



Forensic Testing Service

clear evidence - expertly delivered

DRUG, ALCOHOL AND DNA TESTING SERVICE OVERVIEW

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Drug, Alcohol and DNA Testing

A testing service designed specifically for Family Law and Child Care Proceedings

What makes FTS unique?

We are not just a testing laboratory. We are Forensic Toxicology Experts, delivering an end to end investigation in to every one of our cases. Working with Legal Teams, Social Workers and the Judiciary, FTS has developed a Model of Best Practice that delivers reliable and relevant evidence for use in the family court. It is specifically designed to assist the court in making the right decisions for the future of the child. Our service is unique in this sector, taking in to account all findings, putting them in to context and leaving nothing to chance. Our process is specifically designed for care cases where the welfare of the child is paramount.

FTS does not use laboratory cut-off levels

This is because we provide a full investigation, and not a snapshot of substances above or below a certain level. This allows us to establish reduction in use or increase in use in a single sample. We can also identify factors such as environmental contamination and the effects of hair treatments on the hair. Because so many factors can affect the levels of a substance in the hair, measuring against cut off levels alone can provide misleading results. We already know that reporting against cut off levels is a blunt tool, which may be sufficient for testing in a workplace or rehab environment, but potentially not within the family court. For further information on cut off levels, **please refer to our document – Why Does FTS not use cut off levels in hair strand testing?**

8 Working day turnaround time

Our standard turnaround time from receipt of samples is approximately 8 working days. However -when results are needed sooner, we will do our utmost to provide the report within required timeframes. Due to the nature of our work, sometimes report delivery can take a little longer than expected due to further investigation being required. Some substances, such as synthetics or steroids can take a little longer. When we test children, we aim to provide results in 15 working days, but we will always do this as soon as possible when time is a key factor.

Pre-quote consultation

Every single case we deal with is unique and should be considered as a bespoke opportunity. It's helpful for us to understand 'your objectives' for each test. Our team of consultants are always on hand to answer any questions before a quote is generated, and ideally before a court order is written. This allows us to make the most appropriate and cost-effective recommendation for the testing profile for each client. **You can call our expert team to discuss a case before a quote is issued or alternatively, email your questions to expert@forensic-testing.co.uk**



Testing protocol covering over 2000 substances

We have a standard drug panel of over 50 substances, as well as the ability to carry out a full toxicology profile which checks for over 2000 illicit and prescribed substances. In addition, we provide alcohol testing in the form of both hair and blood. Please feel free to discuss each case before we generate a quote if you need recommendations.

Notification of additional compounds

Additional compound reporting is a cost-effective way to identify any drugs outside of the main drugs of suspicion. Our standard testing panel includes up to 50 compounds detectable in the initial sample

With FTS you have two options:

Option 1 – Notify and Report

When you instruct us for your main drugs of suspicion, if you tell us that you would like to be notified of any additional compounds, and have these reported on, we will automatically include details of any extra compounds in your initial report. You will only be charged for any additional substances that we find and the cost will never exceed what you would have originally been quoted for the number of drugs present. This is particularly cost effective if you are looking for an initial screen where you are unsure what substances might be found. By selecting just one drug you are more likely to save cost as you will only be charged for what is found.

Option 2 – Notify Only

If you instruct us to Notify only, we will advise you as part of your initial report if any extra compounds have been detected. If you wish to have these compounds reported on, we will issue an addendum to the initial report. The cost of this will be slightly higher than Notify and Report due to the extra hours of expert time that will be required.

Part 25 paperwork & LAA indemnity

Forensic Testing Service can support the legal process by preparing the Part 25 and court order paperwork for presentation to the court. This is a free of charge process. Furthermore, as long as FTS have seen or written the court order wording, we will ensure that the test profile meets the court order requirements and in the unlikely event that the LAA do not reimburse the full cost of the testing then FTS will credit the balance to your account.



Client questionnaire

This is a critical part of every investigation, and the client questionnaire is carried out by a highly trained team, working to put the client at ease whilst uncovering necessary and critical pieces of information. This is an in-depth chat and takes 35-40 minutes. We aim to conduct the questionnaire in the 24 hours preceding the collection.

Sample collection

Our nationwide team of Forensic Investigation Officers undergo rigorous training, as well as regular auditing to ensure optimal quality in sample collection. Our team are all qualified phlebotomists competent at collecting blood, hair, nail and urine samples.

Collections are usually carried out in our mobile clinics. This is our preferred and recommended location, since the clinic is sterilised between collections, providing a controlled sample collection environment, minimising the risk of any sample contamination. When required, we can attend social services or solicitor's offices to meet the client.

Reporting

Our reports contain a front page summary as well as an overall, detailed conclusion. Our reports also include any recommendations for future testing. Reports are prepared using the combined skills of experts in Toxicology, Clinical Pathology, and Biochemistry, ensuring result interpretation is thorough. Up to three separate experts can be involved in preparing and completing a case. Experts are also available to discuss each report, provide advice and guidance, as well as attending court to provide expert evidence if required.

For further help and advice please contact us:

Call **01924 480272** or Email expert@forensic-testing.co.uk