



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Introduction to Substance Use Testing Procedures for DCF Deputies

**April 25, 2022
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

The Division of Child Protection & Permanency and the deputies who represent it routinely work with families who struggle with substance abuse, which sometimes leads to the need to initiate litigation. The admissibility and accuracy of substance use tests is a key component of DCF deputies' success in court. This program will present an overview of the testing technologies used by Averhealth, which provides substance use testing for DCP&P clients. The program will address the differences between instant and lab testing, review specimen options, windows of detection and interpretation of results and the unique challenges presented by fentanyl. The presenters will also review the instructions provided to CP&P staff on sample collecting procedures and documentation. Understanding substance use testing procedures and technology will enable DCF deputies to accurately respond to inquiries from the court and counsel about Averhealth processes, and provide them with information to defend against challenges to the admissibility and accuracy of test results.

Eligibility

This program is only open to Deputy and Assistant Attorneys General in the Division of Law's DCF practice group and DCF agency attorneys invited to attend. Registrants will receive the course materials prior to the program date.

Faculty

Dominique Delagnes is the Chief Operating Officer for Averhealth. She leads a nationwide team of managers and clinicians at Averhealth's laboratory in St. Louis, Missouri and patient service centers throughout the United States. Ms. Delagnes has over 20 years of experience in substance use testing and technology. She previously served in senior leadership roles in operations, account management and customer service for companies including Alere Toxicology (Abbott) and

PharmaChem. She holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration with a concentration in operations management from Boston University.

Clinton Page, Esq. is the Director of Legal Affairs for the Department of Children and Families. He oversees the operations of Interstate Services, Administrative Hearings, Child Abuse Record Information, Immigration and Privacy, and assists with the Department's Litigation Unit and Records. Mr. Page previously served as a Legal Specialist in DCF's Office of Legal, Regulatory, and Legislative Affairs where he assisted with policy development and trained staff on new initiatives and legal strategy. Mr. Page has also served as a Deputy Attorney General in the Division of Law's DCF practice group, where he handled guardianship and protective services litigation in Middlesex and Essex counties. He provided training for the agency's staff and served as the Division of Law's representative on the Children in Court Improvement Committee. Mr. Page held judicial clerkships in both the Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Scranton and a J.D. with honors and a pro bono distinction from Widener University Delaware Law School.

CLE Credit

NJ CLE Credit: This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 1.5 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

Registration

Those who are eligible to apply should use the Zoom Webinar registration link in the Program Announcement email. Students who are registered will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the program.

Students must download Zoom before the webinar in order for the AGAI to record polling responses that are required for attendance verification and CLE credit.

The AGAI will be unable to verify attendance or grant CLE credit to students who have not downloaded Zoom before the webinar.