## Children with substance-dependent parents are[1]:

⇒ At a greater risk of becoming substance users themselves.

⇒ More likely to live in families characterized by conflict, emotional or physical violence, low family cohesion, and increased family stress.

⇒ More likely to be abused or neglected.

⇒ More likely to be depressed or suffer from psychiatric and behavior problems.

⇒ Likely to score lower on tests measuring school achievement and repeat grades.

⇒ Blame themselves for parents' substance use.

**More than 28 million Americans are children of alcoholics.**

**Nearly 11 million are under the age of 18.**

## Supporting the Parent-Child Relationship

A parent's substance use disorder (SUD) can disrupt relationships within the family unit.

Consequently, addressing the developmental needs of children must be an equal priority in the FDTC. Treatment must be family-centered, addressing the impact of SUDs on every family member. Family-centered interventions focus on parent-child elements and parent-child interventions rather than assuming parent-only treatment will be effective for the entire family. A family-centered approach recognizes the needs of the family as a whole and addresses parent and child issues universally.[2]

[1] http://www.nacoa.net/pdfs/addicted.pdf

[2] https://www.cffutures.org/files/OJJDP/LearningAcademy/FTC%20Staffing-Session%20Best%20Practices%20Tip%20Guide%20%20-%20Oct2018.pdf

**Family Recovery Courts**

# Family Recovery Courts

*Improving Outcomes for Children and Families*

## What is a Family Recovery Court?

Family Recovery Courts use a multi-disciplinary, collaborative approach to serve families who require substance use disorder treatment and who are involved with the child welfare system.

FRC seek to provide safe environments for children, intensive judicial monitoring, and interventions to treat parents' substance use disorders and other co -occurring risk factors.

Providing safe, nurturing, and permanent homes for the children is the goal of the program. Participation in the program is voluntary.

Family Recovery Courts aid in equipping parents to promote long-term stabilized recovery and enhance the possibility of reuniting families within mandatory legal timeframes for child dependency cases.

## How Does It Work?

- At an early court hearing, you will talk with your local treatment provider who will explain the program to you.
- If you decide you are interested, you will sign a waiver of confidentiality allowing staff from Department of Social Services (DSS), Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), the Docket, and your local treatment provider to discuss your case.
- The local treatment provider will administer an assessment to determine if you are eligible to participate in the program.
- If you meet eligibility requirements, the local treatment provider will develop a treatment and case plan to be presented to the Docket for its acceptance.
- To volunteer to participate, you will sign a contract for your participation in the program.

### FRC Program Requirements

- Scheduled docket meetings before the FRC judge
- Weekly meetings with your case manager to review program progress
- Random drug screens at least twice per week
- Frequent treatment and education groups, as recommended by your local treatment provider
- Consistent communication with your DSS social worker

*Participants may be subject to additional requirements, as necessary.*

**Your attorney will discuss Family Recovery Court and other options with you.**

## What are the Benefits?

⇒ Effective, family-centered substance use disorder treatment

⇒ Development of pro-social communication skills

⇒ Development of parenting skills

⇒ Constant support throughout program participation

⇒ Linkages to comprehensive social services including, but not limited to: rental assistance transportation vouchers, treatment, and case management.

**Most importantly, you will gain skills to help you lead a substance-free life, while providing the best opportunities for your child/children.**

**Contact your DSS Social Worker or Local Treatment Provider**