

## What we're trying to do...

The **START** Program is designed to keep children safe in their homes and promote sobriety and recovery among substance abusing parents. Specific outcome objectives are:

**Improving** parental skills to help families to better care for their children

**Intervening** quickly and rigorously on the first referral with fast access to an assessment and treatment

**Preventing** children from being separated from their parents and keeping families together

**Increasing** safety and preventing recurrence of child abuse and neglect

**Increasing** effectiveness of treatment and reduce the rates of relapse among the families served



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**START**  
**S**obriety **T**reatment  
**A**nd **R**ecovery **T**eams

Helping parents  
with drug and alcohol issues  
promote individual and family based  
recovery.

A partnership between GA Dept. of Family and Children Services and GA Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

# START

START (Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams) is an evidence based model designed to provide intensive family preservation services and case management to families affected by both drug and alcohol issues and child abuse and neglect (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2002).

START is a joint project between Georgia's Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)

This innovative model began in 1996 in Ohio and later was brought to Kentucky and New York and has now been brought to Georgia.



START is focused on a Family Centered Approach allowing families to become engaged in their treatment process, goals, and outcomes.

The foundational part of START is the use of people in long-term recovery from addiction as Parent Support Partners.

A Parent Support Partner is a person who...

- is of long-term recovery and who is actively involved in their own recovery
- can use their story to walk beside the addicted individual seeking help
- is trained through the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse in CARES (Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist) training recognized through DBHDD-Division of Addictive Disease
- will ensure the client is engaged in treatment accompanying them to the first 3 sessions (in addition to the assessment)
- partners with a DFCS case-manager to provide community linkage