

<b>DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</b>		<b>Policy and Procedure</b>
<b>Specific Policies</b>		<b>P&amp;P-B-149</b>
<b>Drug Endangered Children</b>		
Effective Date: 01-19-23 Supersedes: 09-01-21	Approval: Sheriff	Number of Pages: 2
References: 18-18-102 CRS, 18-18-406 CRS, PAT-C-219, PAT-D- 203, PAT-J-210, PAT-V-200, INV-K-408	Reevaluation Date: Annually	Standards:

## I. DEFINITIONS

### *Drug Endangered Children (DEC)*

Children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution. They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment.

### *Controlled Substance*

A drug, substance, or immediate precursor included in schedules I through V or Part 2 of C.R.S. § 18-18-102, including marijuana, and marijuana concentrate under C.R.S. § 18-18-406.

### *Clandestine Laboratory*

A scene having hazardous chemicals, glassware, fertilizers, seeds, molds or spores used to manufacture or grow controlled substances.

## II. PROCEDURES

When deputies arrest a suspect for possession or sale of a controlled substance and a child is present and/or there is an indication that the suspect is the guardian or parent of a child, deputies shall determine if the child is safe. Refer to [PAT-C-219 Child Abuse](#).

If the child is in imminent danger or a danger exists to the life or health of the child in the reasonably foreseeable future, follow the procedures in [PAT-D-203 Civil and Emergency Protection Orders](#) to obtain an Emergency Protection Order.

If there is concern that the child (or children) needs to be removed from the home, **notify Douglas County Human Services immediately at (303) 814-5300** (Law Enforcement Line **ONLY** Monday-Friday 0800-1700); after hours this number will be answered by DCSO Dispatch and officers will need to ask for the on-call caseworker. If the child is removed from the home, a *Notice of Rights and Remedies for Families* form must be completed. Douglas County Human Services will arrange for placement of the child. Attempt to obtain the parents' signature on the form and serve them a copy. Provide a copy of the completed and signed form to Douglas County Human Services. (See [PAT-J-210 - Notice of Rights and Remedies for Families](#).) When a child is placed in foster care, do not include the foster parent's name, address or phone number in the report.

In the case of a felony narcotics offense, deputies shall complete an offense report, adding the offense “Child Abuse” to the report and route to the Douglas County Regional IMPACT Unit detectives.

If “Child Abuse” (or other Persons related crime) is charged, the Sheriff’s Office is required by law to inform the victim (or their parent or guardian) of their rights and give them a *Victim’s Rights* pamphlet. It is recommended that Victim Assistance be called to have contact with the non-offending caretaker. Contact Dispatch to have the on-call Victim Advocate called.

In the case of other misdemeanor or felony offenses (non-drug related) where there is evidence of a drug endangered child, but the child is not currently present (therefore “Child Abuse” charges may not be appropriate), deputies shall complete an offense report and forward it to Investigations.

If no criminal charges are being filed, but there is evidence of a child living in the home and the child is not present, complete an incident report and forward it to the Douglas County Regional IMPACT Unit and to Douglas County Human Services.

When deputies find evidence of a Clandestine Laboratory as defined above, deputies shall immediately notify the on-call IMPACT supervisor:

- If children are involved, their information (child’s name, DOB, & contact information of current parent or guardian) must be included in the offense report.
- IMPACT personnel will contact the Douglas County Human Services Emergency Response Team to assist with the placement of the children.

Deputies are encouraged to call the IMPACT Unit on- call supervisor in situations where illegal drugs are present, and children may be involved or present.

By Order of the Sheriff