

Treatment Court Testimony

Nicole D'Alessandro

Treatment court has been nothing but helpful for me. Without Treatment Court I would not be in the place I am in today. Before I had the opportunity to participate in treatment court I was in a bad place. I was struggling with my mental health as whole. I was homeless, dealing with active addiction and turned to committing burglaries just to get by. I obviously wasn't in a healthy state of mind, and I wasn't in a healthy physical condition either. I ended up getting arrested after months of living like this. Originally, they ended up remanding me but while incarcerated I concluded that I didn't want to live like that anymore, but I didn't know how to change on my own, I needed help. I got lucky and qualified for the electronic monitoring program to begin my mission for change. After being released to house arrest I got the opportunity to start drug court. At drug court they recognized my hardships that I was dealing with at the time, and they recognized my want for change. They were the help I needed to get my life on track. I didn't need to be incarcerated; I needed assistance with my mental health and my active addiction. Through treatment court they were able to get me into a detox program and then a residential treatment program to begin my journey to recovery. While in the residential treatment program I got the mental health assistance I needed as well. I got medication to assist with the psychotherapy I was receiving through the program. The treatment court also helped me come up with a treatment plan that followed the mandate guidelines while continuing to help me with my needs at the time. They also helped me to work towards my goals and ideals that I had for my future. While in residential treatment I was able to start working towards my dream job and start training to work towards that dream. After the residential treatment program treatment court was able to set me up with a reintegration housing program. At that program I was able to start working towards my dream job as a Peer Specialist to use my experiences to do good for others. To conclude, without Treatment Court giving me a chance and recognizing my needs and recognizing that I needed help not incarceration I wouldn't have succeeded and gotten as far as I have come today. I want to give a big thanks to the people and judges that were part of my journey in Treatment Court and I want to give a huge thanks for giving me the chance I deserved. The Legislature should definitely pass the Treatment Court Expansion Act so everyone can have access to treatment court, like I did!