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Stories of Parental Redemption Via Drug Courts

Katherine Lucero shares stories of successful court system cases that lead to regaining their children lost to drug abuse

SAN JOSE, Calif. – According to a study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, it is estimated that 9 percent of children in this country, accounting for 6 million individuals, live with at least one parent who abuses alcohol or other drugs. Substance abuse can often lead to the court system taking custody of these children. In her new book, ***Family Drug Courts: An Innovation of Transformation*** ([published by Balboa Press](#)), Katherine Lucero offers a wealth of information about the struggles of real people who have been drawn into the court system and have lost their children due to substance abuse.

When asked about the theme of her book, Lucero responded, “Redemption – rising from the ashes to a place of self-sufficiency for those who have normally been written off due to addiction and mental health issues that have endangered their children to point that the government child welfare system has removed their children.”

Readers will follow their personal journeys through a courtroom that gave them hope, and then gave them back their lives and their children.

“This book is for the professional who works with these families.” explains Lucero. “It is for anyone that wants a front-row seat to what happens in this ordinarily confidential setting and for those who have had their own battle with mental health and addiction.”

Family Drug Courts is a compilation of perspectives; from the professionals who work in and with “the system” to the families and children who must navigate these legal waters. It is full of inspiration, and contains a model for change that can transform individuals and communities everywhere.

About the Author

Katherine Lucero is a trained legal professional and currently works with families in the court system. She received her law degree from Syracuse University and her undergraduate degree from UC Davis. She has worked in the legal field for more than two decades, specializing in child maltreatment. She has provided numerous hours of education to other legal professionals on how courts should approach such issues as the impact of domestic violence on children, addiction, mental health issues, trauma-informed systems change, therapeutic courts and leadership within the legal profession.

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