

## WHO WILL BENEFIT

Judges  
Court Administrators  
and Staff  
Attorneys  
Social Service, Health, and  
Mental Health Professionals

## WHAT'S INSIDE

The Science of Addiction  
Treatment of Substance Use  
Disorders  
Adolescent Substance Use,  
Addiction, and Treatment  
The Opioid Crisis  
Substance Use, Addiction,  
and the Family  
Substance Use, Addiction,  
and Families in Court: How  
Can a Family Court  
Intervene?  
Family Dependency Treatment  
Courts (FDTCS)

# BENCHBOOK FOR FAMILY COURTS ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

SECOND EDITION

By Professor Barbara A. Babb, Director  
Gloria H. Danziger, Esquire  
The Honorable Susan L. Dobrich  
The Honorable Peggy Fulton Hora (ret.)  
Rebecca M. Stahl, Esquire

## FACTS ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN THE U.S.

- More than 20 million Americans have substance use disorders, but only ten percent receive treatment.
- More than three out of five drug overdose deaths involve an opioid.
- Young adults have higher rates of cigarette use, alcohol initiation, alcohol use disorder, heroin-related opioid use disorder, cocaine use, methamphetamine use, and LSD use than their younger and older counterparts.
- Substance misuse and substance use disorders cost more than \$400 billion annually in crime, health, and lost productivity.
- The view that drug use is a moral choice is outdated and discredited by the science of addiction, which is based on a disease model.
- Addiction is defined as a chronic, relapsing brain disorder characterized by compulsive drug-seeking and use, despite harmful consequences.

*The Benchbook for Family Courts on Substance Use Disorders, Second Edition, (Benchbook) is a valuable resource to improve decision-making and outcomes in family law cases.*

Substance use disorders (SUDs) are some of the most critical and pervasive public health problems of our time. A traditional family law decision-making process results in a judgment on legal issues, but often courts do not account for the nonlegal issue of addiction, which may be a root cause of a family's legal problems. Judges, attorneys, court staff, and other professionals working with families may not have a complete and current understanding of SUDs, their causes, the symptoms, and available treatments. Without that understanding, both the families and the court system are destined to a revolving door of repeat court appearances and unresolved family crises.

The *Benchbook* is an essential reading and reference book that provides valuable insights into the science of addiction, the treatment of SUDs, how SUDs affect children and families in many family law cases, and how family courts can intervene in ways that lead to better outcomes.

The good news is that with a recognized neurobiological basis for substance use disorders, there is potential for recovery. Evidence-based interventions can prevent harmful substance use and related problems, and the courts have considerable power to influence individuals suffering from these disorders.

## About CFCC

The University of Baltimore School of Law Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts (CFCC) serves as a catalyst to improve the delivery of legal, social, court, community, and other services to children and families who enter the family justice system.

CFCC uses an interdisciplinary approach in all of its work, as it grounds its activities on therapeutic jurisprudence (TJ) from the law and the ecology of human development from the social sciences. TJ compels a focus on outcomes that improve children's and families' lives as a result of justice system involvement, and the ecological approach requires a holistic examination of participants' circumstances and backgrounds.

### SAYRA AND NEIL MEYERHOFF CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND THE COURTS

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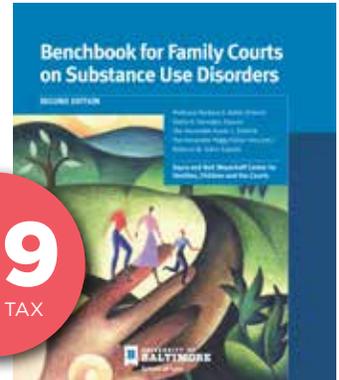
## WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

The *Benchbook* seeks to create and strengthen the linkages and collaboration between family courts and treatment systems by educating all participants about addiction and substance use disorders. The *Benchbook* provides information regarding addiction science, best treatment practices, and recommendations for family court procedures and interventions, including these topics and more:

- Defining and categorizing substance use disorders
- Risk factors for addiction to alcohol and other drugs
- Treatment for alcohol, opiate, stimulant, and marijuana use disorders
- Emphasis on special populations – adolescents, women, young African-American men, people with co-occurring mental health disorders
- Opioid crisis and the courts
- Parental SUD as a risk factor for maltreatment and child welfare involvement
- Fetal exposure to alcohol and other drugs
- Psychosocial effects of addiction on the family
- Integrated substance use treatment and family therapy
- Implications for family courts
- FDTCS in practice: Who they serve and how they operate

The *Benchbook for Family Courts on Substance Use Disorders, Second Edition*, is an important reference work that provides every family court professional with valuable information to guide decision-making in family law cases.

The *Benchbook for Family Courts on Substance Use Disorders, Second Edition*, is available from CFCC as a PDF or as an e-book on Amazon, Apple Books, and Google Play. Click the buttons or order below.



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