

## Bio

Dr. Christy Brown, a recently retired English Professor, lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. Originally from Southern California, she attended UCLA and then received her M.A. and Ph.D. from Indiana University. She taught at several Midwest universities before moving to Northern California in 1989. She was a full-time professor at Mission College in Santa Clara from 2001-2017.

She is married and has two sons. Her older son serves as a diplomat with the State Department. Her younger son, currently in recovery from substance use disorder, is working on a Master's in Counseling in Southern California. Dr. Brown voted for Proposition 19 legalizing marijuana for "compassionate use" in 1996, and was surprised when one of her students told her that "medical marijuana" was being diverted to students at his high school. She later learned that her son had himself been given "medical" marijuana by older friends and he had already developed an addiction.

Her son's marijuana addiction was severe and led to many negative consequences including academic, emotional problems, a car crash, a psychotic break when he was 19 and continued to use "medical" marijuana, making the psychosis worse, leading to homelessness and jail, and a heroin addiction at 21, with a near fatal overdose. He finally managed stable recovery at 23 after several attempts, which drained the family emotional and financial resources. Dr. Brown wants parents and young people to know that the risks of marijuana use are real and devastating, and that her son was lucky to recover—he knows many who have died.