



Purpose of the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Program

Primary: Action by law enforcement that interrupts the supply of drugs and provides early intervention, services, treatment, recovery and resources to children who are at risk of child abuse and/or neglect due to their parents/caregivers substance abuse lifestyle.

Secondary: Identify and take immediate action against others who place children in harm's way due to their substance abuse lifestyle.

Third: Encourage a comprehensive continuum of evidence-based services to the child and family that ensures accountability while addressing both the supply and demand side of the drug crisis.

Who is a Drug Endangered Child?

Any child whose well-being is at risk of child abuse, neglect, maltreatment, or endangerment as a result of their parent/caregiver:

- Substance use and/or
- Persons who expose children to harmful drug environments

What is a substance abuse lifestyle?

- Conduct likely to produce great bodily harm
- Substance abuse/under the influence
- Possession, Possession for sale, sales, manufacturing, cultivation and transportation of drugs
- Unable to care for the **well-being of the child** by not providing the **minimum standard of care**
- Gang Activity
- Unsafe living conditions (substandard housing, code enforcement violations, no water, heat, electricity)
- Dangers from fire, explosion and lack of smoke detectors
- Mold, cockroaches, feces, and sewage problems
- Children with access to guns, knives, drugs, paraphernalia, chemicals, & pornographic materials
- Dangers of drug rip offs
- Lack of or poor medical and dental care
- Poor or no school attendance
- Lack of supervision, guidance, support, discipline, and grooming
- Lack of food or poor nutrition
- Allowing and or modeling drug usage



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What is a substance abuse lifestyle? (Continued)

- Children hearing and/or witnessing domestic violence
- Dangers associated with drug users, dealers, and people under the influence of drugs being around children
- Inappropriate sleeping conditions
- Lack of family stability

Children Left in Drug Environments Are at Greater Risk of:

- Victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect
- Emotional and behavior problems
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Teen pregnancy
- Delinquency and gang involvement
- Runaway
- Homelessness
- Learning difficulties
- Physical handicaps/developmental disabilities
- Social problems with other children and with adults
- Being unemployed in later years
- Becoming a child abuser
- High school dropout
- Committing domestic violence
- Juvenile and adult arrests (property and violent crime)
- Chronic illnesses
- Mental illness

According to the National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) "Family members who have substance use disorders undermine family stability and negatively affect child safety, well-being, and psychological and emotional development."