

Risks to Children: Signs of Methadone Poisoning

Due to their lower weight, small children can easily be poisoned if they consume even the residue of a methadone dose created for an adult's weight.

Symptoms of a methadone poisoning

- Lethargy
- “Pin-point Pupils” (the pupil of the eye constricts and gets smaller)
- Difficulty Breathing
- Unusual Snoring/Gurgling Noises
- Turning Pale
- Developing a Cold, Sticky Sweat
- Becoming Unconscious

CALL 911



**If you believe your child has
ingested methadone,
CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.**

- Even a small amount of methadone can be fatal.

Useful Numbers

Alcohol and Drug Referral Service
1-800-622-2255

IL Department of Human Services
1-800-843-6154

IL Department of Human Services
Division of Alcoholism and
Substance Abuse (DASA)
1-800-213-0548

Mental Health/Crisis Intervention
Hotline
1-800-248-7475

Poison Control Hotline
1-800-222-1222

Sources:

New South Wales Department of Community Services
NSW Health; National Institute of Child Health and
Human Development

© Office of the Inspector General,
Department of Children and Family Services

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

SAFETY  **SAFETY**
FIRST ALWAYS

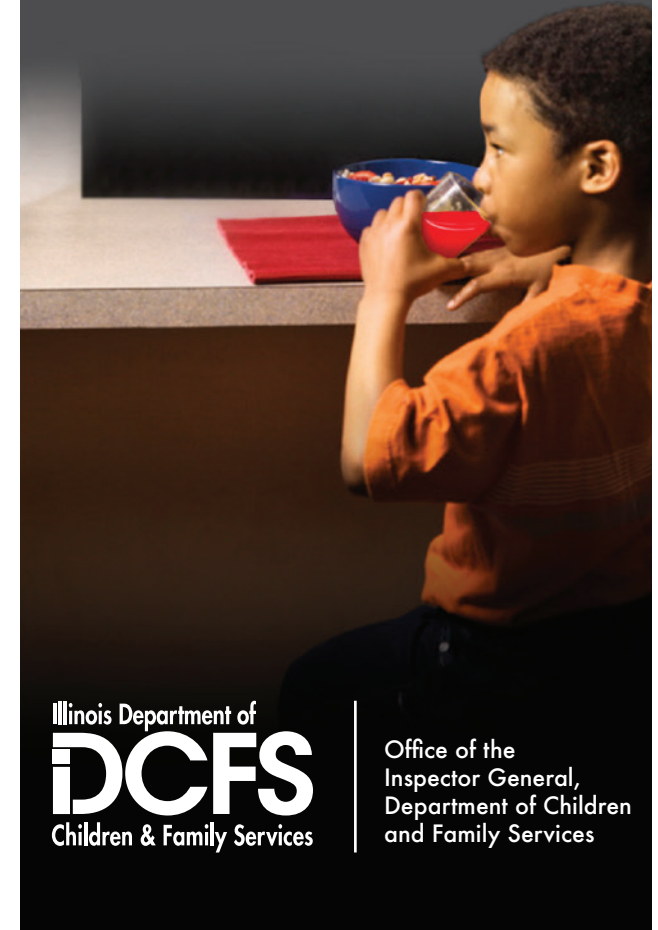
312.814.6800

www2.illinois.gov/DCFS

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois
DCFS #142 – Sep 2022 – 3,000 copies
CFS 1050-66-3 – rev 4/2015

Practice Methadone Safety

Keeping Children Safe from Accidental Methadone Poisoning



Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

Office of the
Inspector General,
Department of Children
and Family Services

Safe Methadone Storage

DO



Store your methadone where a child cannot access it. Such as:

- A locked box
- A locked cabinet, or
- A cabinet or shelf high up.

DON'T



Don't place methadone where a child can access it. Such as:

- Inside refrigerator
- Countertops
- Low cabinet
- Window sill
- Drawer
- Wardrobe
- Closet floor
- Car glove box, or
- End table.

Where do you store your methadone?

Hazards of Mixing and Storing Methadone

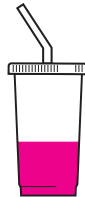
Every year, young children die as a result of ingesting a small amount of methadone that has been mixed with water or a beverage, and stored in a container that is not childproof.



Never mix and store methadone in a container that is unlabeled.

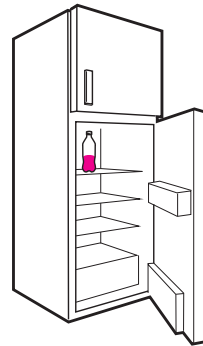
A child died when a caregiver gave a child a plastic water bottle from the refrigerator.

Unknown to the caregiver, the liquid in the bottle had been mixed with methadone. Be sure to inform other adults in the home of where and in what you store your methadone.



Never mix and store methadone in anything other than a child-proof container.

A child died after drinking methadone that had been left on an end table in the living room. The methadone was not in a child-proof container.



Another child died after drinking methadone that had been mixed with a liquid and stored in the refrigerator. The parent thought that the toddler could not open the refrigerator.

Never drink your methadone in front of a child.

Never Leave Methadone Where a Child Can Access It

Never store or leave methadone in a place easily accessible by children.

Be mindful of your child's personal level of activity (i.e. crawling, walking) when you plan to store your methadone.

