

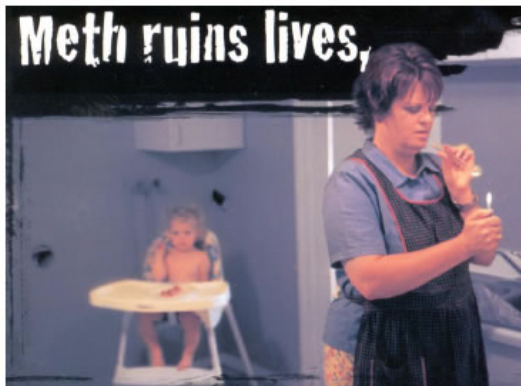
Unusual Security/Ventilation Measures:

- Alarm systems and large protective dogs.
- Baby room monitors being used outdoors.
- Video surveillance systems positioned to observe exterior of home.
- Elaborate fencing and heavy duty locks when it is not evident what is being secured.
- Numerous fans or industrial-type fans positioned to ventilate the home.

Additional Indicators of a Meth Lab:

- Numerous chemical containers, matchbooks with striker plates removed, abundance of cold tablet/diet pill containers.
- Reddish stained coffee filters, canning jars with multi-colored liquids, aquarium-type tubing used in bottles.
- Battery casings, crumpled/burnt foil.
- Windows blacked out or covered.
- People in and around meth manufacturing may exhibit respiratory irritation and/or chemical burns to skin.
- Continuous movement in and out of home.

If you suspect meth production, leave the home immediately and contact 911 and your supervisor.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Elko District Office

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Fallon District Office

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Fallon, NV 89406
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Pahrump District Office

1780 E. Basin Ave. Ste 2
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Washoe County Department of Social Services

350 South Center Street
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www.washoecounty.us/socsvr

Clark County Department of Family Services

121 South Martin L. King Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89106
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Nevada Attorney General

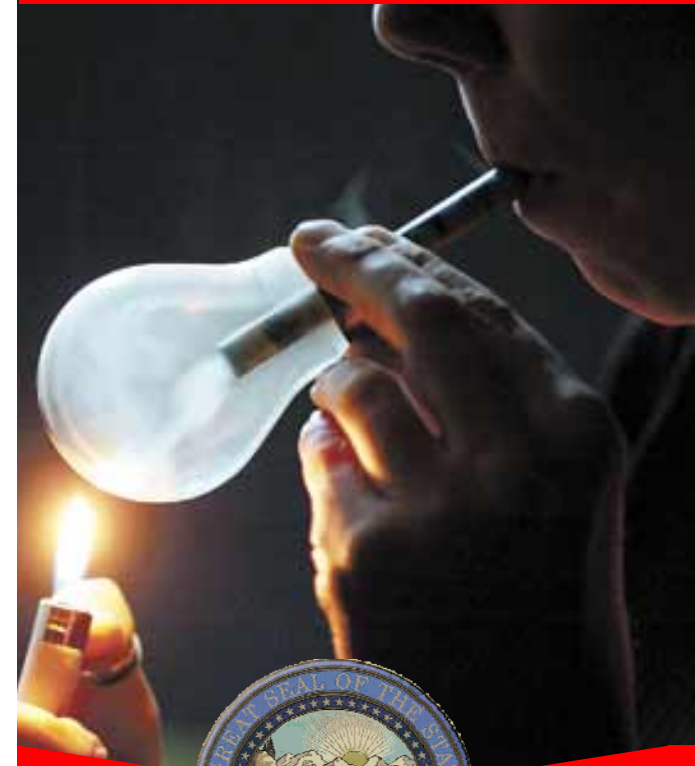
ag.nv.gov/About_Meth/



Designed by Systems Advocate Unit

Nevada

Methamphetamine Protocols for Social Workers



Division
Of
Child & Family Services

A flood of incoming children whose meth-addicted parents cannot care for them is straining state child-welfare systems. Complicating the problem is the fact that so many meth users live in rural areas, where social services are minimal.

Before You Go:

- Ensure that you have obtained as much information about your client as possible.
- If possible, canvas the area around the home's address. Assess potential safety concerns and take precautions.
- Communicate your schedule and likely route to your supervisor. Notify your office of your arrival.
- Carry only your ID, a cell phone and/or pager, and keys.
- Wear a name badge if you have one, but don't wear one around your neck. A clip on is best.

Upon Arrival:

- Park within direct sight of the home's entry. Park in a well lit, unobstructed area. Don't park in the driveway of the home.
- As you exit your car, be attentive to people in the area and any unsecured dogs.
- Keep your hands as free as possible. Do not be distracted by talking on a cell phone.
- Have "911" ready to push on your cell phone.

Amphetamine/Methamphetamine Admissions to Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA) Programs by Age SFY 2014

Age Groups	Numbers of Admissions	Percent of SFY 2014 Admissions
17 and Below	50	1.5%
18 to 25	825	20.4%
26 to 44	2,450	60.8%
45 to 64	689	17.1%
65 and Older	8	0.2%
Total	4,022	100.0

Source: Division of Public and Behavioral Health
SAPTA Methamphetamine Fact Sheet 2014

Safety During the Visit:

- Present yourself as calm, confident, observant, and in control.
- Position yourself between the client and an exit.
- Have an excuse to leave prepared in advance.
- Be aware of your surroundings and leave if your instincts tell you to.
- Pay particular attention to the client's protectiveness related to certain rooms of the home.
- Leave the home immediately if you smell chemicals.

Indicators of Meth Use:

- Dilated pupils
- Restlessness/agitation
- Paranoia and hallucinations
- Hyperactivity and compulsiveness
- Aggressiveness and violent behavior
- Talkativeness
- Convulsions
- Increased sweating/body odor
- Uncontrollable movements (twitching, jerking, etc...)
- Picking at skin/hair
- Impaired speech
- Dry, itchy skin
- Premature aging
- Rotting teeth
- Low body weight
- Acne, sores
- Shadows under eyes
- Chain Smoking



Possible Meth Lab Activity:

Of the more than 30 chemicals that can be used in various combinations to "cook" meth, one-third of them are extremely toxic. For every pound of meth produced, about five pounds of highly toxic waste are generated. This creates a dangerous and formidable working environment for social workers who are frequently called to homes where meth is used to investigate a report of child abuse or neglect.



Chemical Odors Associated with Meth Production:

- Ether-like: Aromatic, sweet odor often accompanied by a sweet taste. Sometimes described as a "hospital odor". **Nasal irritant.**
- Solvent-like sweet odor from common solvents used in paint thinners, paint removers, adhesives, and cleaning fluids. Type of odor often found in an auto body shop. **Eye and nasal irritant.**
- Ammonia-like: An intense, sharp, irritating odor similar but much stronger than that from wet diapers, glass cleaners, cattle feed-lots or fertilizers. **Eye and nasal irritant.**

