
Drug or Alcohol-Related Cases: Checklist

Before you consult a toxicology expert for your drug or alcohol-related case, what are some facts you want to be sure to have on-hand? And how do you select an appropriate expert?

Alcohol-related cases

1. Time of first and last alcoholic beverage
2. Type/amount of alcoholic drinks consumed
3. Symptoms/behavior at time of incident
4. Patient weight
5. Empty or full stomach while drinking?
6. History of alcohol use: occasional or regular use?
7. Time of alcohol testing, place of testing, and method used
8. Medical history including all medical conditions and prescription, over-the-counter, and herbal medications

Drug-related cases

1. Medical history
2. Complete toxicology laboratory record (drug levels with units of measurement, method of measurement, time of collection, and time of testing)
3. Symptoms/behavior at time of incident
4. Are there any state laws regarding driving under the influence of the drug in question (without the need for proof of impairment)? (example: marijuana)

Consulting a qualified toxicology expert

1. What is the training of the expert? Is it only in medicine or does the expert have specialized training in the field of toxicology?
2. What type of toxicology does the expert have experience in? Clinical or medical (patient-centered), reproductive, analytical, forensic?
3. Does the expert have board certification in toxicology? Is the certification still valid?
4. What academic experience does the expert have in toxicology? Publications? Teaching? Research?
5. Does the expert have experience with your particular type of case?

