

# Information Brief

## The Chemically Dependent Adolescent's Influence on Brothers and Sisters

Siblings typically react to brother's or sister's self-destructive habits in a number of ways. For instance, he or she may:

- "Cover for them" or "cover-up" for their behavior.
- Deny the problem and pretend that nothing is going on.
- Fear for their own well-being.
- Become anxious that they too may become harmfully involved.
- Isolate themselves from their brother or sister or withdraw from the entire family.
- Become angry and hostile toward the abuser.
- Identify with the chemical abuser and join them in their self-defeating actions.