

*When to Report*

# Infant Substance Exposure to DCYF Intake



Any case of a newborn with safety concerns



A newborn has a positive toxicology with confirmatory testing for an illegal substance or a non-prescribed substance(s)



A newborn is demonstrating signs of withdrawal as a result of maternal use of illegal substance(s), non-prescribed medication, or misuse of prescribed medication, or due to undetermined substance exposure



A healthcare provider has evidence of ongoing substance use by the birthing parent that creates safety concerns for the infant



A newborn is diagnosed with an FASD or the infant has known prenatal alcohol exposure when there are safety concerns for the infant

[www.dcyf.wa.gov/safety/report-abuse](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/safety/report-abuse)



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

## When to Refer Infants to Help Me Grow

- A healthcare provider verifies that the birthing parent is taking methadone or buprenorphine as prescribed and there are no safety concerns
- A healthcare provider verifies that the birthing parent is taking opioids as prescribed by the clinician, and there are no safety concerns
- A healthcare provider verifies that the birthing parent is taking any medication or combination of medications with the potential for abuse as prescribed by the clinician, and there are no safety concerns
- A newborn is prenatally exposed to marijuana and there are no safety concerns

<https://safecarewa.communityos.org/safecareWA>

## How can Health Care Providers Determine that there are no safety concerns?

Healthcare providers should assess whether risk factors impact the safety of the infant. If a healthcare provider has any concerns, they should call DCYF for an in-depth screening and potentially open a case for investigation or assessment.

The following questions can help healthcare providers identify potential safety concerns:

- Is the parent actively participating in their recovery program?
- Is there evidence of ongoing substance use that impairs caregiving ability to parent?
- Is the parent actively participating in care for the infant? Are there any concerns about the parent's caregiving?
- Can the parent console the infant? Can the parent meet the infants basic needs?
- Does the parent have prior history that raises concerns in regard to child safety?

This is not a complete listing of potential risks factors, but intended to aid providers. Healthcare providers are encouraged to call DCYF if they have any concerns about the safety of a family or newborn.

*If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, [ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov)).*