



Criterion Legal & Advocacy Newsletter



Community Connection

Stay informed on key updates and developments in our community

This month, we highlight important topics that affect our legal landscape. From custody cases to the latest testing updates, stay engaged with relevant insights and information that drive our advocacy efforts and support our mission toward accountability and justice.

Our commitment to service is stronger than ever. We continually strive to provide our community with essential resources and knowledge. Through collaboration and partnership, we aim to foster understanding and awareness on legal matters, ensuring that everyone has access to vital information that can impact their lives.

Join the conversation!

Case Spotlight

Case Study: Mother of five kids taken by DCS after traffic stop files lawsuit (Coffee County, TN)
Facts:

- In February 2023, while travelling through Tennessee, a family (mother: Bianca Clayborne; partner: Deonte Williams) was stopped by the Tennessee Highway Patrol for a minor traffic violation. [Tennessee Lookout+2MLK50: Justice Through Journalism+2](#)
- During the stop, officers found a small amount of marijuana in the car—a misdemeanor under Tennessee law. Nevertheless, the children (ages 7, 5, 3, 2 and an infant) were removed from Clayborne's custody. [Tennessee Lookout+2MLK50: Justice Through Journalism+2](#)
- At a juvenile court hearing six days later, the parents were requested to submit to urine and hair-follicle drug tests. Williams tested positive for THC via urine; both parents' rapid hair-follicle tests came back positive for methamphetamines, fentanyl and oxycodone (despite denying use). The rapid hair-follicle test used was described as "not court-admissible" and as prone to false positives by a testing expert. [MLK50: Justice Through Journalism+2Tennessee Lookout+2](#)
- A federal court later ruled that three employees of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) could be held liable for their role in the removal process. [Tennessee Lookout](#)

Testing Update

Criterion Services now offers a new 13-panel hair test with a buprenorphine add-on for enhanced detection and long-term analysis. This expanded panel provides up to a 90-day detection window, making it ideal for DCS, legal, and workplace monitoring. The inclusion of buprenorphine helps identify treatment compliance and potential misuse, giving attorneys and case managers a clearer picture of substance patterns over time. All tests are laboratory-confirmed for accuracy and legal defensibility.

Not sure how to interpret the results of a toxicology screening that your client completed? Let us provide you with a scientifically backed professional, expert interpretation of that result.

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Why this is relevant for your audience (legal/attorney community):

Testing/Forensics Focus: The case highlights the risk of relying on rapid in-court hair-follicle tests that may lack accreditation, chain of custody documentation, or confirmatory lab testing. This touches directly on issues of defensibility, admissibility, and evidentiary reliability — exactly the kinds of issues your newsletter’s audience cares about.

Chain of Custody & Documentation Implications: As in many family-law and DCS matters, how the sample was collected, tested, and documented becomes central. The case underscores that even when testing reveals “positive” results, questions about how the test was administered and whether it meets legal standards are critical.

Procedural & Legal Risk: The situation shows how agencies (DCS, courts, law-enforcement) may escalate matters based on test results without full laboratory confirmation or proper preservation of evidence. For attorneys advising clients in custody, DCS, or substance-use litigation, this is a key cautionary tale.

Audience Engagement: The case is recent, involves children and family law context (which many attorneys in your target audience will be dealing with), and offers a concrete narrative around testing/forensic issues. That makes it compelling for a newsletter “Case Spotlight” section.

Key Takeaway / Tip You Could Highlight:

When drug-testing results are to be used in court (custody, DCS, employment, forensic matters), it is crucial to verify that the test method is accredited, the chain of custody is thoroughly documented, and confirmatory testing (e.g., via LC/MS or GC/MS) has been completed. Rapid “stat” or court-side tests may help flag issues but should not be the sole basis for serious legal action without defensible laboratory confirmation.

Legal Insight

Legal Insight: Understanding Presumptive Results

A presumptive result is a preliminary finding from a rapid or screening test that indicates the possible presence of a substance. It is not legally confirmatory until verified by advanced testing methods such as GC/MS or LC/MS. In legal settings, only confirmed results are considered defensible evidence. Attorneys should always request confirmation reports to ensure the data holds weight in court.

Partner Corner

Collaboration with local organizations strengthens our collective ability to serve and protect the community. By partnering with attorneys, advocacy groups, treatment providers, and child and family services, we can expand access to accurate testing, educational resources, and recovery support. Criterion invites local partners to join us in promoting accountability, wellness, and justice throughout the region. Let’s work together to make a measurable difference—connect with us today to explore partnership opportunities.

Representing a client that that needs accountability random toxicology screening, let us help. Message us today to find out more at np@criterionservicesinc.com.

Stay Connected with Criterion Services, Inc. Today!



Connect

Stay updated with our latest news, events, and advocacy efforts by following us on social media. Join our community and engage with us through various platforms for ongoing support and information.

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