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Attachment A: PERS 378, Reasonable Suspicion Determination Checklist (08/18)
Attachment B: PERS 377, Substance Abuse Treatment Agreement (08/18)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE

SUBJECT: DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE


APPLICABILITY: All Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) employees and applicants for employment, including employees performing job duties arising from federal grants. In addition, commercial drivers are also subject to PD-37, “Employee Commercial Drivers’ Physical Examination and Alcohol and Drug Testing Programs.” For all other matters, commercial drivers are covered by PD-17 in the same manner as other employees. Although this directive does not apply to employees of the Windham School District (WSD), the TDCJ’s Human Resources Division shall provide administrative support to WSD’s Alcohol and Drug Testing Program.

EMPLOYMENT AT WILL CLAUSE:

This directive does not constitute an employment contract or a guarantee of continued employment. The TDCJ reserves the right to change the provisions of this directive at any time.

Nothing in this directive limits the executive director’s authority to establish or revise human resources policy. This directive guides the operations of the TDCJ and does not create a legally enforceable interest for employees or limit the executive director’s, deputy executive director’s, or division directors’ authority to terminate an employee at will.

POLICY:

The TDCJ shall maintain a drug-free workplace through the implementation of the provisions within this directive. All unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a
controlled substance or illicit drug is prohibited, and corrective action shall be taken against employees for violations of such prohibitions. In addition, to ensure the safety and security of institutions, employees, and the general public, the TDCJ shall administer drug and alcohol testing programs in accordance with the provisions of this directive.

The TDCJ promotes equal employment opportunity through administering the provisions in this directive without regard to race, color, religion, sex (gender), national origin, age, disability, or genetic information. The TDCJ has zero tolerance for all forms of employment discrimination, and harassment or retaliation is prohibited. No employee will be subjected to harassment or retaliation for opposing or reporting employment discrimination.

**DEFINITIONS:**

“Adequate Urine Specimen,” for the purpose of this directive, is at least 45 milliliters of urine produced by and collected from an applicant or employee.

“Alcohol” is the intoxicating agent in beverage alcohol, ethyl alcohol, or other low molecular weight alcohols, including methyl and isopropyl alcohol.

“Alcohol Test” consists of an alcohol screening test only or may also include an alcohol confirmation test.

  a. “Alcohol Screening Test” is an analytical procedure to determine whether an employee may have a prohibited concentration of alcohol in a breath specimen.

  b. “Alcohol Confirmation Test,” for the purpose of this directive, is a subsequent test, using an evidential breath testing device, that: (a) is conducted not less than 15 and not more than 30 minutes after completion of a reasonable suspicion, return to duty, or follow-up alcohol screening test with a result of an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater; and (b) provides quantitative data of alcohol concentration.

“Alcohol Use” is swallowing or inhaling any substance, including medication, containing alcohol.

“Alternate Specimen,” for the purpose of this directive, is a blood draw, hair specimen, or saliva specimen as deemed appropriate for medically verifiable reasons.

“Breath Alcohol Technician” (BAT) is an individual who instructs and assists employees in the alcohol testing process and operates an evidential breath testing device.

“Collection Site,” for the purpose of this directive, is a place designated by the TDCJ where applicants or employees provide a specimen to be analyzed for the presence of alcohol or drugs.
“Collector,” for the purpose of this directive, is an individual who instructs and assists applicants or employees at a collection site, receives and makes an initial inspection of the specimen provided by those applicants or employees, and initiates and completes the custody and control form.

“Commercial Driver” is an employee who has a commercial driver license (CDL) and operates a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) for the TDCJ on any occasion.

“Contracted Vendor,” for the purpose of this directive, is an outside service agent meeting the requirements of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, part 40 who is contracted by the TDCJ to be responsible for: (a) collecting specimens; (b) preserving the integrity of the collection and transfer process; and (c) analyzing the specimens for the presence of alcohol or drug(s).

“Correctional Career Position” (CCP) includes the following TDCJ positions: correctional officer III, IV, and V; food service manager II, III, and IV; laundry manager II, III, and IV; sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and major of correctional officers; assistant warden; and warden.

“Drug(s),” for the purpose of this directive, includes:

a. Marijuana;
b. Cocaine;
c. Opiates;
d. Phencyclidine (PCP);
e. Amphetamines;
f. Methadone;
g. Propoxyphene;
h. Barbiturates;
i. Benzodiazepines; and
j. Methaqualone.

“Drug Test” consists of a drug screening test only or may also include a drug confirmation test.

a. “Drug Screening Test” is an analytical procedure to eliminate “negative” specimens from further analysis or to identify a specimen requiring additional testing for the presence of drugs.
b. “Drug Confirmation Test” is a subsequent analytical procedure performed on the urine or blood specimen provided for the drug screening test, or a subsequent hair or saliva specimen, to identify and quantify the presence of a specific drug or metabolite.

“Employee,” for the purpose of this directive, is any person employed by the TDCJ on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis.

“Employee Assistance Program” (EAP) is an outside company contracted by the TDCJ to provide information and referral services to employees and their family members. This information may be related to the promotion of general wellness programs; identification of and treatment for alcoholism, drug dependency, or psychological disorders; resources for financial or legal problems; and other personal problems affecting an employee’s job performance. The EAP refers employees or family members to proper treatment or assistance.

“Evidential Breath Testing Device” is a device approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for the evidential testing of breath at the .02 and .04 alcohol concentrations, placed on NHTSA’s Conforming Products List (CPL) for “Evidential Breath Measurement Devices” and identified on the CPL as conforming with the model specifications available from NHTSA’s Traffic Safety Program.

“Hair Specimen,” for the purpose of this directive, is a head or body hair, not including hair from the genital area.

“Hazardous Duty Pay” is a pay incentive received by an employee who has authorized custodial officer certification.

“Health Care Provider” is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy, who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery (as appropriate) in the state in which the doctor practices, or a clinical psychologist.

“Health Care Provider’s Statement,” for the purpose of this directive, is a written statement from an attending health care provider that identifies the following: (a) the medical fact(s) associated with the inability to produce a urine specimen; and (b) the expected duration of inability to produce the specimen.

“Illicit Drug” includes any: (a) illegally made, sold, or used chemical or organic substance that causes addiction or a marked change in consciousness or mood, including marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, heroin, natural and synthetic hallucinogens, and synthetically produced substances; (b) non-prescribed or misused medication, such as using sleeping or pain pills to alter consciousness or mood, or using someone else’s prescribed medication; and (c) misused household substance, such as sniffing glue or huffing an inhalant.

“Inhalant,” for the purpose of this directive, is any substance inhaled contrary to the substance’s intended use.
“Medical Fact,” for the purpose of this directive, is a description of a condition that identifies the cause or nature of the injury or illness, such as infection or kidney disorder. A procedure that identifies the injury or illness, for example dialysis, is sufficient information to serve as a “medical fact.” Terms such as “under my care,” “surgery,” or “stress” are not acceptable as a medical fact. A medical fact does not require a diagnosis.

“Medical Review Officer” (MRO), for the purpose of this directive, is a licensed physician under contract pursuant to the TDCJ’s contracted vendor agreement who receives and reviews laboratory results generated by the TDCJ’s drug testing program and evaluates medical explanations for certain drug test results.

“Negative Alcohol Test Result,” for the purpose of this directive, is a test result revealing an alcohol concentration less than 0.02.

“Negative Drug Test Result,” for the purpose of this directive, is a test result revealing no presence of drug(s), other than the presence of a drug for which the MRO has determined that a legitimate medical explanation exists.

“Outside Applicant,” for the purpose of this directive, is any applicant not currently employed by the TDCJ. Former TDCJ employees are included in this definition.

“Positive Alcohol Test Result,” for the purpose of this directive, is a test result revealing an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater.

“Split Specimen,” for the purpose of drug testing, is a part of the urine specimen sent to a first laboratory and retained unopened, and then transported to a second laboratory in the event the applicant or employee requests that it be tested following a verified positive test of the primary specimen or a verified adulterated or substituted test result of the primary specimen.

“Substance Abuse,” for the purpose of this directive, is the abuse or misuse of alcohol, prescription medication, inhalants, or the use of drug(s) without a legitimate medical explanation.

“Substance Control Officer” (SCO), for the purpose of this directive, is a TDCJ employee in Employee Relations, Human Resources Division, who coordinates the TDCJ’s Alcohol and Drug Testing Programs. Such coordination includes: (a) taking immediate action to remove employees from duty or causing employees to be removed from duty; (b) making required decisions in the testing and evaluation processes; and (c) receiving test results and other communications for the TDCJ, consistent with the requirements of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, part 40. The SCO is also known as the TDCJ’s designated employer representative.

“Supervisor” is an employee who directs and oversees the work of other employees as indicated in the job description, completes subordinate employees’ performance evaluations, approves subordinate employees’ leave requests, and performs other supervisory duties.
“Trainee,” for the purpose of this directive, is an employee attending a training academy, or still in a trainee status.

“Verified Positive Drug Test Result,” for the purpose of this directive, is a test result revealing the presence of drug(s) after all of the following:

a. A drug confirmation test by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry; and

b. A determination by the TDCJ designated MRO that no legitimate medical explanation exists for the positive test.

“Workday,” for the purpose of this directive, is Monday through Friday, excluding state and national holidays for which TDCJ administrative offices are closed, and days when offices are closed at the direction of the executive director, such as for adverse weather.

DISCUSSION:

I. Dangers of Substance Abuse

In a criminal justice environment, it is especially important to maintain a workplace free of substance abuse. Substance abuse can impair the ability of an employee to effectively perform duties and may endanger the employee, coworkers, and the public, as well as property.

II. Maintaining a Workplace Free of Substance Abuse

The TDCJ addresses substance abuse in the workplace through the following:

A. Implementation of an alcohol and drug testing program that includes:

1. Pre-employment or pre-assignment drug testing;

2. Reasonable suspicion alcohol or drug testing;

3. Return to duty and follow-up alcohol or drug testing as part of an eligible employee’s rehabilitation program; and

4. Random drug testing of employees in safety sensitive positions.

B. Referrals to the EAP in accordance with the procedures in this directive; and

C. Disciplinary action in accordance with PD-22, “General Rules of Conduct and Disciplinary Action Guidelines for Employees.”
PROCEDURES:

I. Dissemination of PD-17, “Drug-Free Workplace”

This directive shall be published in the TDCJ Personnel Manual, which is available on the TDCJ website. In addition, an employee performing job duties arising from a federal grant shall receive a copy of this directive before beginning job duties in connection with the federal grant.

II. Prescription Drugs

A. Reporting Requirements

If an employee is taking a drug prescribed by the employee’s health care provider and the employee believes the prescription drug’s side effects, such as drowsiness or hallucinatory effects, may interfere with the performance of the employee’s assigned duties, the employee shall provide the employee’s supervisor with the drug information sheet received with the prescription(s) or a written statement from the health care provider containing the name of the prescribed drug, name of the prescribing health care provider, possible side effects, and approximate length of time the employee is required to take the drug. Such notification prevents side effects from being misinterpreted as substance abuse.

The employee shall provide the written notification directly to the supervisor prior to commencing work while taking such medication. All such information shall be kept confidential, and the written notification shall be maintained in the employee’s unit or department medical file.

B. Effect on Job Performance

If an employee’s job performance appears to be affected as a result of taking a prescription drug, a supervisor or manager shall contact the SCO. After consultation with the SCO, the supervisor or manager shall make a determination as to whether the employee may remain at work. The supervisor or manager shall document the conversation with the SCO and such documentation shall be maintained in the employee’s unit or department medical file.

C. Safety Measures

While on TDCJ premises, an employee is required to keep all prescription drugs in the original container in a location secure from offenders. The container shall contain no more than the label indicates.
III. Alcohol and Drug Testing General Provisions

A. Specimens

A urine specimen is the primary means used to test for drugs and breath is the primary means used to test for alcohol. Alternate specimens may be taken for drug and alcohol testing as deemed appropriate for medically verifiable reasons.

B. Testing Sites

All alcohol and drug tests required by the TDCJ shall be conducted by a TDCJ contracted vendor. Applicants and employees shall normally report to collection sites not located on TDCJ property. In some cases, onsite collections may be conducted by a contracted vendor.

C. Time Reporting for Alcohol and Drug Testing

1. An employee shall report the time required for travel to and from the collection site and the testing duration as time worked if:
   a. The employee is required to submit to an alcohol or drug test other than a return to duty or follow-up test; or
   b. The employee is transporting another employee to a testing site for a random or reasonable suspicion alcohol or drug test.

2. Overtime may be accrued by an employee required to report for random drug testing after an employee’s shift.

D. Travel for Random Drug Testing

1. A state vehicle shall be made available to an employee required to submit to random drug testing.

2. An employee required to submit to random drug testing shall receive reimbursement in accordance with the standard rules governing mileage if a state vehicle is not available and the employee’s personal vehicle is used.

3. The unit or department may provide group transportation for employees required to submit to random drug testing.

E. Confidentiality

Alcohol and drug test results and medical information are confidential and may not be released without the applicant’s or employee’s specific written consent,
except in connection with a legal or administrative proceedings involving the information; for example, a lawsuit, unemployment compensation hearing, disciplinary, or grievance process.

An employee who willfully discloses or releases information in violation of the procedures within this directive shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with PD-22, as well as any other applicable penalties or liabilities under law.

IV. Alcohol and Drug Testing Occasions Not Related to a Substance Abuse Treatment Agreement

A. Pre-Employment and Pre-Assignment Drug Testing


   a. All outside applicants and all CCPs shall be required to submit to a pre-employment or pre-assignment drug test as a condition of employment. Notification of the pre-employment or pre-assignment drug test requirement shall be included in all job postings and in the TDCJ Employment Application Supplement.

   b. An employee in a leave without pay (LWOP) status shall not be required to submit to a pre-employment or pre-assignment drug test upon returning to work.

   c. An employee who separates from employment and who is rehired by the TDCJ shall be required to submit to a pre-employment or pre-assignment drug test, except for an employee who is reinstated through a settlement agreement or other action resulting in employment reinstatement.

   d. An applicant who is required to maintain a commercial driver license or operate a commercial vehicle as a marginal duty will be drug tested in accordance with PD-37 and will also be tested in accordance with PD-17.

   e. If an outside applicant who is not required to attend the physical agility test (PAT) indicates at the beginning of the conditional offer of employment that the applicant is still interested in the position being offered, the applicant shall be informed of the following:

       (1) The location of the nearest testing site; and
(2) Pre-employment drug testing shall take place within 48 hours from the time the conditional offer of employment is extended for the applicant to remain eligible for the position being offered. This requirement applies even if the applicant declines the position after being notified of the pre-employment drug test requirement; otherwise, the applicant shall be ineligible for employment consideration due to a refusal to test and will be handled in accordance with PD-71, “Selection System Procedures” guidelines.

f. Trainees reporting for the PAT shall be advised of the drug test requirement at that time.

g. The SCO shall coordinate receipt of all pre-employment or pre-assignment drug test results with the contracted vendor.

2. Failure to Have a Negative Drug Test Result

Failure to have a negative drug test result may be due to a refusal to test, including inability to provide an adequate specimen, specimen tampering, or a verified positive drug test result. See alcohol and drug testing processes in Section VII.

a. If a trainee fails to have a negative drug test result, the training director or designee shall separate the trainee from employment in accordance with PD-33, “Trainee Management.”

b. If a CCP applicant or outside applicant who was not required to attend the PAT fails to have a negative drug test result, the SCO shall:

(1) Notify the Employment Section and, if applicable, the TDCJ representative who made the conditional offer of employment that the applicant failed to have a negative drug test result; and

(2) Advise the applicant that due to a refusal to test, specimen tampering, or a verified positive drug test result, the applicant is ineligible for employment consideration with the TDCJ in accordance with PD-71.
B. Reasonable Suspicion Alcohol and Drug Testing

An employee who is reasonably suspected of using alcohol or drugs in the workplace or performing official duties while under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall be required to submit to a reasonable suspicion alcohol or drug test.

1. Conditions Required for Reasonable Suspicion Testing

Reasonable suspicion testing shall be conducted only when one of the following occurs:

a. The supervisor observes current and specific conduct or symptoms concerning the employee’s appearance, behavior, speech, body odors, or performance indicators of probable alcohol or drug use. The observations regarding suspected drug use may include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances;

b. It is determined alcohol or drugs may be a contributing factor in a work-related accident. An employee who is involved in a work-related accident shall immediately notify the employee’s supervisor of the accident. The employee shall remain readily available for reasonable suspicion testing for a maximum period of 32 hours after the accident. Failure to remain readily available for reasonable suspicion testing shall be treated as a refusal to test. These procedures are not intended to delay necessary medical attention for an injured employee following a work-related accident or to prohibit an employee from leaving the employee’s assignment to obtain assistance or necessary medical care;

c. There is a positive reading from electronic drug detection equipment; or

d. There is a positive reaction from a narcotic detection canine to an employee’s property.

2. Supervisor and SCO Responsibilities

a. When one of the incidents listed in Section IV.B.1 occurs, the supervisor shall immediately:

(1) Contact the SCO by telephone to discuss the incident;
(2) Relieve the employee from duty due to a reasonable suspicion testing condition;

(3) Obtain a copy of the PERS 378, Reasonable Suspicion Determination Checklist (Attachment A);

(4) Complete the PERS 378; and

(5) Fax or email the completed PERS 378 to the SCO as soon as possible after the telephone contact.

b. The decision to recommend reasonable suspicion testing shall be made by the SCO based on the supervisor’s observations. The SCO, in conjunction with the appropriate manager, warden, or director in salary groups B23 through C6 and above, shall have final authorization for reasonable suspicion testing to be conducted.

c. If it is determined that a reasonable suspicion test shall be conducted, the supervisor or designee, and another employee of the same gender as the employee being tested, shall take the employee to the testing site.

3. Timeframes for Conducting Reasonable Suspicion Alcohol and Drug Tests

a. Alcohol Tests

Alcohol testing shall be administered as soon as practicable following the observable incident.

If the test is not administered within eight hours following the incident, attempts to administer the alcohol test shall cease. The SCO shall prepare and maintain a record documenting the reason the test was not administered within the eight-hour time limit.

b. Drug Tests

Drug testing based on a reasonable suspicion determination shall be administered as soon as practicable following the observable incident. A drug test shall be administered no later than 32 hours following the observable incident or such notification. If a drug test is not administered within the 32-hour time limit, attempts to administer the drug test shall cease. The SCO shall prepare and maintain a record documenting the reason the drug test was not administered within the 32-hour time limit.
4. Use of Leave and Providing Employee with Transportation Home

If an employee has a positive alcohol test result or has been administered a reasonable suspicion drug test, the employee shall be removed from duty and placed in a leave status once the employee has been returned from the test site to the worksite. The employee shall be required to use the employee’s accrued leave or be placed in an LWOP status in accordance with TDCJ leave policies.

The supervisor or designee shall make every effort to ensure the employee does not drive home. The supervisor or designee shall attempt to contact someone outside the TDCJ, such as the employee’s relative or friend, to provide the employee with a ride home from work. After all possibilities of contacting someone have been exhausted, the supervisor or designee shall offer to take the employee home in a state vehicle. If an employee refuses assistance, local law enforcement shall be immediately notified of the situation. The supervisor shall document any refusal of assistance and forward the documentation to the SCO.

C. Random Drug Testing


a. Random drug testing shall be conducted monthly on two percent of all employees:

(1) With any hazardous duty pay code designation; or

(2) In a unit-based position eligible for longevity pay.

b. A random drug testing list (RDTL) shall be generated and distributed monthly by the Information Technology Division. The RDTL shall be generated at the request of the human resources director. RDTL recipients shall include:

(1) Wardens;

(2) Parole regional directors;

(3) The inspector general or designee;

(4) Division directors or designees;

(5) The presiding officer (chair) of the Board of Pardons and Paroles; and
(6) The SCO.

c. The dates for random drug testing shall be reasonably spread throughout a calendar year.

d. All employees are selected for testing on a random basis in a manner ensuring each employee has a substantially equal chance of selection on a scientifically valid basis.

e. The testing frequency and selection process is such that an employee’s chance of selection continues to exist throughout employment with the TDCJ.

f. The executive director has the authority to change the testing percentage for a unit or division at any time.

2. Status Pending Random Test Results

Employees shall not be removed from duty pending the random drug test results, or pending a rescheduled test.

3. Employee Notification

a. RDTL recipients shall be responsible for maintaining the integrity and intended purpose of random drug testing and shall not distribute the list. RDTL recipients may delegate the employee notification function to appropriate staff, such as a major, human resources representative, or parole assistant regional director.

An employee who willfully discloses a random drug testing date to an employee prior to the date of the test shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with PD-22.

b. Drug testing shall occur within seven days of the RDTL being received by the list recipient. The list recipient or designee shall notify selected employees of the drug testing on the day of the test.

4. Employee Compliance

a. An employee on the RDTL whose shift allows access to the testing site during normal business hours shall: (1) proceed to the testing site immediately upon notification; (2) provide an adequate specimen; and (3) return to the employee’s unit of assignment or work location.
b. An employee whose shift does not allow access to the testing site during normal business hours shall be required to report for testing at the end of the employee’s assigned shift during the normal business hours of the site. Time reporting shall be in accordance with Section III.C of this directive.

c. The only acceptable reasons for employee non-compliance with random drug testing shall be:

(1) An emergency verifiable with documentation; or

(2) Approved leave granted prior to receipt of the RDTL by the list recipient.

V. Employee Voluntary Participation in Substance Abuse Treatment Agreement and Related Alcohol and Drug Testing

The TDCJ encourages an employee who is in need of substance abuse counseling or rehabilitation to inform the employee’s supervisor of such a need before the employee’s job performance is affected. Rehabilitation is the responsibility of the employee.

An employee who admits to the employee’s supervisor that the employee has a substance abuse problem and who is seeking treatment for the problem may request leave in accordance with TDCJ leave policies to receive such treatment.

A. A supervisor shall immediately notify the SCO upon being informed by an employee of the employee’s need for substance abuse counseling or rehabilitation. In addition, the supervisor shall immediately relieve the employee from duty.

B. The SCO shall mandatorily refer the employee to the EAP and notify the employee’s supervisor of such referral. See PD-20, “Employee Assistance Program” for more information.

C. The employee shall not be subject to any disciplinary action based exclusively on the employee’s admission of a need or based exclusively on using leave to receive treatment. However, the TDCJ may still subject the employee to:

1. A reasonable suspicion alcohol or drug test if one of the incidents listed in Section IV.B.1 of this directive, or in accordance with PD-37, has occurred; or

2. Disciplinary action in accordance with PD-22, if the employee has allegedly committed a rule violation.
VI. Substance Abuse Treatment Agreement and Related Testing

A. As part of an employee’s treatment for a substance abuse problem, an employee shall complete and sign a PERS 377, Substance Abuse Treatment Agreement (Attachment B). The following criteria shall be met prior to the employee signing the agreement:

1. A decision to require the employee to take an alcohol or drug test in accordance with this directive or in accordance with PD-37 shall not be pending.

2. The employee shall not be waiting on the results of an alcohol or drug test.

3. The employee shall not be under investigation for, or currently charged with, felony driving while intoxicated, or the unauthorized manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, sale, purchase, or use of illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia.

4. The employee shall not be currently charged with or later found to be pending a violation of the provisions of this directive or charged with an infraction of one or more of the following rules as specified in PD-22:

   a. Rule Number #19, Use of Alcohol or Illicit Drugs on the Job;

   b. Rule Number #40, Possession, Use, Sale, or Delivery of Illicit Drugs or Drug Paraphernalia;

   c. Rule Number #47, Refusal to Submit to Alcohol or Drug Tests; or

   d. Rule Number #48, Failure to Have a Negative Alcohol or Drug Test Result or Failure to Comply with Conditions of a Treatment Agreement.

5. The employee shall not have previously entered into a Substance Abuse Treatment Agreement with the TDCJ within the last five years. If the employee has entered into an agreement within the last five years and admits to drug abuse, the employee shall be subject to disciplinary action for not complying with a drug-free workplace.

B. Release of Information

An employee shall agree to sign a release of information form to allow the substance abuse facility to inform the EAP of the employee’s progress.
C. Return to Duty Letter

The EAP counselor shall provide the return to duty letter based on the recommendation from the employee’s health care provider. The return to duty letter shall state the employee has been successful in the substance abuse treatment program, is eligible to return to duty, and is fit to perform the employee’s assigned duties for the TDCJ.

The EAP counselor shall provide the return to duty letter to the SCO. A return to duty letter may be provided prior to the completion of any recommended outpatient treatment that is to follow the successful completion of the initial treatment program. If the EAP counselor does not provide a return to duty letter, the employee’s leave shall be processed in accordance with PD-46, “Medical and Parental Leave.”

D. Return to Duty Alcohol and Drug Testing

As a condition of returning to duty, the employee shall take a return to duty alcohol and/or drug test at the employee’s own expense. The return to duty test shall have a negative result for the employee to return to work. It is the employee’s responsibility to notify the SCO when signing the Treatment Agreement, if the employee is unable to provide a breath or urine specimen due to a permanent or long-term medical reason. Within five days of notifying the SCO the employee is unable to provide a specimen, the employee shall provide a health care provider’s statement to the SCO to consider whether an alternate specimen may be provided for return to duty and follow-up testing. The employee’s failure to provide such notification during the Treatment Agreement signing or failure to provide the health care provider’s statement within five workdays will result in a breath or urine specimen collection being required for testing.

1. Upon receiving the EAP counselor’s return to duty letter, the SCO shall contact the employee’s human resources representative and schedule the return to duty alcohol and/or drug test for the employee.

2. Time Reporting

The time required for travel to and from the collection site and the testing duration shall not be reported as time worked.

3. If the employee has a negative return to duty alcohol or drug test result, the SCO shall notify the employee’s human resources representative that the employee is now eligible to return to work and shall fax or email the return to duty letter to the employee’s human resources representative.
The human resources representative shall:

a. Provide the employee with a copy of the return to duty letter when the employee returns to duty.

b. Maintain a copy of the return to duty letter as needed for leave documentation.

4. Failure to Have a Negative Return to Duty Drug or Alcohol Test

An employee with a return to duty letter from an EAP counselor who refuses to participate in the drug or alcohol test, fails to provide an adequate specimen, or does not have a negative drug or alcohol test for return to duty in accordance with Section VII.C-E, shall:

a. Not be given the option to provide a valid medical explanation; and

b. Be considered to have rejected treatment, which may result in disciplinary action, and if separated, be ineligible for employment consideration with the TDCJ in accordance with PD-71.

E. Follow-Up Alcohol and Drug Testing

1. Testing Intervals

a. If applicable and as directed by the EAP counselor, an employee who has been mandatorily referred to the EAP shall be subject to unannounced follow-up alcohol and/or drug testing. Such tests shall be conducted at the employee’s own expense, for a period of up to 60 months following the employee’s return to duty. At a minimum, six follow-up tests shall be conducted in the first 12 months following the employee’s return to duty.

b. An employee who discloses follow-up alcohol or drug testing dates to an employee prior to the day of the test shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with PD-22.

2. Time Reporting

The time required for travel to and from the collection site and the testing duration shall not be reported as time worked.
VII. Alcohol and Drug Testing Processes

A. Alcohol Test

All breath tests are conducted by a certified BAT and shall be conducted in a location allowing visual and auditory privacy sufficient to prevent unauthorized persons from seeing or hearing test results.

1. The employee shall be required to provide photo identification or be identified by a TDCJ representative. The employee may request the BAT to provide positive identification to the employee.

2. Prior to an alcohol test, the employee shall sign the certification on the breath alcohol testing form provided by the BAT.

3. If the quantified test result of a reasonable suspicion, return to duty, or follow-up alcohol test is an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater, the BAT will conduct an alcohol confirmation test not less than 15 and no more than 30 minutes after the completion of the screening test. The result of the alcohol confirmation test is final.

4. The BAT will transmit the alcohol test result directly to the SCO in a manner that:
   
a. Ensures the result is immediately received by the SCO; and

b. Is confidential.

B. Drug Test

Drug tests shall screen for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, PCP, amphetamines, methadone, propoxyphene, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, and methaqualone.

1. The applicant or employee shall be required to provide photo identification or be identified by a TDCJ representative. The applicant or employee may request the collector to provide positive identification to the applicant or employee.

2. The applicant or employee shall receive a securely wrapped specimen bottle that subdivides into a primary specimen and a split specimen. The bottle shall be identified with a unique identification number identical to the number on the custody and control form provided by the collector. The applicant or employee shall be asked to sign or initial the custody and control form indicating it is the applicant’s or employee’s specimen.
3. An applicant or employee shall be allowed to produce the urine specimen in private, unless the specimen shall be collected under direct observation of a same gender observer because one of the following occurs:
   
   a. The employee is being required to submit to a reasonable suspicion test.

   b. A subsequent specimen is required because:
      
      (1) The collector determined that the first provided urine specimen was outside the normal temperature range, 32-38C or 90-100F; or

      (2) It was apparent the applicant or employee had tampered with the specimen upon the collector’s inspection of the first provided specimen for unusual color, presence of foreign objects or material, or other signs of tampering, such as an unusual odor.

   c. The collector observed materials brought to the collection site or the conduct of the applicant or employee clearly indicated an attempt to tamper with the specimen.

4. The collector shall immediately notify the SCO of any evidence of specimen tampering.

5. Alternate specimens may be used in accordance with this directive.

C. Refusal to Test for Alcohol or Drugs

The BAT or collector shall immediately notify the SCO if an outside applicant or employee refuses to test.

1. Outside Applicant

   An applicant shall be considered as refusing to test if one of the following occur:

   a. The applicant fails to arrive at the collection site on time, unless documentation is provided regarding a verifiable reason for a delay in pre-employment drug testing, such as a health care provider’s statement, jury summons, or death notice for a family member;

   b. The applicant fails to remain at the test facility until the testing process is complete;
c. The applicant fails to provide an adequate urine specimen for pre-employment drug testing and does not provide a valid medical explanation after receiving notice of such requirement as explained in Section VII.D.1;

d. The applicant refuses to sign the custody and control form for drug tests; or

e. The applicant fails to cooperate with the collector to the extent the behavior prevents completion of the test.

2. Current Employee

An employee shall be considered as refusing to test if one of the following occur:

a. The employee fails to report for random drug testing upon notification, unless an acceptable reason for non-compliance exists as explained in Section IV.C.4.c;

b. The employee refuses to sign the certification on the breath alcohol testing form for alcohol tests or refuses to sign the custody and control form for drug tests;

c. The employee refuses to submit to or fails to provide an adequate amount of breath or adequate urine for reasonable suspicion testing, regardless of whether there is a valid medical explanation for such failure as explained in Section VII.D.2;

d. The employee fails to provide an adequate amount of breath or adequate urine or alternate specimen for random, return to duty, or follow-up drug or alcohol testing, and does not provide a valid medical explanation after receiving notice of such requirement as explained in Section VII.D.1 and 3;

e. The employee fails to cooperate with the collector to the extent the behavior prevents the completion of the test; or

f. The employee fails to remain readily available for alcohol or drug testing for a maximum period of 32 hours after a work-related accident, if reasonably suspected that alcohol or drugs may be a contributing factor in the accident.
D. Inability to Provide an Adequate Specimen

1. Pre-Employment, Pre-Assignment, and Random Drug Tests

If an outside applicant, trainee, or employee is unable to provide an adequate urine specimen, the applicant, trainee, or employee may remain at the collection site for up to three hours or until the time limit for testing expires, whichever is less, and drink up to 40 ounces of fluid and then attempt to provide an adequate urine specimen. If the applicant, trainee, or employee is still unable to provide an adequate specimen, testing shall be discontinued. If the applicant, trainee, or employee refuses to make the attempt or attempts but fails to provide an adequate amount of urine, the collector shall immediately inform the SCO.

The SCO shall inform an outside applicant, trainee, or employee who is unable to provide an adequate specimen for a drug test that the applicant, trainee, or employee shall furnish a signed and dated written statement from a health care provider, at the individual’s own expense. Employees shall not be removed from duty pending the furnishing of a statement from a health care provider. The statement shall include a valid medical explanation for the inability to provide an adequate specimen. A trainee or an employee shall take accrued leave or be placed in an LWOP status, if necessary, in accordance with TDCJ leave policies for the visit to the health care provider.

a. If such a statement is provided within five workdays from the date of the attempted drug test, the SCO shall immediately reschedule a drug test, based on the duration of inability to produce a specimen. An alternate specimen may be taken as deemed appropriate for the rescheduled test.

(1) An outside applicant shall be required to have a negative pre-employment drug test result before being hired by the TDCJ.

(2) A trainee shall be required to have a negative pre-assignment drug test result before graduating from the PSTA.

(3) An employee shall be required to have a negative random drug test result to maintain employment. The employee shall not be removed from duty pending the random drug test results, or pending a rescheduled test.
b. If such a statement is not provided to the SCO within five workdays from the date of an attempted drug test, such inaction shall be considered a refusal to test.

2. Reasonable Suspicion Tests

If an employee is unable to provide an adequate specimen for a reasonable suspicion test, the employee shall not have the option to provide a valid medical explanation for such failure.

a. Alcohol Test

If an employee is unable to provide an adequate amount of breath for a reasonable suspicion alcohol test, the BAT shall instruct the employee to make another attempt to provide an adequate amount of breath. If the employee refuses to make the attempt or attempts but fails to provide an adequate amount of breath, it is considered refusal to test, and the BAT shall immediately inform the SCO.

b. Drug Test

If an employee is unable to provide an adequate urine specimen for a reasonable suspicion drug test, the employee may remain at the collection site for up to three hours and drink up to 40 ounces of fluid and then attempt to provide an adequate urine specimen. If the employee refuses to make the attempt or attempts but fails to provide an adequate urine specimen, it is considered a refusal to test, and the collector shall immediately inform the SCO.

3. Return to Duty and Follow-Up Alcohol and Drug Tests

a. It is the employee’s responsibility to inform the SCO when signing the Treatment Agreement if the employee will need to provide an alternate specimen due to a permanent or long-term medical reason. The employee shall inform the SCO if, during the course of the Treatment Agreement, the employee develops a permanent or long-term medical condition which requires an alternate specimen to be collected. An employee shall not be removed from duty pending follow-up test results. The employee shall be required to furnish a health care provider’s statement at the employee’s own expense which includes a valid medical explanation and the expected duration for the inability to provide an adequate specimen.
b. A determination whether to take an alternate specimen will be made based on the health care provider’s statement.

c. If an employee does not provide an adequate amount of breath or an adequate urine specimen without a valid medical explanation for a return to duty or follow-up alcohol or drug test, it will be considered a refusal to test.

E. MRO Review of Drug Test Results

Prior to notifying the SCO that a test has been verified as positive or as a refusal to test because of adulteration or substitution, the MRO shall attempt to contact the outside applicant or employee. The applicant or employee may provide information or records to the MRO to assist the MRO in reviewing the test.

1. If the MRO is unable to reach the applicant or employee directly:

   a. The MRO shall contact the SCO and instruct the SCO to contact the outside applicant or employee and request the applicant or employee to contact the MRO immediately.

   b. The SCO shall inform the applicant or employee of the consequences of failing to contact the MRO within the following 72 hours.

2. If the SCO is unable to contact the applicant or employee within 24 hours after the MRO’s request:

   a. The SCO shall leave a message for the applicant or employee by any available means, such as voicemail, email, or letter stating the applicant or employee shall contact the MRO within 72 hours and the consequences of failing to contact the MRO.

   b. The SCO shall continue attempts to contact the applicant or employee for five workdays after the date the MRO instructs the SCO to contact the applicant or employee.

3. The MRO may advise the SCO of a verified positive drug test result without communicating directly with the applicant or employee regarding the test results if:

   a. The applicant or employee expressly declines the opportunity to discuss the test results with the MRO;
b. The SCO has successfully made contact with the applicant or employee and more than 72 hours have passed since the time the SCO contacted the applicant or employee; or

c. After making all reasonable efforts, the SCO has not been able to contact the applicant or employee within five workdays of the date the MRO instructed the SCO to contact the applicant or employee.

4. If the MRO has verified a drug test as positive without communicating directly with the applicant or employee, or the MRO has spoken with the applicant or employee and is waiting to receive information from the applicant or employee:

a. The applicant or employee has 21 calendar days to present information to the SCO documenting that serious injury, illness, or other circumstances unavoidably prevented the applicant or employee from contacting the MRO, or to provide documentation to the SCO that the requested information was provided to the MRO within the timeframe given by the MRO.

b. The SCO shall forward the information to the MRO.

c. On the basis of such information, the MRO may reopen the verification, and allow the applicant or employee to present information concerning a legitimate explanation for the verified positive drug test result. If the MRO determines there is a legitimate medical explanation for the presence of drugs, the MRO will report the test result to the SCO as negative.

d. The employee may be subject to disciplinary action for failing to contact the MRO as directed or provide information to the MRO within the timeframe given without circumstances unavoidably preventing the employee from doing so.

F. Retesting

Within 24 hours of notification from the MRO of a verified positive drug test result, the outside applicant or employee may contact the SCO and request the laboratory retest the specimen or request to provide a subsequent hair specimen to be taken and tested. If the applicant or employee has not made the request within 24 hours of such notification, the applicant or employee may present information to the SCO documenting that serious injury, illness, or other circumstances unavoidably prevented the applicant or employee from making a timely request.
All costs related to the retest shall be at the expense of the applicant or employee. The SCO shall request the applicant or employee to remit a certified check or money order within 24 hours of contact with the SCO.

VIII. Impact on Future Employment Eligibility

A. Failure to Have a Negative Alcohol or Drug Test Result

The TDCJ has zero tolerance for substance abuse by outside applicants or current employees.

1. Outside Applicant

An outside applicant who fails to have a negative drug test result through a refusal to test, tampers with a specimen, or has a verified positive drug test result shall be ineligible for employment consideration with the TDCJ in accordance with PD-71.

2. Current Employee

A current employee who fails to have a negative alcohol or drug test result through a refusal to test, tampers with a specimen, or has a positive alcohol or a verified positive drug test result may be subject to disciplinary action, and if separated, shall be ineligible for employment consideration with the TDCJ in accordance with PD-71.

B. Rejection of Treatment

An employee who admits having a substance abuse problem to the employee’s supervisor shall be addressed in accordance with PD-22 if the employee:

1. Refused to participate in a substance abuse treatment program; or

2. Leaves a substance abuse treatment program prior to being properly discharged from that program.

____________________________________
Bryan Collier
Executive Director
Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
Reasonable Suspicion Determination Checklist  
(Confidential)

Date/Time of Incident or Work-Related Accident: ____________________________

Employee’s Name: ___________________________________________  
Please Print: ___________________________________________  
Employee’s Month/Day of Birth: ___________________________ (mm/dd)

Unit or Department: ___________________________________________

Observing Supervisor’s Name: ___________________________________________  
Please Print: ___________________________________________  
Observing Supervisor’s Month/Day of Birth: ___________________________ (mm/dd)

Second Observing Supervisor’s Name: ___________________________________________  
(if applicable)  
Please Print: ___________________________________________  
Second Observing Supervisor’s Month/Day of Birth: ___________________________ (mm/dd)

This checklist shall be completed whenever an incident or a work-related accident has occurred and there is reasonable suspicion that an employee is under the influence of alcohol or a prohibited drug substance. The employee’s supervisor shall note all pertinent behavior and physical signs or symptoms that lead the supervisor to reasonably believe the employee has recently used or is under the influence of alcohol or a prohibited drug substance. The supervisor shall mark each applicable item on this form and describe any additional facts or circumstances that the supervisor noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Has the employee exhibited behavior that indicated the employee was under the influence of alcohol or drugs? If yes, mark applicable items in Sections A, B, and C and describe behavior in Section D.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Was the employee the subject of a positive reading from electronic drug detection equipment?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Was there a positive reaction from a narcotic detection canine to the employee’s property?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Time Limits: Alcohol or drug tests shall be administered as soon as practicable following the accident or incident.

a. Alcohol Tests: If an alcohol test is not administered within eight hours following the accident or incident, attempts to administer an alcohol test shall cease and the SCO shall document the reasons the test was not administered.

b. Drug Tests: If a drug test is not administered within 32 hours following the accident or incident, attempts to administer a drug test shall cease, and the SCO shall document the reasons the test was not administered.
REASONABLE SUSPICION OBSERVATIONS

A. NATURE OF THE ACCIDENT OR INCIDENT OR CAUSE FOR SUSPICION

☐ 1. Observed or reported possession or use of a controlled substance
☐ 2. Observed or reported possession or consumption of alcohol while on the job
☐ 3. Observed or reported to work under the influence of alcohol as outlined in the policy
☐ 4. Observed abnormal or erratic behavior
☐ 5. Other,* such as flagrant violation of safety regulations, serious fighting, argumentative or abusive language, refusal of supervisor instruction, unauthorized absence on the job
☐ 6. A positive reading from electronic drug detection equipment
☐ 7. A positive reaction from a narcotic detection canine to an employee’s property

*Specify exact other behavior:

B. UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR

☐ 1. Verbal abusiveness
☐ 2. Physical abusiveness
☐ 3. Extreme aggressiveness or agitation
☐ 4. Withdrawal, depression, mood changes, or unresponsiveness
☐ 5. Inappropriate verbal response to questioning or instructions
☐ 6. Other erratic or inappropriate behavior,* such as hallucinations, disorientation, excessive euphoria, confusion

*Specify exact other behavior:

C. PHYSICAL SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS

☐ 1. Possessing, dispensing, or using controlled substance
☐ 2. Slurred or incoherent speech
☐ 3. Unsteady gait or other loss of physical control; poor coordination
☐ 4. Dilated or constricted pupils or unusual eye movement
☐ 5. Bloodshot or watery eyes
☐ 6. Extreme fatigue or sleeping on the job
☐ 7. Excessive sweating or clamminess to the skin
☐ 8. Flushed or very pale face
☐ 9. Highly excited or nervous
☐ 10. Nausea or vomiting
☐ 11. Odor of alcohol
☐ 12. Odor of marijuana
☐ 13. Dry mouth, such as frequent swallowing or lip wetting
☐ 14. Dizziness or fainting
☐ 15. Shaking hands, body tremors, or twitching
☐ 16. Irregular or difficult breathing
☐ 17. Runny nose or sores around nostrils
☐ 18. Inappropriate wearing of sunglasses
☐ 19. Puncture marks or “tracks”
☐ 20. Other*

*Specify other physical signs or symptoms:
D. WRITTEN SUMMARY

Summarize the facts and circumstances of the accident or incident, employee response, supervisor actions, and any other pertinent information not previously noted on this form. Attach additional sheets as needed.

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

Signature of Observing Supervisor: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________ (MM/DD/YYYY)

Signature of Second Observing Supervisor: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________ (MM/DD/YYYY)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Initials</th>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observing Supervisor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Based upon my observations as noted on this checklist, I recommend that an alcohol or drug test be administered in accordance with PD-17, “Drug-Free Workplace.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Observing Supervisor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Based upon my observations as noted on this checklist, I recommend that an alcohol or drug test be administered in accordance with PD-17, “Drug-Free Workplace.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Based upon the observations as noted on this checklist and upon my discussion with the observing supervisor(s), I recommend that an alcohol or drug test be administered in accordance with PD-17, “Drug-Free Workplace.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager, Warden, or Director</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Based upon my discussion with the SCO on _______________________________ (MM/DD/YYYY), I verbally authorized an alcohol or drug test be administered in accordance with PD-17, “Drug-Free Workplace.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supervisor Instructions:

1. After contacting the SCO via telephone or in person, immediately fax, email, or hand carry a copy of this checklist to the SCO.

2. Mail the original checklist with all applicable documentation to the SCO within 48 hours after the incident or accident. Do not retain a copy.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCO

Employee underwent ☐ alcohol test ☐ drug test at ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m. on ___________________________ (MM/DD/YYYY)

Test was conducted at the following location: __________________________________________

Employee refused to test: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Substance Abuse Treatment Agreement

EMPLOYEE NAME: __________________________________________
Please Print: Last First MI
MONTH/DAY OF BIRTH: ____________________ (mm/dd)
PAYROLL TITLE: ___________________________________________
UNIT or DEPARTMENT: ______________________________________

In accordance with PD-17, “Drug-Free Workplace,” I, ____________________________________________
Please Print: First Name MI Last Name
have admitted to my supervisor, ____________________________________________
Please Print: First Name MI Last Name
that I have a substance abuse problem.

As a condition of continued employment, I agree to the following:

1. I shall admit myself into a substance abuse rehabilitation program as directed by a health care provider and continue to actively participate in that program.
2. I shall successfully complete the substance abuse rehabilitation program as directed by a health care provider.
3. I shall undergo a return to duty alcohol or drug test, at my own expense, in accordance with PD-17 prior to being returned to active status.
4. If required, I shall submit to unannounced follow-up alcohol or drug testing, at my own expense, for a period of up to 60 months following my return to duty, in accordance with PD-17.
5. I shall continue treatment on an outpatient basis, including aftercare treatment, as recommended by the substance abuse rehabilitation program, and, if required, provide attendance reports to my human resources representative.
6. I shall sign a release of information form at the substance abuse rehabilitation facility in order that the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) may be notified of my progress.
7. If applicable, as a commercial driver I understand I shall also comply with the provisions of PD-37, “Employee Commercial Drivers’ Physical Examination and Alcohol and Drug Testing Programs.”
8. I shall abstain from all alcohol use and substance abuse.

I fully understand that non-compliance with any of the above conditions may result in disciplinary action up to and including separation from employment in accordance with PD-22, “General Rules of Conduct and Disciplinary Action Guidelines for Employees.” Although adherence to this agreement is considered a condition of continued employment, nothing in this agreement alters an employee’s employment at will status and shall not constitute nor be deemed a contract or guarantee of continued employment.

I DO / DO NOT (circle one) have a permanent or long-term medical condition that prevents me from providing a breath or urine specimen. If I do have a permanent or long-term medical condition that prevents me from providing a breath or urine specimen, I shall provide a health care provider’s statement to the SCO within five workdays for consideration to provide an alternate specimen for return to duty and follow-up testing. I understand that failure to provide the statement within five workdays shall result in a breath or urine specimen being obtained for testing.

SUPERVISOR: __________________________________________

Employee Signature Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Note to Employee: With few exceptions, you are entitled upon request: (1) to be informed about the information the TDCJ collects about you; and (2) under Texas Government Code §§ 552.021 and 552.023, to receive and review the collected information. Under Texas Government Code § 559.004, you are also entitled to request, in accordance with TDCJ procedures, that incorrect information the TDCJ has collected about you be corrected.