



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

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CONTACT: Jennifer López
702-486-3782

ATTORNEY GENERAL MASTO LAUNCHES DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN INITIATIVE WEBSITE

Carson City, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that the Nevada Drug Endangered Children (DEC) initiative has launched their website: www.decnevada.org. The Nevada Drug Endangered Children initiative is a statewide effort to identify and protect children at risk because of their caregivers' involvement in drug trafficking or substance abuse.

"The Nevada DEC website will strengthen this effort by making tools and resources available to practitioners in all parts of the state," said Masto. "It helps unify and centralize this statewide effort that helps protect our most vulnerable citizens, children. I applaud the Drug Endangered Children initiative in its efforts to raise public awareness and subsequent action on this issue."

"Our new Nevada DEC website will help us support the work of local practitioners throughout the state, said Allison Smith, Statewide Coordinator, Office of Drug Endangered Children in the Office of the Nevada Attorney General. This is an important step in raising awareness and providing resources for the benefit of drug endangered children."

The Nevada DEC initiative includes training for law enforcement, child protection, prosecutors, medical personnel, first responders, and others to develop a collaborative approach to identifying and serving drug endangered children.

The initiative is part of a national effort to break the cycle of abuse and neglect by empowering practitioners who work to transform the lives of children and families living in drug environments. A major goal of the initiative is to improve the systems that are designed to protect children by implementing a DEC multi-disciplinary approach in communities throughout the state. The DEC approach is proving to be an effective way to improve the way business is done. The Office of Drug Endangered Children facilitates formalization of the initiative through training and the establishment of multi-disciplinary protocols and procedures.

Among the many tools offered on the website are templates for formalization of DEC, information about the Nevada Alliance, DEC education, current DEC events in Nevada, statewide coalition information, and links to vital websites.

Since November 2011, the DEC initiative has been a leader in Nevada in providing resources for drug endangered children.

This program is made possible by Grants # 08-JAG-16 and 11-JAG-21 from the Office of Criminal Justice Assistance through the Nevada Attorney General's Office.

Any member of the public interested in helping with this effort should contact Allison Smith, with the Office of Drug Endangered Children, at dec.nevada@gmail.com or 775-721-0368.

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