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Characteristics of Adolescents Harmfully Involved with Drugs and Alcohol

FAMILY:

Increased adolescent anger, disrespect, insolence, dishonesty. Absence from family. Diminished family closeness, love, trust, and communication.

SCHOOL/CAREER:

Dropping grades, disrespect for teachers and administrators. Tardiness, truancy, unrealistic or abandoned career goals. Quitting extra-curricular activities, especially sports.

RELATIONSHIPS:

Grade school friends gone, "wrong crowd" (often older, delinquent, unseen.)
Lack of healthy commitments, casual sex.

MENTAL HEALTH/PSYCHOLOGICAL MATURATION:

Maturation arrest, mood swings, depression, guilt, lack of conscience, psychosis.

SPIRITUAL LIFE/MORAL CODE:

Vacant, sense of emptiness, purposelessness, dropped religious practices, moral code ignored.

PHYSICAL HEALTH/RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Loss of vitality, poor grooming, poor hygiene, effects of cigarette smoking, accidents, death.

DRUG USAGE:

Initially cigarettes, alcohol, later marijuana, experimentation with LSD, cocaine, other drugs. Progression from experimentation to preoccupation/habituation, finally addiction.