

September 21, 2016

Alexandra Dent, Probation Officer
7216 Skidaway Rd. Ste. A
Savannah, GA 31406

Re: Clinical Alcohol Assessment for John I. Morton (DOB – 8/13/1960)

Dear Ms. Dent:

I performed a Clinical Alcohol Assessment for Mr. Morton in reference to his DUI charge in Chatham County. This assessment included a 35-minute clinical interview by telephone, and the administration of:

- A Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST)
- An Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT)
- A general anxiety/depression screening

The following items provide a summary of the screening results, my diagnostic opinion, and professional recommendations:

MAST: score = 2 / *NEGATIVE SCREEN*; no direct indication of a DSM-5 alcohol use disorder (screen relative to lifetime use of alcohol)

AUDIT: score = 3 / *NEGATIVE SCREEN*; scores of 8 or more indicate potential *hazardous use*, whereas scores of 15 or more in men indicate a *moderate to severe* disorder may be present (screen predominantly relative to current use of alcohol)

Alcohol Use Risk Factors:

- ☐ negative peer influence/at-risk work environment – NA
- ☐ current stress (relational, work, financial, etc.) – NA
- ☐ physical health concerns – NA
- ☐ anxiety/depression/mental health – NA
- ☐ exposure to trauma – NA
- ☐ family history – none reported
- ☐ contraindicated prescription use – NA
- ☒ other substance use – daily tobacco use
- ☐ regular use of liquor – “a couple” of times a year at most
- ☐ voluntary treatment history – NA
- ☒ severity of incident – .13 BAC reported
- ☐ legal history – denies previous history

Summary - 2 of 12 concerns

Clinical Interview/Summary: Mr. Morton's written screenings provided no indication of an alcohol use disorder at any level (mild, moderate or severe). He reported his normal use of alcohol before this charge as 2-4 drinks on 2 occasions per months. He also acknowledged use of up to 6 light beers on 4-5 special occasions (weddings, birthdays, etc.) in the average year (these drinks are consumed over 4-5 hours).

Mr. Morton and I discussed his DUI charge and general use of alcohol at length. I did not find him meeting DSM-5 alcohol use disorder criteria for an alcohol use disorder and his drinking habits seem to be within the NIAAA recommendations for men's low-risk drinking. I did note the risks and concerns associated with his specific situation. Accordingly, I would have recommended that Mr. Morton complete education in effort to be proactive and mitigate concern, however, he reported that he has already been required to do this as part of probation (12 hours of educations). This is an appropriate recommendation **and is in accord with my clinical recommendation.**

DSM-5 Alcohol Use Disorder Symptoms:

- ☐ Use beyond intention
- ☐ Persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to reduce/quit use
- ☐ Substantial time spent obtaining, using, or recovering from use
- ☐ Strong craving/desire
- ☐ Failure to fulfill a major role (work, home, school)
- ☐ Use despite recurrent social/interpersonal problems
- ☐ Important social, occupational, recreational activities relinquished
- ☐ Physically hazardous use
- ☐ Continued use despite knowledge of contraindicated physical or psychological condition
- ☐ Tolerance
- ☐ Withdrawal symptoms

Summary - 0 of 11 symptoms (Mild 2-3 | Moderate 4-5 | Severe 6+)

DSM-5 DIAGNOSIS in Reference to Substances: Z03.89 (suspected substance use condition not found)

Treatment Recommendations: Having found no basis for a DSM-5 alcohol or drug use disorder I have no further recommendations for Mr. Morton at this time **beyond the court-required 12 hours of substance use education.**

If you or the court possess additional information about Mr. Morton's use of alcohol that might impact the outcome of this assessment, I would be happy to review it and consider appropriate modifications or amendments to the present report.

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

Sincerely,



Trevor C. Davis, CDCA

Cert.# 150427

Reviewed by Ryan Smith, MSW, LISW-S, LICDC, SAP

cc: John I. Morton

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Diagnostic Conclusions / Limitations: Directions Counseling Group provides Clinical Alcohol and Drug 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.