

February 19, 2015

Honorable Lori Currier Woods  
Orange County Family Court  
285 Main St.  
Goshen, NY 10924

**Re: Clinical Alcohol Assessment for James Black**

Dear Judge Woods:

I performed a Clinical Alcohol Assessment for Mr. Black in reference to his divorce proceedings in the Orange County Family Court. This assessment included the administration of: a Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST) an Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT), an anxiety/depression screening, and a 50 minute clinical interview by telephone. The following items provide a summary of the screening results, my diagnostic opinion and professional recommendations:

**MAST:** score =2/ *NEGATIVE SCREEN*; points were related to 2 impaired driving violations over 20 years ago (age 19 and 25)

**AUDIT:** score = 3/ *NEGATIVE SCREEN*; scores above 8 indicate hazardous use, above 13 indicates moderate to severe disorder present

**DSM/Other Substance Related Concerns:** denies subtle indicators of problem alcohol use including pattern of mild hangovers, mild memory loss after use, repeat use to relieve emotional or work stress, previous treatment, conflict with significant others during or shortly after use of alcohol, guilt or regret associated with use

**Anxiety/Depression Screening:** no clinically significant concerns reported

**Substance Related Legal History Reported:** DWAI at age 19, DUI at age 25 with high test

**Clinical Interview/Summary:** Mr. Black's written screenings provided no indication of an alcohol use disorder given that his legal charges were over 20 years past and he has had no incidents since. He reported normal use of alcohol as 1-2 standard drinks (beer only) on 2-3 occasions per week. He also acknowledged use of 2-3 drinks on infrequent special occasions (weddings, birthdays, etc.). Mr. Black and I discussed his impaired driving incidents from 20 plus years ago and also his general use of alcohol history. He reported a natural decrease in his alcohol use as his responsibilities increased in his late 20's and into his 30's. It is my clinical impression that his overall history and presentation are not indicative of someone experiencing DSM 5 alcohol use disorder symptoms. Though he may have met the diagnostic criteria over 20 years ago the clinical interview did not reveal inconsistencies, discrepancies or suspicion of under reporting of his alcohol use.

**DSM 5 DIAGNOSIS in reference to substances:** V71.09 (none found)

**Treatment Recommendations:** I have no further professional recommendations for Mr Black at the present time. If the court possesses credible information suggesting that Mr. Black has minimized or covered a pattern of alcohol misuse or heavy drinking I would be happy to examine such information and provide an expanded and amended report as an additional service to Mr. Black and the court.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist the court, Mr. Black and yourself in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Brian Davis, LISW-S, SAP  
cc: James Black

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**Diagnostic Conclusions / Limitations:** Directions Counseling Group provides Clinical Alcohol Assessments based on objective and standardized screenings and interviewing methods as well as self-reported information. Clinical conclusions are made to the best of the professional's ability with data on hand at the time of the assessment. Expanded assessments which involve additional background research, collateral information and third party verification can be provided as an additional service upon request.