



NEWS RELEASE

**Los Angeles Superior Court
Public Information Office**

Website: www.LACourt.org

E-mail Address: PublicInfo@LACourt.org

May 5, 2016

LASC CHILDREN'S COURT ANNOUNCES DRUG COURT GRADUATION

On May 5, 2016, Commissioner Stephen Marpet, who sits in Dept. 410 at the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court, will preside over the graduation of ten parents from the Dependency Parents' Drug Court program who have successfully completed one year of intense services. The Dependency Parents' Drug Court program has been in existence for ten years and is the product of a successful collaboration between the Los Angeles Superior Court, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services' Belvedere Office and the CHCADA-Latino Family Center "A Better Me Program."

CHCADA (California Hispanic Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse) is a private, non-profit organization that provides services to segments of the Latino community struggling with drug and alcohol issues. The Department of Children and Family Services Belvedere Office is located at 5835 S. Eastern Ave., in the city of Commerce.

The Family Substance Abuse Treatment Protocol of the Dependency Parent's Drug Court seeks to ensure child safety by focusing on healthy and sober parenting with a goal of family maintenance and reunification. It serves a population that includes parents whose children are under juvenile court jurisdiction and their substance abuse appears to be a significant issue in family reunification.

More-more-more

News Release
LASC Dependency Family Drug Court
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Successful completion of the program may increase the opportunity for family reunification. Dependency Drug Court is a collaborative process whereby all team members are actively involved in all aspects of the program. The team members include the judicial officer, social workers, attorneys, and the substance abuse program operators. Successful graduates may become part of the team or may mentor new participants.

The Dependency Family Drug Court Program was first implemented ten years ago as a pilot project in Department 410 of the Edelman Children's Court. The Dependency Family Drug Court serves a population that includes people of diverse Hispanic and Central American heritage. Over 200 parents have successfully completed the program and have been reunified with their children. The success of the program in Department 410 is largely dependent on the cohesion of the team approach and the dedication of Commissioner Marpet and all of the participants.

WHEN: 1:00 p.m., Thursday, May 5, 2016

WHERE: 2nd floor courtyard, Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court, 201 Centre Plaza Drive, Monterey Park

Media representatives interested in attending should contact the Los Angeles Superior Court's Public Information Office at 213-830-0815. Some photography will be permitted.

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