Nicholas Butler

July 23, 2018

In early August of 2014, I was arrested in Athens, Georgia and charged with a misdemeanor Minor in Possession of alcohol. I then entered a Pre-trial diversion program, which I successfully completed in 2015. The program included community service and weekly one-on-one and group counseling. The group counseling was with a group of teenagers and young adults who had similar incidents in the past.

In this paragraph, I will explain the events surrounding the incident as clearly as I can. A few days before the incident, a group of friends who lived across the street came into our yard and took a piece of property from our yard and moved it to theirs. This was a harmless prank, and we understood it as that. The night of the incident, my friend and I decided to cross the street to their property, and bring it back. We had no other intentions but to retrieve our yard-piece and bring it back to our yard. While on our neighbors’ property, the property security guard stopped us, and alerted the authorities. Once the authorities arrived, they understood that I had no real criminal intentions, and the property owner decided not to press any charges of their own. But I was then charged with Underage Possession of Alcohol since I was honest and admitted that I had consumed alcohol that day.

I made a string of mindless mistakes, and I then paid the price. I owned up to my mistakes and took the steps needed to complete the Pre-trial diversion program. Even as a then 19-year old, that type of decision making I displayed was uncharacteristic. Any kind of reckless behavior is beyond uncharacteristic for me now. I have no doubts that I will have no violations for the duration of my enrollment and beyond.

Thank you,

Nicholas Butler