

As a participant in the Westmoreland County Drug Treatment Court, I feel obligated to speak on its behalf. I could not attend this meeting because I am attending a training program that was afforded to me by the members of my personal treatment team. I am training to be a Certified Recovery Specialist. A peer-based recovery service, an important component of the Drug Court Treatment Program.

My Magistrate hearing was made up of the police and the DA agreeing that I should be referred to the Drug Court Treatment Program. There were people that were looking out for my welfare before I could. At my formal hearing I was on the fence on whether I wanted to accept this Treatment Program or take a chance on beating my case. I would face 1-2 years in jail if convicted. However if I opted to pursue fighting my case a new hearing would be scheduled and I would have that interim period of time to continue with my active addiction.

After meeting several members of my upcoming treatment team I felt obligated not to let them down. I made the decision to be a participant in the Drug Court Treatment Program. Moreover, it was comforting to know that people were concerned about my welfare even though I wasn't. I have been in and out of treatment for many years. During that time I have amassed many adverse consequences and hurt the ones I loved the most. I have not given myself a chance to grow naturally and flourish as a member of society. Knowing all of this was not the answer to me stopping the use of drugs and alcohol over the years,

The realization that probation cared about my welfare to succeed working in constant unison with my counselors and case management was an integral part of me believing in myself. Moreover, it has given me the strength to ask others for help to feel better about myself. It is comforting to look forward to my court hearings every two weeks. To see the Drug Court Team

Members acknowledge and reward my efforts to stay clean reinforces my need to succeed in everyday life.

Sincerely,

Jeff Patterson