If you have any questions about the drug and alcohol certification program, or if you have any complaints about an Adult Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program, please contact The Group Home Hotline 1-800-447-1161.
The Office of the District Attorney certifies two types of Adult Drug and Alcohol Residential Facilities:

**Sober Living Environments:**
A sober living environment (SLE), also known as a transitional housing unit, is a home where the residents must abstain from the use of illegal drugs and alcohol, and a house manager oversees the home. Residents must undergo drug tests while living in the SLE. The residents of an SLE may leave the home to attend school, work, outpatient treatment, and recovery support group meetings. The residents must sign in and out of the facility and must abide by a curfew. An SLE, however, is not a locked facility with twenty-four supervision and the residents are responsible for themselves as in any other shared housing arrangement.

**Residential Treatment Facilities:**
A residential treatment facility is a structured living environment in which the focus of the residents’ stay is recovery. Illegal drug and alcohol use is forbidden. Substance abuse counseling is provided on site. Residential treatment facilities are not locked. They provide twenty-four hour supervision through structured living for the residents. While staying at such a facility, residents are normally not allowed to leave unescorted.

**Staff Background Screening**
Before the Office of the District Attorney certifies an SLE or Residential Treatment Facility, an investigator conducts a comprehensive site inspection and a California background screening of all prospective staff members.

What does the drug and alcohol certification program DO?
- Certifies adult drug and alcohol treatment facilities that accept criminal justice clients.
- Monitors a 24-hour group home hotline for any non-emergency complaints regarding certified group homes. (1-800-447-1161)
- Investigates neighbor complaints and acts as a liaison between the community and the treatment programs.
- Completes criminal history background checks on all persons applying to enter a certified SLE. Persons convicted of specified offenses are not allowed to reside in a certified SLE.
- Completes criminal history background checks on all persons applying for employment in specified positions in certified drug and alcohol treatment programs. Persons convicted of certain offenses are not allowed to work in specified positions in certified facilities.
- Completes on site inspections of all certified facilities on a routine basis to ensure compliance with all laws.

What the drug and alcohol certification Program does NOT do:
- Publish the location of alcohol and drug treatment facilities.
- Determine how many facilities will be located in a neighborhood.
- Certify all drug treatment facilities.

Since 1997, pursuant to Santa Clara County ordinance, the Office of the Santa Clara County District Attorney has acted as the certifying agency for adult drug and alcohol treatment programs. The certification process was created to ensure program integrity, client protection and neighborhood safety. Criminal Justice clients who meet the background eligibility criteria may be placed in certified facilities. Two District Attorney Investigators and a Deputy District Attorney monitor the certification program.