

Benchbook on Substance Abuse and Addiction for Family Courts

WHO WILL BENEFIT

Judges

Court Administrators and Staff

Attorneys

Social Service, Health, and Mental Health Professionals

WHAT'S INSIDE

The Science of Addiction

Risk Factors of Alcoholism and Drug Addiction

Treatment Matching

Interventions and Therapies

Treatment Settings

Addiction and the Family

Family Participation in Recovery

Adolescent Substance Abuse and Addiction

Implications for Family Courts

58% of respondents to a family court survey believe they should treat substance abuse disorders and addiction as a chronic disease.

82% believe early intervention is the most effective means to address substance abuse and addiction.

88% believe further training of family court professionals in substance abuse and addiction would be beneficial.

The Benchbook on Substance Abuse and Addiction for Family Courts is an authoritative resource for family courts.

When an individual comes to family court, the underlying reasons he or she is there may not be readily apparent. Often, substance abuse and addiction are major factors in family court proceedings, inflicting upon families and children the same destructive and debilitating consequences as they do on those involved with the criminal justice system.

Yet the problem of substance abuse and addiction remains largely unaddressed in the nation's family courts. Only 24% of judges and masters surveyed in Maryland ask court staff for information on an individual's use of alcohol and other drugs. Of those surveyed, 88% said that they would benefit from further training on substance abuse and addiction.

The University of Baltimore School of Law Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts has developed **The Benchbook on Substance Abuse and Addiction for Family Courts** to meet this need for additional training.

ABOUT CFCC

The University of Baltimore School of Law Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts (CFCC) is a national leader in the movement to reform the family justice system. CFCC works to integrate communities, families and the justice system to improve the lives of families and the health of the community.

CFCC is dedicated to resolving family problems in a therapeutic, ecological and service-based manner. Led by Barbara A. Babb, Director and Associate Professor of Law, and Gloria Danziger, Senior Fellow, CFCC uses a holistic approach to solve real-world problems by considering all the different systems affecting the lives of families and children.



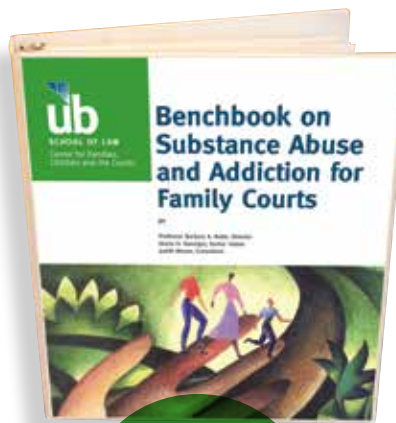
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The **Benchbook** seeks to create and strengthen the linkages and collaboration between treatment systems and family courts by educating participants about addiction and substance abuse issues. It provides information regarding best practices, resources and science. The **Benchbook** recommends ways that treatment providers, judges, masters, attorneys and others in the family court system can work together to address substance abuse and addiction.

The Benchbook on Substance Abuse and Addiction for Family Courts is an important work that should be on every family court professional's desk.

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