



# Newsletter

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**This month's issue focuses on Foster Parents.** Do you meet the requirements for foster parents in Maryland? All prospective foster parents and other adults living in the household (18 years or older) must undergo state and federal criminal background investigations. Whether foster parents are required to provide drug urine tests depends on state laws and the policies of individual child welfare agencies. Some agencies can still consider drug and alcohol abuse as factors in determining the suitability of foster parents. Ultimately, foster care agencies are concerned with ensuring the safety and well-being of children.

The Local Department of Social Services may deny a foster care application if there is evidence suggesting the applicant cannot provide for the health, safety, or welfare of children due to alcohol or controlled dangerous substance abuse, mental instability, or other factors raising doubts about their suitability.

Foster parents are not generally required to provide drug urine tests as part of the initial licensing process. For the following reasons, the agencies can request a drug urine test:

- Reasonable Suspicion
- Safety Concerns
- Household Members

**Let us help you - Abay Services can provide an 18-panel drug urine test with ETG for suspicion of illicit drugs or alcohol use. The rapid drug test will be processed within minutes instead of days. The foster parent and any other household member can be tested in their home immediately or at our office location in Stevensville for safety concerns.**

**Abay Services is available Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., with walk-ins welcome.**

Editor: Beatrice Johnson  
667-337-0346  
beajohnson@abayservices.org  
www.abayservices.org