

# Example EtG Drug Court Client Contract

The following document is an **example** client contract for use with drug court participants undergoing alcohol abstinence monitoring that employs the laboratory test for ethyl glucuronide (EtG). As with any client contract, the primary purpose is to outline the behavioral requirements and compliance standards necessary for continued participation in drug court. In addition, this client contract serves to educate, alert and advise drug court participants to the potential (incidental) sources of alcohol that could produce a positive urine EtG test result. This contract is designed to inform drug court clients of the numerous commercial products that contain ethyl alcohol and to provide them with a list of substances to avoid while in a drug court program. Courts utilizing EtG testing should consider this contract as a tool for advising participants on inadvertent sources of alcohol. This contract may also be useful in the sanctioning of drug court clients when used in combination with a positive EtG test result. Programs should revise this example contract as needed to conform to specific program goals and objectives.

## URINE ABSTINENCE TESTING AND INCIDENTAL ALCOHOL EXPOSURE CONTRACT

Recent advances in the science of alcohol detection in urine have greatly increased the ability to detect even trace amounts of alcohol consumption. In addition, these tests are capable of detecting alcohol ingestion for significantly longer periods of time after a drinking episode. Because these tests are sensitive, in rare circumstances, exposure to non-beverage alcohol sources can result in detectable levels of alcohol (or its breakdown products). In order to preserve the integrity of the Drug Court testing program, it has become necessary for us to restrict and/or advise Drug Court participants regarding the use of certain alcohol-containing products.

It is **YOUR** responsibility to limit your exposure to the products and substances detailed below that contain ethyl alcohol. It is **YOUR** responsibility to read product labels, to know what is contained in the products you use and consume and to stop and inspect these products **BEFORE** you use them. **Use of the products detailed below in violation of this contract will NOT be allowed as an excuse for a positive test result. When in doubt, don't use, consume or apply.**

**Cough syrups and other liquid medications:** Drug Court participants have always been prohibited from using alcohol-containing cough/cold syrups, such as Nyquil®. Other cough syrup brands and numerous other liquid medications, rely upon ethyl alcohol as a solvent. Drug Court participants are required to read product labels carefully to determine if they contain ethyl alcohol (ethanol). All prescription and over-the-counter medications should be reviewed with your case manager before use. Information on the composition of prescription medications should be available upon request from your pharmacist. Non-alcohol containing cough and cold remedies are readily available at most pharmacies and major retail stores.

**Non-Alcoholic Beer and Wine:** Although legally considered non-alcoholic, NA beers (e.g. O'Douls®, Sharps®) do contain a residual amount of alcohol that may result in a positive test result for alcohol, if consumed. Drug Court participants are **not** permitted to ingest NA beer or NA wine.

**Food and Other Ingestible Products:** There are numerous other consumable products that contain ethyl alcohol that could result in a positive test for alcohol. Flavoring extracts, such as vanilla or almond extract, and liquid herbal extracts (such as Ginko Biloba), could result in a positive screen for alcohol or its breakdown products. Communion wine, food cooked with wine, and flambé dishes (alcohol poured over a food and ignited such as cherries jubilee, baked Alaska) must be avoided. Read carefully the labels on any liquid herbal or homeopathic remedy and do not ingest without approval from your case manager.

**Mouthwash and Breath Strips:** Most mouthwashes (Listermint®, Cepacol®, etc.) and other breath cleansing products contain ethyl alcohol. The use of mouthwashes containing ethyl alcohol can produce a positive test result. Drug Court participants are required to read product labels and educate themselves as to whether a mouthwash product contains ethyl alcohol. Use of ethyl alcohol-containing mouthwashes and breath strips by Drug Court participants is not permitted. Non-alcohol mouthwashes are readily available and are an acceptable alternative. If you have questions about a particular product, bring it in to discuss with your case manager.

**Hand sanitizers:** Hand sanitizers (e.g. Purell®, Germex®, etc.) and other antiseptic gels and foams used to disinfect hands contain up to 70% ethyl alcohol. Excessive, unnecessary or repeated use of these products could result in a positive urine test. Hand washing with soap and water are just as effective for killing germs.

**Hygiene Products:** Aftershave and colognes, hair sprays and mousse, astringents, insecticides (bug sprays such as Off®) and some body washes contain ethyl alcohol. While it is unlikely that limited use of these products would result in a positive test for alcohol (or its breakdown products) excessive, unnecessary or repeated use of these products could affect test results. Participants must use such products sparingly to avoid reaching detection levels. Just as the court requires Drug Court participants to regulate their fluid intake to avoid dilute urine samples, it is likewise incumbent upon each participant to limit their use of topically applied (on the skin) products containing ethyl alcohol.

**Solvents and Lacquers.** Many solvents, lacquers and surface preparation products used in industry, construction, and the home, contain ethyl alcohol. Both excessive inhalation of vapors, and topical exposure to such products, can potentially cause a positive test result for alcohol. As with the products noted above, Drug Court participants must educate themselves as to the ingredients in the products they are using. There are alternatives to nearly any item containing ethyl alcohol. Frequency of use and duration of exposure to such products should be kept to a minimum. A positive test result will not be excused by reference to use of an alcohol-based solvent. If you are in employment where contact with such products cannot be avoided, *you need to discuss this with your Case Manager.* Do not wait for a positive test result to do so.

**Remember! When in doubt, don't use, consume or apply.**

**I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND MY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

\_\_\_\_\_

PARTICIPANT

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE

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