When an individual comes to family court, the underlying reasons he or she is there may not be readily apparent. Often, substance abuse and addiction are major factors in family court proceedings, inflicting upon families and children the same destructive and debilitating consequences as they do on those involved with the criminal justice system.

Yet the problem of substance abuse and addiction remains largely unaddressed in the nation’s family courts. Only 24% of judges and masters surveyed in Maryland ask court staff for information on an individual’s use of alcohol and other drugs. Of those surveyed, 88% said that they would benefit from further training on substance abuse and addiction.

The University of Baltimore School of Law Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts has developed The Benchbook on Substance Abuse and Addiction for Family Courts to meet this need for additional training.
The Benchbook seeks to create and strengthen the linkages and collaboration between treatment systems and family courts by educating participants about addiction and substance abuse issues. It provides information regarding best practices, resources and science. The Benchbook recommends ways that treatment providers, judges, masters, attorneys and others in the family court system can work together to address substance abuse and addiction.

The Benchbook on Substance Abuse and Addiction for Family Courts is an important work that should be on every family court professional’s desk.

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The Benchbook on Substance Abuse and Addiction for Family Courts is available in two formats:

Traditional 3-Ring Binder. Durable, long-lasting, valuable guide that sits conveniently on a shelf. Will be referred to again and again. Tabbed for easy navigation.

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