

CALIFORNIA DEC ALLIANCE
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CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE
FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.

“Youth comes to us wanting to know what we propose to do about a society that hurts so many of them.”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1936

California Alliance for DEC Mission Statement

Break the cycle of child endangerment and abuse due to drug exposure by promoting multi-disciplinary intervention programs in California counties.

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Who are America's Drug Endangered Children and What is Being Done to Assist Them?

Drug endangered children (DEC) are those children exposed to illegal drug environments that can become hazardous to their physical, mental or emotional health. Most often these children are found in the homes of parents who abuse, manufacture and/or sell illegal drugs.

Today, most drug endangered children are discovered or "rescued" during law enforcement actions relating to their parents or caregivers. That event may be one of the most defining moments of their lives. If ignored and left unmonitored, these children continue to be victims caught in a cycle of drug abuse. The California *Alliance for Drug Endangered Children* advocates intervention on behalf of these children and urges communities to build collaborative, effective teams to provide coordinated services and support for these child victims. These teams include:

- First responders
- Child protective services
- Law enforcement
- Medical and mental health professionals
- Prosecutors and county attorneys
- Child advocates

Upon removal from a dangerous environment, drug endangered children need the immediate attention of child welfare services and assessment by medical and mental health professionals. If parents have endangered children, their actions may necessitate prosecution, termination of parental rights or court supervision of family reunification. Protecting drug endangered children is a community effort.

California DEC Goals

The California DEC Alliance supports and is a member of the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. Information regarding the National Alliance can be found at www.nationaldec.org.

- Facilitate California counties in establishing new DEC programs
 - Support existing county DEC programs with technical assistance
 - Coordinate regional trainings and Alliance meetings to build expertise on DEC
 - Establish a California DEC website and data collection system
 - Ensure DEC protocols and training adhere to the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children standards
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Drug Endangered Children Key Services

- Removal of child from toxic chemical exposure and drug environments
- Comprehensive medical screening & follow-up
- Drug screening
- Mental care evaluation & follow-up services
- Dental care
- Background checks and home-evaluation for possible placement