

3/21/19

To whom it may concern,

Hello my name is crystal and I am a drug court graduate 2010. I say this with pride because on March 5th of this year I celebrated 10 years free from methamphetamines. Today I have a life that I never dreamed I could have, I have an associates in Human Services, I am a manager at a nonprofit where I am working with law enforcement and helping train them on how to respond to victims of domestic violence as well as managing 4 other advocates. Before I was promoted I would respond to sexual assault calls at the hospital and I was the court advocate working in the justice building helping people with restraining orders. I am married and I am part owner of a mechanic shop here in the rogue valley. The only reason I have this life is because of Drug Court in Jackson County Oregon.

My story is filled with Domestic Violence. Drug abuse from the age of 11. Permanent rights of both children gone from the state of Oregon. Multiple felonies in multiple states I was once transported to South Dakota and California. \$10,000 in restitution. Needle scars all over my body. The picture you have in your mind is what I was but ten times worse. I had nothing to lose when I hit the court room of the Honorable Judge Crain. She didn't have to take a chance on me. I have had plenty of chances before and in her court room. I had been in every treatment center in this valley multiple times and was kicked out or ran every time. But thank god for me that she took a chance on me. I can Assure you and I don't say this lightly I know that if she would have not taken that chance on me I would be dead.

The structure of the treatment court was like nothing I ever had in my life. I was held accountable. I was taught how to get a job, pay my restitution, and get my license back. I was given encouragement, support and love when I felt I was not worthy of that. I learned to love my self and take pride in my accomplishments. I work every day with people just like me who are stuck and scared and lost. I tell them about my experience with drug court and how it changed my life completely in every way. I assure you I would not be who I am today without it. I had tried for years nothing worked, I couldn't even do it for my kids. My daughter came to live with me when she was 16 and is now 18 high school graduate and is on her own in college. That \$10,000 restitution I mentioned earlier is almost paid off it's down to \$2,000. To not fund treatment courts and for them to go away would be devastating to this Valley.

I work every day with ordinary people, parents, grandparents, wives, husbands, and foster parents who are stuck in the cycle of addiction and crime from their family members. I get to look at them and tell them my story tell them to not give up hope. Maybe their family member will be offered treatment court because sometimes that's the only hope they have left. Treatment centers are booked months out and it's easy to fall through the cracks trust me I did it for years. That doesn't happen in treatment court. They know everything about you and they still believe in you they hold you accountable and its wrap around services. The alternative is in and out of county jail or prison. Let's be honest the only thing I ever got from jail and prison was new ideas for more crimes and more drug connections. I really hope that Treatment court stays in the Rogue Valley and keeps changing lives. I hope another addict gets a chance at a life. Another child is reunited with its recovering parent.

If you would like to talk more please feel free to call or email any time!

Grateful for Treatment court!

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