



Chief Dan Duncan
Melbourne Beach Police Department
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Melbourne Beach LEAD Program

Dear Resident,

There's a quick test parents can use to find out if their son or daughter is taking drugs, and it's available at the Melbourne Beach Police Department.

Melbourne Beach's mission is to stop children from becoming substance abusers before it's too late, and to empower parents to intervene in their children's lives before they wind up in the cycle of the criminal justice system or worse.

Parents are the first line of defense in a child's life. The majority of crime and gun violence in our communities is related to drug trafficking, sales, and use. We can positively impact our youth to stay away from drugs and make our neighborhoods safer. This program is one more important way we can reach the community and specifically get parents involved on the front end of potential drug use.

The screening kits are a part of a program called LEAD, which stands for Law Enforcement Against Drugs. In-home drug testing kits may be purchased by parents. Sales will be anonymous and no one will be obligated to report the results to anyone. The tests – urine-based for drugs – produce results in minutes and have a 98 percent accuracy rate. When used, the kits can detect various types of drugs and each kit includes complete instructions. This is a very inexpensive starting point for parents to solve problems at home before it becomes a problem with law enforcement, prosecutors and courts. Parents can also call the LEAD hotline at 1-800-284-5444 for help in interpreting tests and for referrals.

Distributing the self-administered test kits is a logical extension of the police department's outreach in our neighborhoods. Interventions by parents are most important to determine the level of intervention needed. Keeping just ONE child out of a substance situation, and ultimately a law enforcement situation is worth the effort.

Empower parents, now able to test their children at home, can reduce peer pressure by giving the kids an "OUT" when faced with drug and/or alcohol use. "(I can't because I don't want to get caught.)" The kit also offers a perfect tool to start an open discussion about the dangers of drug abuse. If they say, "Mom, you don't trust me?" then tell them that someone could slip a drug into their drink at a party and they might not know it. And don't wait 'til they're 16 years old. Start at age 9 or 10, or earlier.

You may also say you got this kit in case any of your friends are having any trouble. There are also children who are doing well and don't appear to show symptoms of substance abuse should pick up a drug test kit anyway. Drugs may still become a part of their life.

Parents can be picked up the drug kits at the Melbourne Beach Police Department from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. The kits will be available at a cost of:

\$8.00 – Marijuana tests (one panel)

\$20.00 – the advanced tests

The Melbourne Beach Police Department believes these screening kits are a good tool to help parents become involved much earlier in the detection of drug use. The fact that the screening kits are self-administered will provide parents with a high degree of privacy and security. Parents can administer the kits and view the results in the privacy of their own home. Melbourne Beach Police will not have access to the results.

Sincerely,

Chief Dan Duncan

