

Family Council

“Strengthening Family Cohesion and Solidarity” Family Education Videos – Drug Addict Father
Turning over a New Leaf HO Wai-keung

Opening line

HO Wai-keung : After I quit drugs
a lot of things became different

Peer pressure influenced drug addiction

HO Wai-keung : I grew up as a small child in a (public) housing estate
It was a resettlement area
Thanks to my peers
I often loitered in the streets
and took up with people in the same circle
When one of them used drugs
the rest would be easily tempted to do the same
My first heroin use was at about 12 years old
Ever since the first use
I became a repeat (drug) offender serving times in prison on and off
This went on for as long as 30 years
a cycle of spells of drug use, no drug use and prison time

Losing loved ones while in prison

HO Wai-keung : The greatest impact of drug addiction on me was
losing 30 years of time
I most vividly remember that
when I served my first sentence in an addiction treatment centre
my grandfather passed away
I applied for a leave of absence from the centre to bid him a final farewell
but was denied it
My parents weren't there for me from an early age
and I was raised by my grandparents
When my grandfather was in his final moments
I was unable to see him off
Even when my grandmother died

I was also in prison

Determined to quit drugs for family

HO Wai-keung : I became determined to quit drugs because of my wife and daughter
I was in an industrial accident
when I fell in a construction site
I was conscious
but I couldn't move my limbs at all
The first thing that came to mind was my family
My daughter was still so young
and my wife wasn't an identity card holder yet (non-Hong Kong resident)
How were they going to live?
That was the time I really had to be firm in quitting drugs
No sooner had I been discharged
than I went to see Ms. Yeung from Methadone Counselling Service
She was the social worker responsible for my case
I told her that
I want to be done with heroin
and asked if she could help me

Quitting drugs brought better family relationship

HO Wai-keung : My family relationship differed considerably before and after I quit drugs
My wife had never held a grudge against me
but only persuaded me persistently
After quitting drugs
I have entirely different personal qualities
I get along with my family more harmoniously
and I bring positive energy to my daughter's development

Unwavering support from wife

Lai-ping : If you ask me
(Mrs. HO) whether my husband ever broke my heart
of course he did
Seeing him (on drugs)

made me feel very disappointed at the beginning
I didn't until then realise the grave harm of drugs
and it was so difficult to quit
He loved me so very much that
it was his affection for me
giving me the reason not to leave him
or despise him
but simply give him the motivation
I felt that he would persevere
and succeed
That's what I've always thought

Daughter appreciated his honesty

HO Yuk-yee : When I was in primary school
(daughter) Dad opened up to me one day
about his past drug use
Back then, it was pretty amazing to me that he succeeded in quitting drugs
Dad also told me that
he was thrown in and out of prison for several times
I wouldn't take him as a terrible person
On the contrary
as long as he's done with the bad habit
he's an excellent example in my eyes
In contrast to what others think
that is, a father should be a towering figure
I believe
my dad is a walking encyclopedia
It is from him that
I can understand many things beyond my experience
and know more about what I should do
Concepts like being loving and kind
are things that I learnt from him

Words for Dad

HO Yuk-yee : It must've been hard for you

(daughter) for what I've seen you do for the family
Thank you

Expectation for daughter

HO Wai-keung : My expectation for her is
first and foremost, to be happy
Whatever I can provide
I will as much as I possibly can
but you have to walk your own path in life
Setting an example is often required
Let's say
if you saw an elderly person who needs to open a door on the street
what would you do?
There was one time when, for certain reasons I wasn't sure
except that maybe she'd heard plenty from me
she rushed off all of a sudden
It turned out that she saw an elderly person struggling to open a door
so she helped open it
It was a very moving moment for me
seeing that she'd imbibed the values I taught her