



Drug, Alcohol &  
DNA Testing for  
Family Law

[www.lextox.co.uk](http://www.lextox.co.uk)

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# Welcome to Lextox

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At Lextox we provide drug, alcohol and DNA testing services for family law cases and child care proceedings.

Established in 2011 by Experts from within the UK hair testing industry, our mission then remains the same now – to provide the most responsive, client oriented service and reliable results.

Fully focussed on family law, we provide the complete range of testing services for child care proceedings including:

- / Hair Drug & Alcohol
- / Blood Alcohol
- / SCRAM Continuous Alcohol
- / DNA

As an ISO 17025 UKAS Accredited Testing Laboratory (No. 7516), we follow strict quality assurance procedures to deliver legally defensible Analysis Results and Expert Reports which are accepted in every UK family court. Please refer to our Service Level Agreement for details of our ISO 17025 UKAS accreditation, which is specific to hair analysis and excludes Blood Alcohol, DNA and SCRAM testing.



Today we are trusted by more than 17,000 family law solicitors and local authorities across the UK to deliver a responsive service and reliable results.

Lextox is a member of the SYNLAB Group, the leading medical diagnostic services provider in Europe.

## Why Lextox

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At Lextox, it's not only our established procedures that make us a trusted partner to over 17,000 family law and local authority clients across the UK – but the people behind the processes. Lextox is the preferred choice for many clients based on the quality of our people and the relationships they have built with our team.

When instructing Lextox:

- / You will have a dedicated Client Manager who is able to discuss the testing options with you in order to help you understand the best option for your case
- / You will receive a competitively priced, case specific quotation the same day as submitting your request
- / You can arrange a sample collection appointment immediately and we aim to collect the samples within 48 hours
- / Analysis results are issued and Expert Reports written by our own team of laboratory based UK experts with over 100

years' combined experience

- / Should you have any queries on the results upon receiving them, our team of Experts are able to answer these for you
- / You can expect a quality service. An ISO 17025 UKAS Accredited Testing Laboratory (No. 7516), we work to right first time procedures and are continually researching and developing new methods and services so our clients receive the most appropriate scientific evidence for their casework



*We find Lextox very helpful and efficient and use them above all other testing companies*

**Victoria Teall,  
Langley Wellington LLP**

# Your Test Options

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At Lextox we provide a wide range of test options to meet your individual case needs and timeframes. The table below provides a snapshot of useful information – but how do you know which test is right for your case?

When instructing Lextox, your dedicated Client Manager will discuss the test options with you in detail to help you understand and select the best option for your case.

Test	Sample Type	Window of Detection
<b>Alcohol</b>	Hair	Up to 6 months
	Blood - CDT	2-4 weeks
	Blood - LFT	Snapshot
	Blood - PEth	4 weeks
	SCRAM	24/7
<b>Drugs</b>	Hair	Months
<b>DNA</b>	Oral swab	N/A





# Hair Testing

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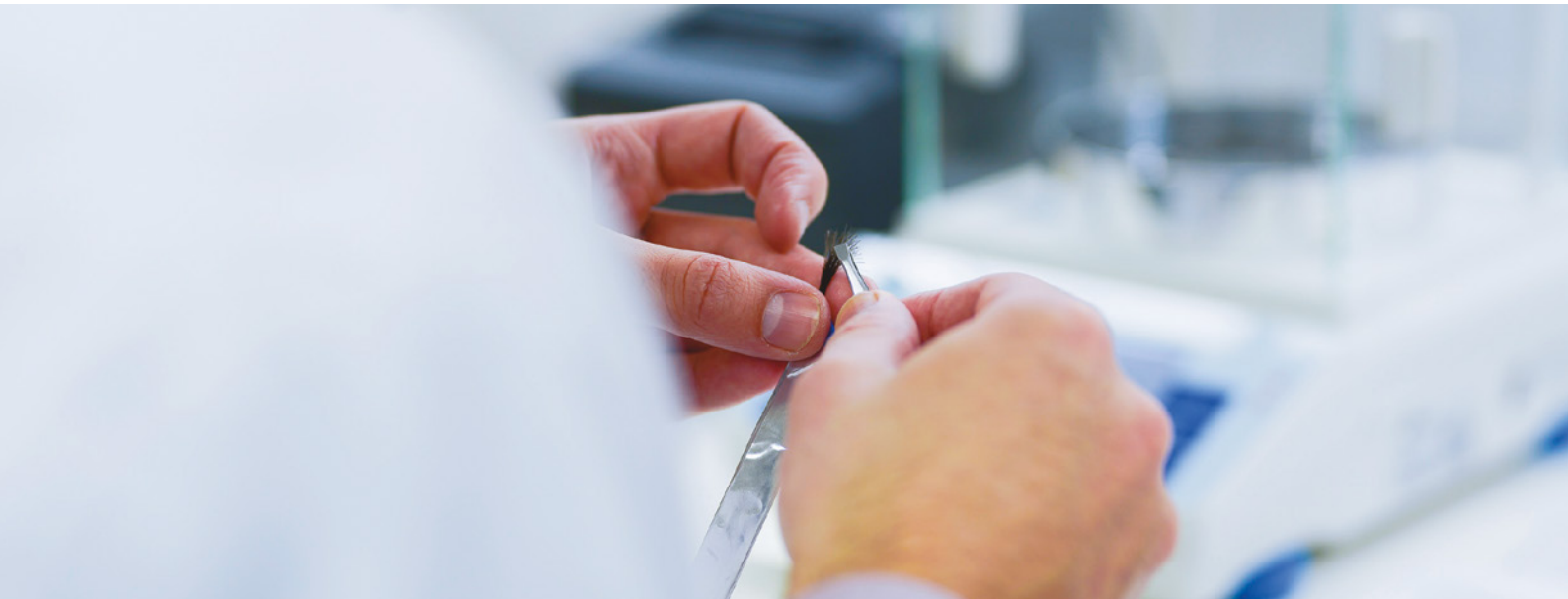
When it comes to testing for drugs and/or alcohol, hair strand analysis is both a proven and reliable method. Providing a unique window of detection covering months rather than days or hours, hair can be analysed to determine chronic excessive alcohol consumption and drug use.

Our Experts are members of the Society of Hair Testing, an independent international body which provides guidance on appropriate analysis techniques for the detection of drugs and alcohol in hair. By complying with the Society of Hair Testing consensus, Lextox is providing hair analysis within internationally agreed recommendations.



**10,000+  
Results**

Last year we delivered over 10,000 hair drug and alcohol analysis results and Expert Reports for family law cases.



## Hair Drug Testing

When instructing Lextox to analyse hair for drugs, our clients have three options; a month by month/segmental analysis, a bi-monthly analysis or an overview.

A month by month analysis sections the hair into approximate individual months. If a hair drug test was to cover 6 months, a month by month analysis will provide 6 individual results for each approximate monthly period. This segmental analysis can help to show a trend i.e. increase or decrease in the levels detected, or help to highlight low level instances.

An overview of a 6 month drug test would provide 2 results, one for the first 3 months and a second result for the second 3 months. The overview analysis provides a general result of drug use within a 3 month time period, and not to a specific month. This is beneficial if you only need to obtain a general indication of drug use. If no scalp hair is available, body hair can be analysed for this type of analysis.

For a bi-monthly analysis our laboratory will cut the scalp hair samples into 2 cm sections, each corresponding to a period of approximately 2 months.

At Lextox we are able to provide hair tests for the following illegal drugs and substances of abuse:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| / Antidepressants  | / Ecstasy (MDMA)                         | / Pethidine                                     |
| / Anti-Epileptics<br>(including Pregablin<br>and Gabapentin) | / Fentanyl                               | / Psychoactive<br>Substances ('Legal<br>Highs') |
| / Benzodiazepines  | / Ketamine                               | / Steroids                                      |
| / Buprenorphine  | / LSD                                    | / Spice (Synthetic<br>Cannabinoids)             |
| / Cannabis   | / Mephedrone<br>(M-Cat)                  | / Tramadol                                      |
| / Cathinone  | / Methadone                              | / Zolpidem<br>(Hypnotics)                       |
| / Cocaine<br>(including crack<br>cocaine)                    | / Methamphetamine<br>(incl. Amphetamine) |   |
|  | / Opiates (incl.<br>Heroin)              |   |

# Hair Alcohol Testing

Our hair alcohol test detects two alcohol biomarkers, Ethyl Palmitate (EtPa) and Ethyl Glucuronide (EtG) to assess chronic excessive alcohol use.

EtG is a metabolite (breakdown product) of alcohol, produced by the body when alcohol is ingested. Ethyl palmitate (EtPa) is produced in the presence of alcohol and is therefore produced by the body when alcohol is ingested. In line with the Society of Hair Testing consensus, we perform EtPa and EtG analysis in combination to obtain the most accurate interpretation. The recommended length of hair that an alcohol in hair test can cover is either

3cm or 6cm. For this type of analysis, if no scalp hair is available, then chest, leg and arm hair can be used.

At Lextox, we recommend that hair alcohol analysis is used in conjunction with other evidence such as blood alcohol tests, clinical assessments and a history of alcohol abuse to help obtain a comprehensive picture of an individual's alcohol use.



# Blood Alcohol Testing

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Our blood alcohol tests include Liver Function (LF), Carbohydrate Deficient Transferrin (CDT) and Phosphatidylethanol (PEth).

## Liver Function Testing (LF)

A liver function test is used to help assess liver damage. Any damage to the liver alters the biomarkers in the blood stream allowing any

impairment to be highlighted. A liver function test will provide a snap shot in time of potential liver damage through excessive alcohol use.

## Carbohydrate Deficient Transferrin (CDT)

A carbohydrate deficient transferrin test measures the percentage of carbohydrate molecules that are bound to transferrin (a protein that transports iron around the body) in the blood. Alcohol consumption can interfere with the binding of carbohydrate molecules to transferrin, causing elevated levels of transferrin that are missing the carbohydrate molecule.

Excessive alcohol consumption over the previous 2-4 week period can elevate the total percentage of transferrin that is carbohydrate deficient and thus is a good marker to help assess more recent alcohol use.

At Lextox, we recommend that both liver function and carbohydrate deficient transferrin tests are used together. Each test looks for different markers so when combined together they can provide mutual confirmation and a greater degree of certainty.





# Phosphatidylethanol Testing (PEth)

A PEth blood test measures the level of phosphatidylethanol, a direct alcohol biomarker which is found in human blood following alcohol consumption. Phosphatidylethanol is an abnormal phospholipid formed in the presence of ethanol. PEth is formed in the presence of ethanol and bonds to the membrane of red blood cells.

PEth blood testing is useful in detecting prolonged or heavy 'binge' drinking, when tested for regularly. Typically, the detection period for PEth is 4 weeks. Because PEth is only formed in the presence of ethanol, it is a reliable test method for determining alcohol use. This also means that it has a high sensitivity due to its direct relation to alcohol consumption.

# Continuous Alcohol Testing

SCRAM™ Continuous Alcohol Testing is an innovative way of testing a participant's alcohol consumption over a period of time and allows for 24/7 alcohol testing.

A Lextox Collector will fit the SCRAM bracelet to the participant's ankle and install the SCRAM base station in their home or at the solicitors'/social workers' office. The bracelet will automatically test for alcohol which has been excreted transdermally (through the skin) every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The participant will typically wear the bracelet for 30, 60 or 90 days which is useful to show periods of sobriety or if an individual is consuming alcohol during periods of contact. The device is fitted with both temperature and infrared sensors which are able to detect instances of tampering or obstruction.

The SCRAM base station will collect the testing data to be reported and Lextox will generate monthly reports to profile the participant's alcohol consumption.



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*An excellent,  
efficient service*

Bo-Nina Richards,  
TG Baynes Solicitors

# DNA Testing

We provide a range of DNA relationship testing services to help verify family relationships;

- / Paternity
- / Maternity
- / Prenatal
- / Siblingship
- / Grandparentage
- / Avuncular

The DNA test report will usually be issued in 3 working days of receiving the sample. Analysis results for prenatal DNA tests will be provided in 8 working days or less.

The DNA testing laboratory used by Lextox holds ISO 17025 accreditation and is Ministry of Justice accredited to perform parentage tests directed by the courts in England and Wales under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969.

## Sample Collections

At Lextox, sample collection appointments can be arranged immediately and we aim to collect within 48 hours of our client's instruction.

The collection process is an integral aspect of the whole sample analysis process. To ensure the analysis is right first time, it is imperative the sample collection is right first time. Sample collection is undertaken by our team of trained Sample Collectors. Responsible for over 200 sample collections every week and one of the largest teams in the UK they:



*[Lextox] are able to arrange sample collection appointments at short notice which is helpful when dealing with urgent cases*

**Victoria Saurin,  
Bedford Borough Council**

- / Are in a location near to you, allowing us to arrange a sample collection appointment convenient to you and your client – not just when our collector is in your area
- / Are healthcare professionals fully trained in the collection of biological samples, many are phlebotomists and all are DBS checked
- / Are fully equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which meets government guidelines for the type of collections we undertake
- / Collect samples sensitively and sympathetically to ensure minimal discomfort for the donor
- / Can collect hair, blood and DNA samples in one collection appointment ensuring convenience for you and the donor
- / Follow strict chain of custody procedures giving you peace of mind that the samples are collected correctly



## Our Experts

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We pride ourselves on recruiting and retaining the very best people to deliver a responsive service and reliable results. Our team of Laboratory Analysts and Reporting Scientists, who are also court trained Expert Witnesses, includes some of the most experienced individuals in the industry, who routinely analyse and report over 1000 family law cases every month. Expert Reports are written by our own team of UK Experts with over 100 years' combined experience.

Our Expert Witnesses are able to attend court to explain the testing results, including the sample analysis and chain of custody. We are members of the Society of Hair Testing (SoHT), Bond Solon trained and are able to

use our experience and knowledge to provide sound forensic toxicology advice for your case. All of our Experts are familiar with biological extraction and assessment techniques in accordance with ISO 17025 UKAS testing standards.

Our Reporting Scientists have a wealth of experience, having had work published and given evidence in high court. One of our Reporting Scientists also gave extensive evidence in a landmark child custody case, in which The Honorable Mr Justice Peter Jackson highlighted the importance of increased awareness on hair testing, for all participants in the system.

## CPD Seminars

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Lextox offers CPD seminars to provide an understanding of drug and alcohol testing and how it can be used appropriately in family law cases and child care proceedings.

The seminars, which can be delivered on site or online, are delivered by our own Experts who have the relevant qualifications and

experience to competently answer your questions.

They also provide an opportunity to seek clarification on specific queries and can be used as part of your CPD learning activities. Please visit our website for more information.



**Our team are waiting to provide you with your case specific quotation, to arrange your sample collection appointment and answer any questions you may have.**

**Contact us:**

**Call [029 2048 4141](tel:02920484141)**

**Email [experts@lextox.co.uk](mailto:experts@lextox.co.uk)**

**Visit our website**

**[www.lextox.co.uk](http://www.lextox.co.uk)**