

## In –Home Evaluation

The following brief section offers some tools for conducting a home evaluation. Developing awareness of drug-related paraphernalia can help Children Divisions workers make an initial assessment without being overly intrusive.

During a visit to the home, make a visual survey of the contents and placement of objects.

**Look specifically for the combination of certain objects placed together or objects placed in peculiar places** (i.e. spoons and syringes together or aluminum foil bowl sitting next to a lighter)

### DRUGS:

*Heating implements:* lighters, matches, incense burners, sterno, butane lighter, hot plate,

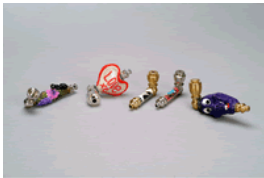


*Odors:* Notice unfamiliar or distinctive smells, ammonia, ether, etc.

*Paraphernalia:* Look for unusual shapes or utensils, razor blades, water pipes, rolling papers, aluminum foil shaped into a bowl or boat, light bulbs that appear to be burned and are cleaned out, syringes, roach clips, small roach cigarettes (the end of a rolled cigarette), scales to weigh drugs, small seeds

*Containers:* Small plastic baggies, mason jars, empty film canisters, small glass vials

*Unsuspecting Containers:* Many of the containers made to hold illegal substances have been made to appear as normal household items including: lipstick tubes made into pipes, soft drink cans and bottles made with false bottoms to store drugs, highlighters or markers with internal drug pipes, eye drop bottles used for LSD or other drugs, there are also many key-chains that are converted into marijuana pipes.



Assorted collection of drug pipes.



Felt tip marker with internal drug pipe.



[www.usdoj.gov/dea/concern/paraphernaliafact.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/concern/paraphernaliafact.html)

[www.prevlink.org/getthefacts/webphotoalbums/paraphernalia/](http://www.prevlink.org/getthefacts/webphotoalbums/paraphernalia/)

## Visual Evaluation of Clients

Workers need to identify the physical characteristics of drug abuse in their clients to determine the presence and/or degree of the substance abuse problem.

Substance abuse may be suspected when objective and careful visual examination of the following are observed:

*General:* General lack of hygienic appearance, grooming, sense of well-being or healthy facial glow. A person may look as if he/she has been staying up all night. Observe level of anxiety or passiveness, response to questions, and eye contact when engaged in conversation. Rapid weight loss may be present in long time users.

*Face:* Flushed appearance (not like a suntan) Broken capillaries (small blood vessels around cheeks and nose), sunken in cheeks (appears to be overly defined cheekbones), rotting teeth

*Eyes:* Dilated pupil or very small pupils, red eyes (can be disguised with use of Visine or similar eye drop products), roving eye movements, visual complaints, light sensitivity, unusual tearing

*Nose:* Rhinitis, runny nose, nasal salute, frequent sniffing (excuse may be allergy problems), frequent nose bleeds, puffy and red nose

*Skin:* Excessive sweating, pasty color or appearance, track marks (these can be on the arms, but other common places to inject substances are between the toes and fingers), scars, bruises, sores

*Nails:* Gray, blue or ashen color



*The addict after and before the meth addiction*

[www.meada.org/images/images/meth-junkie.jpg](http://www.meada.org/images/images/meth-junkie.jpg)



[www.drugfreeaz.com/audience/teens\\_methlady.html](http://www.drugfreeaz.com/audience/teens_methlady.html)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/concern/paraphernaliafact.html>

<http://www.sacsconsulting.com/book/chapter5.htm>

