



**CITY OF CLOQUET  
DRUG ALCOHOL AND CANNABIS TESTING AND  
DRUG FREE WOKPLACE ACT POLICY FOR  
NON-COMMERCIAL DRIVERS  
(NON-DOT POLICY)**

Adopted 07/16/2002

Amended 07/17/02, 05/03/16, 07/12/22, 08/01/2023

## **PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The city of Cloquet (“city”) has a vital interest in maintaining safe, healthful, and efficient working conditions for employees, and recognizes that individuals who are impaired because of drugs and/or alcohol jeopardize the safety and health of other workers as well as themselves. The city of Cloquet does not intend to intrude into the private lives of its employees, but strongly believes that a drug, alcohol and cannabis-free workplace is in the best interest of employees and the public alike. Alcohol and drug and cannabis abuse can cause unsatisfactory job performance, increased tardiness and absenteeism, increased accidents and workers’ compensation claims, higher insurance rates, and an increase in theft of city property. The city of Cloquet’s Drug Alcohol and Cannabis Testing Non-DOT policy has been established for the purpose of providing a safe workplace for all.

City employees and applicants required to hold a commercial driver’s license by the United States Department of Transportation (“DOT”) for their job will be tested under the city’s Policy on Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing for Commercial Drivers (the “DOT Policy”). All other employees and job applicants offered employment with the city must undergo testing as described by this policy.

To ensure the policy is clearly communicated to all employees and applicants to whom offers of employment have been made, and to comply with state law, employees and applicants are required to review this policy and sign the “policy acknowledgement.” A job applicant will also acknowledge in this form that he/she understands that passing the drug test is a requirement of the job.

## **PERSONS SUBJECT TO TESTING AND CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH TESTING MAY BE REQUIRED**

Under this policy, the city may test any applicant to whom an offer of employment has been made and may test any employee for alcohol and/or drugs, including cannabis, under any of the following circumstances with a properly accredited or licensed testing laboratory, in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 181.953, subd. 1.

**(1) Pre-Employment Testing:**

Every job applicant offered employment with the city receives the offer conditioned upon successful completion of drug test and/or an alcohol or cannabis test, if applicable, among other conditions. The city will not request or require a job applicant to undergo cannabis testing related to “lawful consumable products” pursuant to Minn. Stat. 181.938, including alcohol, cannabis, lower-potency hemp edibles, and hemp-derived consumer products, except with respect to the categories of positions listed below in the definition of “Drug,” or if otherwise required by state or federal law. If the job offer is withdrawn based on alcohol and/or drug test results, the city will inform the applicant of the reasons for the withdrawal. A failure of the alcohol and/or drug test, a refusal to take the test, or failure to meet other conditions of the offer will result in a withdrawal of the offer of employment even if the applicant’s provisional employment has begun. A negative or positive dilute test result (following a second collection), which has been confirmed, will also result in immediate withdrawal of an offer of employment to an applicant.

Temporary and seasonal employees are also subject to this policy.

**(2) Reasonable Suspicion Testing:**

Consistent with Minn. Stat. § 181.951, subd. 3, employees will be subject to alcohol and/or drug testing, including cannabis testing, when reasonable suspicion exists to believe that the employee:

- Is under the influence of alcohol or a drug; or
- Has violated written work rules prohibiting the use, possession, sale or transfer of drugs or alcohol, including cannabis, while working, while on city property, or while operating city vehicles, machinery or any other type of equipment; or
- Has sustained a personal injury as defined in Minn. Stat. § 176.011, subd. 16 or has caused another employee to sustain an injury or;
- Has caused a work-related accident or was operating or helping to operate machinery, equipment, or vehicles involved in a work-related accident.

Reasonable suspicion may be based upon, but is not limited to, facts regarding appearance, behavior, speech, breath, odor, possession, proximity to or use of alcohol, drugs or cannabis or containers or paraphernalia, poor safety record, excessive absenteeism, impairment of job performance, or any other circumstances that would cause a reasonable employer to believe that a violation of the city’s policies concerning alcohol, drugs or cannabis may have occurred. These observations will be reflected in writing on a Reasonable Suspicion Record Form.

For off-site collection, employees will be driven to the employer-approved medical facility by their supervisor or a designee. The medical facility or on-site collection service will take the urine or blood sample and will forward the sample to an approved laboratory for testing.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, all city employees, as a condition of continued employment, will agree to abide by the terms of this policy and must notify [Human Resources/the City Administrator] of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace not later than five days after such conviction. If required by law or government contract, the city will notify the appropriate federal agency of such conviction within 10 days of receiving notice from the employee.

**(3) Treatment Program Testing:**

In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 181.951, subd. 6., the city may request or require an employee to undergo drug, alcohol or cannabis testing, if the employee has been referred by the city for chemical dependency treatment or evaluation or is participating in a chemical dependency treatment program under an employee benefit plan. In such a case, the employee may be requested or required to undergo drug or alcohol testing, including cannabis testing, without prior notice during the evaluation or treatment period and for a period of up to two years following completion of any prescribed chemical dependency treatment program.

**(4) Routine Physical Examination Testing:**

The city may request or require an employee to undergo drug and/or alcohol testing—but not cannabis testing, except for the categories of positions listed above for which cannabis is considered a drug or unless otherwise required by state or federal law—as part of a routine physical examination. The city, in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 181.951, subd. 3, will request or require this type of testing no more than once annually, and the employee will be provided with at least two weeks’ written notice that the test will be required as part of the physical examination.

**(5) Random Testing:**

In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 181.951, subd. 4, the city may require an employee to submit to random drug, alcohol and cannabis testing, if the employee is in a safety-sensitive position.

**Right of Refusal:**

Employees and job applicants have the right to refuse to submit to an alcohol, drug, or cannabis test under this policy. However, such a refusal will subject an employee to immediate termination.

If an applicant refuses to submit to applicant testing, any conditional offer of employment will be withdrawn.

Any intentional act or omission by the employee or applicant that prevents the completion of the testing process constitutes a refusal to test.

An applicant or employee who substitutes, or attempts to substitute, or alters, or attempts to alter a testing sample is considered to have refused to take a drug and/or alcohol test. In such a case, the employee is subject to immediate termination of employment, and in the case of an applicant, the job offer will be immediately withdrawn.

**Refusal on Religious Grounds:**

An employee or job applicant who, on religious grounds, refuses to undergo drug and/or alcohol testing, including cannabis testing, of a blood sample will not be considered to have refused testing, unless the employee or job applicant also refuses to undergo drug and/or alcohol testing of a urine sample.

**Cost of Required Testing:**

The city will pay for the cost of all drug and/or alcohol testing requested or required of all job applicants and employees, except for confirmatory retests. Job applicants and employees are responsible for paying for all costs associated with any requested confirmatory retests.

**PROHIBITION AGAINST DRUGS AND ALCOHOL****Use and Possession of Alcohol or Drug(s):**

Employees are prohibited from the use, possession, transfer, transportation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, solicitation to sell or purchase, or dispensation of alcohol, drugs, including cannabis, or drug paraphernalia while on duty; is on city premises; while operating any city vehicle, machinery, or equipment; or when performing any city business, except (1) pursuant to a valid medical prescription used as properly instructed; (2) the use of over-the-counter drugs used as intended by the manufacturer; or (3) when necessary for approved law enforcement activity.

Besides having a zero-tolerance policy for the use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, or misused prescription drugs on the worksite, we also prohibit the use, possession of, impairment by any cannabis or medical cannabis products (e.g., hash oils, edibles or beverages containing cannabinoids, or pills) on the worksite by a person working as an employee at the city or while “on call” and subject to return to work. Having a medical marijuana card, patient registry number, and/or cannabis prescription from a physician does not allow anyone to use, possess, or be impaired by that drug here. Likewise, the fact that cannabis may be lawfully purchased and consumed does not permit anyone to use, possess, or be impaired by them here. The federal government still classifies cannabis as an illegal drug, even though some states, including Minnesota, have decriminalized its possession and use. There is no acceptable concentration of marijuana metabolites in the blood or urine of an employee who operates our equipment or vehicles or who is on one of our worksites. Applicants and employees are still subject to being tested under our drug and alcohol testing policy.

Employees are subject to being disciplined, suspended, or terminated after testing positive for cannabis if the employee used, possessed, or was impaired by cannabis, including medical cannabis, while on the premises of the place of employment or during the hours of employment.

**While Impaired of Alcohol or Drug(s):**

Employees are prohibited from being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including cannabis, or having a detectable amount of an illegal drug in the blood or urine when reporting for work; while on duty; is on the city’s premises; while operating any city vehicle, machinery, or equipment; or when performing any City business, except (1) pursuant to a valid medical prescription used as properly instructed; or (2) the use of over-the-counter drug used as intended by the manufacturer.

**Driving While Impaired:**

A conviction of driving while impaired in a city-owned vehicle at any time during business or non-business hours, or in an employee-owned vehicle while conducting city business, may result in discipline, up to and including discharge.

**Criminal Drug Convictions:**

Any employee convicted of any criminal drug statute must notify his or her supervisor and the city's Human Resources Director/City Administrator in writing of such conviction no later than five days after such conviction. Within 30 days after receiving notice from an employee of a drug-related conviction, the city will take appropriate personnel action against the employee up to and including discharge or require the employee to satisfactorily participate in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program as an alternative to termination. In the event notice is not provided to the supervisor and the employee is deemed to be incapable of working safely, the employee will not be permitted to work and will be subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal from employment. In accordance with the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, if the city is receiving federal grants or contracts of over \$25,000, the city will notify the appropriate federal agency of such conviction within 10 days of receiving notice from the employee.

**Failure to Disclose Lawful Drugs:**

Employees taking a lawful drug, including prescription and over-the-counter drugs or cannabis, which may impair their ability to perform their job responsibilities or pose a safety risk to themselves or others, must advise their supervisor of this before beginning work. It is the employee's responsibility to seek out written information from his/her physician or pharmacist regarding medication and any job performance impairment and relay that information to his/her supervisor. In the event of such a disclosure, the employee will not be authorized to perform safety-sensitive functions.

**REVIEW AND NOTIFICATION OF TEST RESULTS****Notification of Negative Test Results:**

In the case of job applicants and in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 181.953, (Human Resources) will notify a job applicant of a negative drug result within three days of receipt of result by the city, and the hiring process will resume. In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 181.953, subd. 3, a laboratory must report results to the city within three working days of the confirmatory test result. A "Negative Test Results Notification" form will be sent to the job applicant, and the job applicant may request a copy of the test result report from Human Resources.

In the case of current employees and in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 181.953, Human Resources will notify the employee of a negative drug and/or alcohol result within three days of receipt of result by the city. A "Negative Test Results Notification" form will be sent to the employee, and he or she may request a copy of the test result report from Human Resources/the City Administrator.

**Notification of Positive Test Results:**

In the event of a confirmed positive blood or urine alcohol, drug, or cannabis test result, the city will notify the employee of a positive result within three days of receipt of the result. (Human Resources/The City Administrator) will send to the employee or job applicant a "Positive Test Results Notification" letter containing further instructions. The employee or job applicant may contact Human Resources to request a copy of the test result report if desired. In accordance with

Minn. Stat. § 181.953, subd. 3, a laboratory must report results to the city within three working days of the confirmatory test result.

**Right to Provide Information after Receiving Test Results:**

Within three working days after notice of a positive drug, alcohol or cannabis test result on a confirmatory test, the employee or job applicant may submit information to the city to explain the positive result. In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 181.953, subd. 10, if an employee submits information either before a test or within three working days after a positive test result that explains the positive test result, (such as medications the employee is taking), the city will not take an adverse employment action based on that information unless the employee has already been under an affirmative duty to provide the information before, upon, or after hire.

**Right to Confirmatory Retest:**

A job applicant or employee may request a confirmatory retest of the original sample at the job applicant's or employee's own expense after notice of a positive test result on a confirmatory test. Within five working days after notice of the confirmatory test result, the job applicant or employee must notify the city in writing of the job applicant's or employee's intention to obtain a confirmatory retest. Within three working days after receipt of the notice, the city will notify the original testing laboratory that the job applicant or employee has requested the laboratory to conduct the confirmatory retest or transfer the sample to another qualified laboratory licensed to conduct the confirmatory retest. The original testing laboratory will ensure the control and custody procedures are followed during transfer of the sample to the other laboratory. In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 181.953, subd. 3, the laboratory is required to maintain all samples testing positive for a period of six months. The confirmatory retest will use the same drug and/or alcohol threshold detection levels as used in the original confirmatory test.

In the case of job applicants, if the confirmatory retest does not confirm the original positive test result, the city's job offer will be reinstated, and the city will reimburse the job applicant for the actual cost of the confirmatory retest. In the case of employees, if the confirmatory retest does not confirm the original positive test result, no adverse personnel action based on the original confirmatory test will be taken against the employee, the employee will be reinstated with any lost wages or salary for time lost pending the outcome of the confirmatory retest result, and the city will reimburse the employee for the actual cost of the confirmatory retest.

**Access to Reports:**

In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 181.953, subd. 10, an employee will have access to information contained in his or her personnel file relating to positive test results and to the testing process, including all information gathered as part of that process.

**Dilute Specimens:**

A negative or positive dilute test result (following a second collection) which has been confirmed will subject an employee to immediate termination.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR EMPLOYEES ENGAGING IN PROHIBITED CONDUCT:**

### **Job Applicants:**

The city's conditional offer of employment will be withdrawn from any job applicant who refuses to be tested or tests positive for illegal drugs as verified by a confirmatory test.

### **Employees:**

- **No Adverse Action without Confirmatory Test.** The city will not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, or request or require rehabilitation of an employee based on a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test.
- **Suspension Pending Test Result.** The city may temporarily suspend a tested employee with or without pay or transfer that employee to another position at the same rate of pay pending the outcome of the requested confirmatory retest, provided the city believes that it is reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of the employee, co-employees, or the public. The employee will be asked to return home and will be provided appropriate arrangements for return transportation to his or her residence. In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 181.953, subd. 10, an employee who has been suspended without pay will be reinstated with back pay if the outcome of the requested confirmatory retest is negative.

### **Discipline and Discharge:**

#### ***Confirmatory Positive Test Result:***

The city will not discharge an employee for a first confirmatory positive test unless the following conditions have been met:

- The city has first given the employee an opportunity to participate in either a drug or alcohol counseling or rehabilitation program, whichever is more appropriate, as determined by the city after consultation with a certified chemical use counselor or physician trained in the diagnosis and treatment of chemical dependency. Participation by the employee in any recommended substance abuse treatment program will be at the employee's own expense or pursuant to the coverage under an employee benefit plan. The certified chemical use counselor or physician trained in the diagnoses and treatment of chemical dependency will determine if the employee has followed the rehabilitation program as prescribed; and
- The employee has either refused to participate in the counseling or rehabilitation program or has failed to successfully complete the program, as evidenced by withdrawal from the program before its completion or by a refusal to test or positive test result on a confirmatory test after completion of the program.

### **Other Misconduct:**

Nothing in this policy limits the right of the city to discipline or dismiss an employee on grounds other than a positive confirmatory test result, including conviction of any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace or violation of other city personnel policies.

### **Emergency Call Back to Work Provisions:**

If an employee is called out for a city emergency and he or she reports to work and is suspected of being under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or cannabis he or she will not be subject to the testing procedures of this policy but may be subject to discipline and will not be allowed to work. Appropriate arrangements for return transportation to the employee's residence will be made. It is the sole responsibility of the employee who is under the influence of alcohol, drugs or cannabis and who is called out for a city emergency, to notify his or her supervisor of this information and advise if he or she is unable to respond to the emergency call back.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The city of Cloquet policy on work-related substance abuse is non-discriminatory in intent and application; however, in accordance with Minn. Stat., ch. 363, disability does not include conditions resulting from alcohol or other drug or cannabis abuse which prevents an employee from performing the essential functions of the job in question or constitutes a direct threat to property of the safety of individuals.

Furthermore, the city will not retaliate against any employee for asserting his or her rights under this policy.

### **CITY'S EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The city has in place a formal employee assistance program (EAP) to assist employees in addressing serious personal or work-related problems at any time. The city's EAP provides confidential, cost-free, short-term counseling to employees and their families. Employees who may have an alcohol or other drug abuse problem are encouraged to seek assistance before a problem affects their employment status. Employee assistance program services are available by contacting Sand Creek, 218-481-7477 or [www.sandcreekeap.com](http://www.sandcreekeap.com) (Company ID is: Cloquet).

### **POLICY CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have any questions about this policy or the city's drug and alcohol testing procedures, you may contact your immediate supervisor, Human Resources, or the City Administrator to obtain additional information.

By this policy, the city of Cloquet has established a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace and its policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace. Each city employee will receive a copy of this policy and will be required to read it.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Alcohol:** Means the intoxicating agent in beverage alcohol or any low molecular weight alcohols such as ethyl, methyl, or isopropyl alcohol. The term includes but is not limited to beer, wine, spirits, and medications such as cough syrup that contain alcohol.



**Alcohol use or usage:** Means the consumption of any beverage, mixture, or preparation, including any medication, containing alcohol.

**Applicant:** Means a person applying for a job with the city.

**Cannabis:** Means cannabis and its metabolites, including cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, and hemp-derived consumer products.

**Cannabis testing:** Mean analysis of a body component sample according to the standards established under one of the programs listed in Minn. Stat. § 181.953, subd.1, for the purpose of measuring their presence or absence of cannabis in the sample tested.

**City:** Means the city of Cloquet.

**City premises:** Means, but is not limited to, all city job sites and work areas. For the purposes of this policy, city premises also includes any other locations or modes of transportation to and from those locations while in the course and scope of employment of the city.

**City vehicle:** Means any vehicle which employees are authorized to use solely for city business when used at any time; or any vehicle owned or leased by the city when used for city business.

**Collection site:** Means a place designated by the city where job applicants and employees present themselves for the purpose of providing a specimen of their breath, urine, and/or blood to be analyzed for the presence of drugs and alcohol.

**Confirmatory test:** Means a drug and/or alcohol test on a sample to substantiate the results of a prior drug and/or alcohol test on the same sample, and that uses a method of analysis allowed under one of the programs listed in Minn. Stat. § 181.953, subd. 1.

**Drug:** Includes any “controlled substance” as defined in Minn. Stat. § 152.01, subd. 4, and also includes all cannabinoids, including those that are lawfully available for public consumption that do not otherwise qualify as being a “controlled substance” as defined in Minn. Stat. § 152.01, subd. 4. Cannabis and its metabolites are considered a “drug” for positions in the following categories, regardless of the kind of testing involved: safety sensitive positions; peace officer positions; firefighter positions; positions requiring face-to-face care, training, education, supervision, counseling or medical assistance to children, vulnerable adults or patients receiving treatment, examination or emergency care for a medical, psychiatric or mental condition; positions requiring a commercial driver's license or requiring the employee to operate a motor vehicle for which state or federal law requires drug or alcohol testing; positions funded by a federal grant; or other positions for which state or federal law requires testing of a job applicant or employee.

**Drug and/or alcohol testing, and drug and/or alcohol test:** Mean analysis of a body component sample according to the standards established under one of the programs listed in Minn. Stat. § 181.953, subd.1, for the purpose of measuring their presence or absence of drugs, alcohol, or their metabolites in the sample tested. "Drug and alcohol testing," "drug or alcohol

testing," and "drug or alcohol test" do not include cannabis or cannabis testing, unless stated otherwise.

**Drug paraphernalia:** Has the meaning set forth in Minn. Stat. § 152.01, subd. 18.

**Employee:** Means a person who performs services for compensation for the city and includes independent contractors except where specifically noted in this policy.

**Initial screening test:** Means a drug and/or alcohol test that uses a method of analysis under one of the programs listed in Minn. Stat. § 181.953, subd. 1.

**Job applicant:** Means a person who applies to become an employee of the city and includes a person who has received a job offer made contingent on the person passing drug testing.

**Positive test result:** Means a finding of the presence of alcohol, drugs, or their metabolites that exceeds the cutoff levels established by the city. Minimum threshold detection levels are subject to change as determined in the city's sole discretion.

**Random selection basis:** Means a mechanism for selection of employees that (1) results in an equal probability that any employee from a group of employees subject to the selection mechanism will be selected, and (2) does not give an employer discretion to waive the selection of any employee selected under the mechanism.

**Reasonable suspicion:** Means a basis for forming a belief based on specific facts and rational inferences drawn from those facts.

**Safety-sensitive position:** Means a job, including any supervisory or management position, in which an impairment caused by drug, alcohol, and/or cannabis usage would threaten the health or safety of any person.

**Under the influence:** Means (1) the employee tests positive for alcohol or drugs, or (2) the employee's actions, appearance, speech, and/or bodily odors reasonably cause the city to conclude that the employee is impaired because of illegal drug use or alcohol use.



**CITY OF CLOQUET  
CITY EMPLOYEE AND APPLICANT  
NOTIFICATION AND DRUG SCREENING CONSENT FORM**

I acknowledge that I have received and understand the City’s Drug, Alcohol and Cannabis testing and Drug Free Workplace Act Policy.

I agree to comply with the City’s policy on controlled substance and/or alcohol and understand failure to comply is grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination. As an applicant, I understand my conditional job offer will be withdrawn if I refuse to test or test positive for a controlled substance.

I hereby consent to undergo controlled substance and/or alcohol testing to include cannabis pursuant to said policy, and I authorize collection of a urine and/or breath sample from me for these purposes.

I understand that the procedure employed in this process will ensure the integrity of the sample and is designed to comply with medical and legal requirements.

I consent to the release of the controlled substance and/or alcohol test results in accordance with the City’s testing policy to the selected Medical Review Officer (MRO), to the City’s third-party administrator, to and within the City on a need-to-know basis, and to additional parties in accordance with written authorization or as otherwise required by applicable or state law.

I further understand that the results of this testing may affect my employment status, as described in the policy as well as federal law updates, as applicable.

In the event of a post-accident test, the drug, alcohol and cannabis test result(s) may also be provided to the workers’ compensation insurance carrier.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Drug Screening Refusal of Consent**

I hereby refuse to submit to the drug, alcohol, or cannabis testing process.

I have seen a copy of the City’s Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing and Drug Free Workplace Act Policy and understand my refusal to submit to testing will subject me to disciplinary proceedings including, but not limited to, employment discharge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness  
If employee refuses to sign, indicate "Refused to sign".

### **DATA PRIVACY NOTICE**

The information collected pursuant to this policy is used to determine your eligibility for employment and the performance of certain safety sensitive functions. You are not required to provide information and submit to the tests, but your failure to do so will result in the City withdrawing a conditional job offer or you may be disciplined (up to and including discharge) from employment, whichever may apply. The results of the tests performed will be private data and will not be released to other employers, governmental agencies, or persons without the written consent of the employee tested, except as otherwise provided by regulation and law pursuant to a court order. Only those individuals with a necessity to perform their functions under this policy will have access to the test results.