clerk's Office. Screen results may take up to two (2) weeks to come in.

Clearstart Monitoring

1. Once an Individual has entered into the Family Court Monitoring program with Clearstart, he or she must continue to contact the hotline number daily. If the participant's number/color is called, the participant must submit to the screen within 24hrs.
2. Every participant must comply with the recommendations of Clearstart.

3. All Monthly reports, Client updates, and Non-compliance notices received by the Kids First Program from Clearstart will be emailed to Attorneys, opposing party, the Clerk of Court's office, and the individual undergoing monitoring.
4. All Random screens during participation in the Clearstart monitoring program will be listed on all Monthly reports. At any given time, if the participant who has been screened, Attorney(s) in the case, or the opposing party desire to view the actual screen, they may contact the Kids First Administrator for a copy. Random screens will be emailed to the Attorneys, opposing party and filed with the Clerk's office in a timely manner. Any valid prescription of the participant will also be listed on the monthly reports.

Additional Information

If you are represented by an Attorney

1. Any and all updates throughout the Clearstart/Kids First process will be sent to your Attorney. In the event you are not aware of your current status, contact the Kids First Program or your Attorney to determine if there are any new updates.

If you are unrepresented

1. If you are a self-represented party, any and all updates throughout the Clearstart/Kids First process will be mailed or emailed to the address/email on file. Please make sure that your correct address is on file with the Clerk's office at all times!

If attorneys, participating party, or opposing parties have ANY questions, please contact the Kids First program where someone will provide answers regarding standard procedures and protocols, as well as details regarding the current status of a case! PLEASE NOTE, only the parties and attorneys of record in the case are entitled to receive this information. Before information is provided, Kids First must validate the identification of the caller.

PLEASE NOTE: The Court has a standing order that all drug screens and Clearstart Reports shall be sealed in the suit record, only available to the parties and attorneys of record. Further, as provided in R.S. 9:331.1, "[T]he fact that the court orders a drug test and the results of such test shall be confidential and shall not be admissible in any other proceedings."