

— WHEN FASD ISN'T RECOGNIZED —

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a lifelong, brain-based disability affecting core brain functions. Typical interventions and interactions often do not work.

UNIDENTIFIED FASD



FASD IS NOT IDENTIFIED

The person's history and signs of FASD, including underlying brain involvement, go unrecognized.



NEEDS ARE MISREAD

The person may receive diagnoses such as ADHD, ASD, RAD, anxiety, bipolar disorder or other mental health conditions or learning disabilities, while FASD remains unrecognized.



SUPPORTS DON'T MEET NEEDS

Interventions are not designed for FASD, so the person's needs remain unmet.



INCREASED VULNERABILITY

Lack of understanding and support can make people with FASD more vulnerable to being manipulated, harmed, or kicked out, leading them to repeatedly reach crisis systems.

DIAGNOSED FASD (BUT NOT RECOGNIZED)



FASD IS IDENTIFIED

The person receives an FASD diagnosis, but understanding of FASD is limited.



SUPPORTS ARE STILL A POOR FIT

Professionals often lack training in FASD, so typical services and approaches do not work well.



CAREGIVERS FILL THE GAPS

Caregivers become the translators, case managers, advocates, and support system. They explain the disability, coordinate services, and provide support that systems often fail to provide.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CAREGIVER SUPPORT IS UNAVAILABLE?

Support may not be available forever. Some adults do not accept help, some lose support, and some are left in systems that still do not understand FASD.

THE DE FACTO FASD SERVICE SYSTEM

When needs remain unidentified or unsupported, people with FASD are more likely to end up in systems not designed for their disability. These systems may become the default source of support.



MENTAL
HEALTH



SUBSTANCE
USE & RECOVERY



HOMELESSNESS
& HOUSING



JUSTICE
SYSTEM



PUBLIC
ASSISTANCE

"Services were offered"
is not the same as
services are accessible.



With professional training, identification, and service modifications,
PEOPLE WITH FASD CAN SUCCEED

