

THE DEC PROGRAM

The purpose of the DEC program is to implement and evaluate a *collaborative community response* among law enforcement, prosecutorial, medical, social service, and education professionals to the needs of children endangered by exposure to substance abuse and manufacturing, trafficking, and use of illegal drugs, including methamphetamine, throughout Spokane County.

THE CHILDREN

- The DEC Program serves children who have been endangered by living in a drug environment.
- The majority of children (and their families) are referred to the program through the Department of Children & Family Services.
- The program serves children in their biological homes, kinship care, or foster families.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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THE DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN PROGRAM



***A Spokane County
Collaborative
Community
Response***

THE PARTNERS

The following agencies work collaboratively to provide **integrated service delivery** to drug endangered children. These agencies attend regularly scheduled monthly meetings. Every other month is a staffing time for individual cases and tracking. At every meeting, each discipline is required to submit a monthly progress report to the evaluator and project director.

Partners with Families & Children

This child advocacy center provides a variety of services, including developmental assessments, medical examinations, forensic interviews, and children's legal advocacy.

Lutheran Community Services

Children (and their families) receive individual counseling & case management with a LCS therapist; families also receive therapeutic aid.

Education, Prevention, & Intervention (Educational Services District 101, Spokane Public Schools, and Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council)

These agencies provide education, prevention, and intervention at schools and to the community.

Children's Administration (Child Protective Services)

DCFS investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect, appropriately places children as requested by law enforcement, and refers children and their families to necessary services.

Law Enforcement (Spokane County Sheriff's Office, Spokane Valley Police Department & Spokane Police Department)

These agencies investigate reports of drug activity. They assess the condition of children when they are present in drug environments, coordinate closely with CPS, and arrange placement in protective custody if appropriate. They also submit documentation to the Prosecutor's Office.

Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

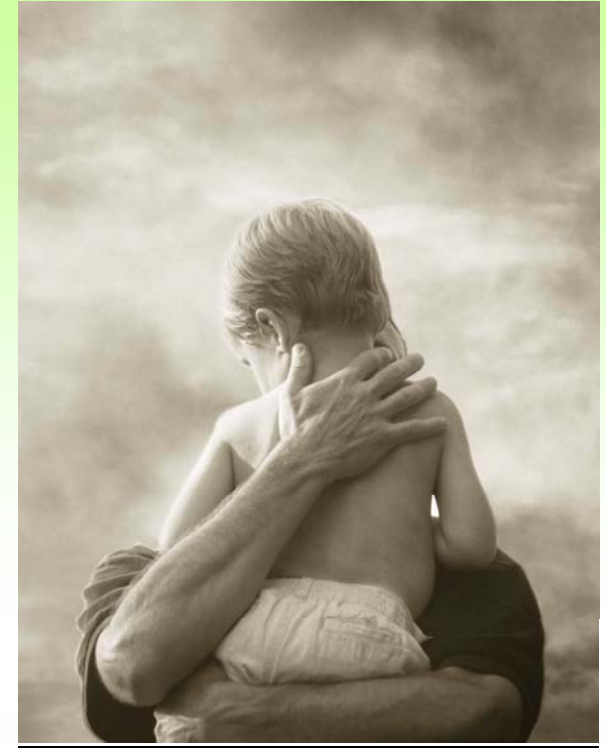
This office reviews all evidence submitted to them, and makes a filing determination on each case. They prosecute DEC cases where appropriate.

Washington State Department of Corrections

Monitors parents under supervision of DOC. Collaborates with law enforcement and CPS on shared DEC cases.

Sandra J. Altshuler, Ph.D., L.I.C.S.W.

An independent researcher provides ongoing evaluation of the program.



For further information on this program and other DEC programs:

Washington Alliance for Drug Endangered Children:
<http://www.wadecalliance.org>

Altshuler, Sandra J. (2005). Drug-Endangered Children Need a Collaborative Community Response, *Child Welfare* 84(2), 171-190.