

January 7, 2013

Daniel J.  
Luft, Hart & Associates  
518 E. Reynolds St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Substance Abuse Assessment for Iris James

Dear Mr. Sabol:

I performed a basic substance abuse assessment for Ms. James in reference to her pending DV charge. This assessment included the administration of: a SASSI-3, a MAST, a depression screening, and a clinical interview. The following are my findings and recommendations:

Substance(s) of Concern: alcohol

SASSI-3: substance dependence = NEGATIVE; substance abuse = NEGATIVE; internal DEF score suggested valid screening/reliable responses to questions

MAST: score=2; raw score provides no indication of problem alcohol use; both positive items on screening were related to the DV charge/incident on Christmas day (2012)

DSM/Other Substance Related Concerns: one previous incidence of excessive alcohol use after job loss (Oct. &rsquo;12); chronic pain (spinal) but being managed under the care of a physician with no apparent misuse of pain medication

Depression/Anxiety Screening: numerous symptoms reported, denies current mental health crisis; further professional treatment and support are recommended

Clinical Interview/Summary: Ms. James&rsquo; written screenings provided no indication of an alcohol abuse

order. She reported that she only occasionally drinks alcohol (less than 5 times year) and that this has been the case over the course of her adult life. When she does drink some alcohol it is usually 2-3 drinks, however she freely admitted to drinking an excessive amount in October of last year as well as Christmas day in response to some very difficult emotional circumstances (loss of employment and a relationship crisis). We discussed those circumstances at length and I concluded her risk of further misuse of alcohol is relatively low. In summary I was unable to find Ms. James meeting DSM-IV criteria for an alcohol use disorder. Furthermore I believe Ms. James recognized the inappropriate use of alcohol on the two occasions mentioned and she clearly indicated her intentions to seek appropriate treatment for stress, depression and anxiety. I am not making any formal alcohol treatment other than she continue abstaining from alcohol while seeking treatment for the items mentioned. She appears to be fully capable of abstaining.

DIAGNOSIS in reference to substances: None found

Recommendations: I recommend Ms. James seek professional treatment for depression and anxiety. This should include additional consultation with a physician as well as a mental health professional. During this time I recommend that she abstain from alcohol and if she decides to resume alcohol use later, advise she do so only with professional consultation. If any reoccurrence of alcohol misuse occurs I recommend Ms. James seek further professional evaluation and follow all recommendations at that time.

Ms. James has signed a release to communicate the results of this assessment to you. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions about this assessment.