

**DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN'S TEAM**  
**INTERAGENCY OPERATING AGREEMENT**

**March 2004**

**WHEREAS:** The constant growth of illegal methamphetamine labs is a major public safety issue in East Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS:** Children are the innocent victims of exposure to methamphetamine labs; and

**WHEREAS:** The emerging needs of these children who are negatively affected by the epidemic of methamphetamine must be addressed; and

**WHEREAS:** The mission of the Drug Endangered Children's Team is to bring together appropriate agencies to present a process and method of information sharing, cooperation, and coordination leading to improved public policy for these children in need;

We, the members of the Drug Endangered Children's Team, vested with the responsibility of ensuring the safety and well being of our children and youth, agree to adopt this Interagency Operating Agreement in order to:

1. Promote information sharing strategies that support comprehensive, proactive partnerships between juvenile court, law enforcement, schools, government agencies, and social service providers.
2. Share information for planning and research purposes in a manner that is legal and appropriate.

3. Establish an interagency working group to identify and address the victimization of children as related to the illegal operation of methamphetamine labs.
4. Maintain a comprehensive strategy that coordinates, assesses, plans, and acts upon identified implementation phases.
5. Develop organizational processes and policies to coordinate information and services in a collaborative manner to improve systemic responses to youth related issues.
6. Share information between participating agencies within the justice system regarding methamphetamine related crimes against children.

This memorandum of understanding is agreed upon on this the \_\_\_\_ day of March 2004.

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Knox County Juvenile Court

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Knox County District Attorney General

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United States Attorney's Office

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Knox County Schools

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Knoxville Police Department

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Knox County Sheriff's Department

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Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

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Knoxville's Community Development Corporation

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University of Tennessee, College of Social Work

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Tennessee Department of Children's Services

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Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Knoxville

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Helen Ross McNabb Mental Health Center

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Child and Family Tennessee

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Metropolitan Drug Commission

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Knox County Community Services Agency

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Knox County Property Assessor's Office

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Knox County Health Department

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Knoxville Fire Department

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Rural Metro Fire Department

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Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale

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Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam