

Behavioral signs of substance misuse

- Drop in attendance and performance at work, not keeping appointments.
- Unexplained need for money or financial problems. May borrow or steal to get it.
- Engaging in secretive or suspicious behaviors.
- Lying (often very convincingly), untrustworthy, secretive
- Sudden change in friends, favorite hangouts, and hobbies.
- Frequently getting into trouble (fights, accidents, illegal activities).

Psychological signs of substance misuse

- Unexplained change in personality or attitude.
- Focused on self & seemingly little empathy or concern for others and their needs.
- Sudden mood swings, irritability, or angry outbursts.
- Periods of unusual hyperactivity, agitation, or giddiness.
- Lack of motivation; appears lethargic or "spaced out."
- Appears fearful, anxious, or paranoid, with no reason.

C. Other – Confirmed allegations of a Parent or Primary Caregiver’s Drug Use

One additional and important criteria to review is any confirmation of allegation of a parent or primary caregiver’s alcohol and/or drug use as noted by the following:

- Substance use confirmed by a collateral contact: _____
- Child(ren) prenatally exposed and/or parent has a history of other prenatally exposed children.

A report either in an intake or to an ongoing social worker that a parent/ caretaker has a current pattern of use of illegal substances or misuse of legal substances (e.g. alcohol) or prescription drugs;

Denial and/or minimization the issue of substance use disorder when faced with information that points to use disorder;

DCF Family Services social worker's knowledge of parent/caretaker incapacitation or other behavioral indicators either through observation or from other documentation i.e. police or physician reports and / or treatment notes

Affidavits or other court documents stating that alcohol and or other drugs contributed to the behavior that led to legal involvement. These documents do not have to be directly connected to the child protection concern. Rather, the totality of the information and its relevance to danger and risk should be considered by the social worker and supervisor.

Signature of social worker

Date