

Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Checklist for Prosecutors

The purpose of this checklist is to offer a guide to ensure collaboration for a coordinated response to a child victim identified in a drug related environment.

Date: _____

Office: _____

Prosecutor: _____

Catalog evidence:

- Ensure investigators seize weapons, drugs, money
- Ensure investigators catalogue pornography
- Ensure investigators identify computers that may be used for drug activity or child exploitation
- Identify drug associates of defendants
- Determine care, custody and control each adult has had of children
- Review photographs and video taken at scene
- Determine access to drugs, drug paraphernalia, weapons, and cash
- Determine knowledge of children of drug activity, people, and impairment
- Drawings of children with a child's narration and photo of child drawing the work
- Determine length and history of exposure to physical abuse and neglect
- Review evidence of sexual exploitation and abuse

Request documentation of the following:

- Prior and present Social Service investigation reports
- Medical records
- Urine drug screen results at time of incident
- Child's drug screen result at birth, if available
- School attendance records and school counselor reports
- Collect written projects and art projects if possible
- Prior arrest histories of culpable adults
- Results of child forensic interview to follow on-scene victim witness interview
- In smurfing cases, request store video to determine presence of children

Other:

- Review evidence with investigating officer.
- Communicate to investigators the level of evidence you require in order to pursue charges.
- List child as a crime victim to ensure mental health and medical services are provided.
- Coordinate with Victim Witness Coordinator, Advocate and/or Guardian Ad Litem