

Pregnant, Drug-Using Women & State Child Welfare Policies

A child may be removed from the home upon consideration by the court of several factors, including the fact that "the mother has given birth to three or more drug-affected infants."





Harm reduction principle

Positive toxicology screen is not a sufficient basis for reporting child abuse, however, this has not stopped reports to county welfare departments.

Report required for FAS only, not for any other substances.

DC

Physicians *may* report, it is not mandatory.

-  Presumptive Neglect & Mandatory Reporting
-  Mandatory Reporting Only
-  Presumptive Neglect & Presumption that Child Removal is Required
-  Judicial Activism: Decisions Finding Prenatal Drug Exposure is Neglect

