



Parents Buying Drug Wipe to Keep Tabs on Kids

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JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- If you had the chance to go behind your child's back to find out if he or she is doing drugs, would you?

A product that's been around for years but is new to the First Coast is allowing parents to do just that. With the wipe of a surface, and a few minutes, private investigators say you can now find out if your children are using a wide array of drugs.



Kids and drugs are an unfortunate combination that often becomes real for parents like Georgia Landsiedel.

"It's horrible. You never want something like that to be pressured on your child," said Landsiedel.

Landsiedel has two kids, including a 9-year-old daughter. She only hopes her lessons on the dangers of drugs aren't falling on deaf ears.

"I teach her, let her know the harms of them, what they look like, telling her it's not a bad thing to say 'no,'" said Landsiedel.

But not all kids say no, and now parents have a way of finding out when an old-fashioned talking-to isn't working.

"They can actually test their child without their child even being present," said private investigator Joshua Askew.

It's called the Drug Wipe.

Askew said, "The actual drug wipe will test for cannabis, amphetamines, methamphetamine, opiates, cocaine, ecstasy and any drug manufactured from those family of drugs."

Askew has already helped more than a dozen parents use the product to find out whether their pride and joy may be getting high.

While your kids are away from home, you can use the device to swab any surface in their room that they may have touched like dresser drawers, doorknobs and television remotes.

While your child may lie about drug use, Askew said the tests don't.

"The results are actually 100% positive, no false positives," said Askew.

Even attorneys feel the wipe can change the way they present cases. Jacksonville Beach attorney Vincent DiRito argues child custody cases and said the product can help build cases against unfit parents.

"There might be a complaint of a parent saying one child is not properly supervised and has access to drugs, or possibly drugs being left in the home by the parent, prescription or otherwise," said DiRito.

Some would say it invades a child's privacy, but others feel when it comes to parenting, it can be another tool to keep them safe.

"You're constantly wondering where they are, what they're doing, if they're making the right choices," said Landsiedel.

Landsiedel hopes she'll never have to use the Drug Wipe on her kids, but admitted she would if necessary.

"I think its awesome to have the capability to find out if your child is doing them, whether they're there or not there," said Landsiedel.

It costs \$50 per test and \$150 for the parent kit; results come through in 3 to 10 minutes. Parents are covered under Florida confidentiality laws so no law enforcement is called in if the presence of drugs is found. Instead, they are referred to drug counselors to help intervene.

Askew said law enforcement and even some workplaces also use the Drug Wipe. For more information on it, visit www.drugfreedual.com.

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