

Parent/Guardian Major Life Areas Sheet

Protection of Children Abusing Drugs (PChAD)

Parents/guardians are encouraged to use this worksheet when preparing to apply for a PChAD Protection order and to present evidence to the judge when you go to court. Consider each of the Major Life Areas on this sheet and write down how your child's drug use may be causing a negative impact in each area.

Family	
Education	
Employment	
Relationships	
Legal	
Physical Health	
Mental Health	
Leisure	
Spirituality	

Family

- Are you the guardians of the child and do you have regular contact with the child? (Please bring any guardianship or custody and access orders with you to the courthouse).
- Are you in a relationship or separated? Does the child have contact with non-custodial parent (if applicable)?
- What are your child's living arrangements and how much time do they spend at/away from home?
- Are there siblings and what type of relationship do they have with your child?
- Any current or past history of involvement with Child & Family Services?
- Has your child told you they are using drugs or alcohol? When was this disclosed (be specific)?
- Is there a family history of addiction issues?

Education

- Does your child attend school? (An attendance report can be obtained from the school to provide as evidence).
- How does your child perform at school? Any other issues (e.g., bullying, coming to school on drugs?) that affect attendance?
- Has the school identified any issues? Any suspensions or expulsions?
- Has the school indicated that your child is using drugs at school or coming/returning to school high? Have drugs been found on your child or in his/her locker? Is your child suspected of trafficking drugs at school?

Employment

- Has your child been let go or fired from a job related to his/her use of drugs?
- Are you aware of how your child pays for drugs or alcohol?

Relationships

- Has their circle of friends changed? Would you say these relationships are positive or negative? Do their friends use drugs?
- Has your child avoided introducing you to their friends and refused to disclose contact information for their friends or friend's parents?
- Have they experienced any loss?
- Do they use social media? (Printed screen shots can be used as evidence).

Legal

- Do they have any type current charges or convictions?
- Any prior involvement with the legal system? A probation officer or probation order in effect?
- Has your child been involved in any activity (even if not charged) related to drug offences or aggression?

Physical Health

- Has there been any weight gain/weight loss? Changes in appearance?
- Any physical health diagnosis or concerns?
- Does your child routinely take any medication for a physical ailment?
- Do they have an involved family physician?

Mental Health

- Does your child have a mental health diagnosis? (Medical records can be presented as evidence)
- Do they have an involved therapist or psychiatrist?
- If so, do they take medication for this? Have they followed a recommended treatment?
- Have you noticed any behavioral changes? Any behavioral concerns (e.g., aggression)? Has your child been aggressive towards anyone at home? Aggressive towards anyone in a position of authority? (i.e., police, teachers, group home staff, case workers, etc.)
- Has your child experienced any significant trauma or abuse?

Leisure

- Is/was your child involved in any extracurricular activities?
- Has their commitment to these activities changed or have they lost interest?

Spirituality

- Has there been a change in your child's faith/spirituality practices?
- Have they become disengaged from activities they are usually involved with? When did this occur?
- Have they expressed a feeling of hopelessness or disconnection from their lives?

Other things to consider

- Have they been in any type of voluntary detox before or sought out external supports?
- Has your child been in a protective safe house before under a PChAD order? Have they been in secure treatment?
- What drugs is your child using? How long have they been using? Frequency of use? Has use increased or decreased?
- Do you know if any changes of behavior in your child related to use?
- Have you found any drug paraphernalia, large amounts of money or unexplained merchandise?