

#04-7984 P.C. 8400174

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July 7, 2004

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Walter F. Vogle, Ph.D.
Drug Testing Section
Division of Workplace Programs
CSAP
5600 Fishers Lane
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RE: SAMHSA Volume 69, Number 71, Federal Register

Dear Dr. Vogle:

It is my understanding that the proposed SAMHSA guidelines for drug testing government employees restricts hair samples to only head hair. The Student Drug Testing Program within the Jefferson Parish Public School System has been using hair analysis for the past two (2) years. When students present themselves with insufficient head hair, body hair, excluding public hair, has been used with no problems in regards to being "too intrusive."

However, during the first year of the program there were several situations where athletes presented themselves with insufficient hair in order to avoid the hair test. In those cases, the Superintendent required urine tests each month until sufficient hair was available. At the end of the first year of the program, the School Board amended the Student Drug Testing Program Policies and Procedures to state that athletes who present themselves for drug testing with insufficient hair, head or body, may not participate in their sport until a sufficient hair sample can be obtained for analysis.

Therefore, it is my opinion that body hair should be included in the SAMHSA guidelines for testing government employees.

If you have any questions or need more information, I may be reached at (504) 361-2732 or flandry@ipda.org.

Sincerely,

Freddie M. Landry Freddie G. Landry

Drug Prevention Coordinator

Paul D. Connick, Jr. XC: