

Forensic Toxicology

Criminal Justice

What a positive result establishes, and the leap to behaviour.

Analysis of fluids and tissue for drugs, alcohol and poisons, reported with substantial interpretive caveats.

TWO QUESTIONS

What was present · what it means

COMMON PITFALL

Reading a level as a behaviour

- Detection is not the same as impairment
- Detection windows vary widely by substance
- Back-calculating earlier levels is uncertain
- Post-mortem redistribution complicates results
- Tolerance changes what a level means

LOOK FOR IT

A positive result may reflect use days earlier rather than at the time.

Educational reference. Legal thresholds are policy decisions rather than biological boundaries, and differ between jurisdictions.