

May 26, 2016

Steven T. Fox, Attorney  
The Steven T. Fox Law Firm, LLC  
1335 Dublin Road, Suite 205-A  
Columbus, OH 43215-7044

**Re: Clinical Alcohol Assessment for Dusttin Nicholson (DOB – 03/11/1990)**

Dear Mr. Fox:

I performed a Clinical Alcohol Assessment for Mr. Nicholson in reference to his OVI charge in Franklin County. This assessment included a 50-minute clinical interview 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 = 9 / *POSITIVE SCREEN*; clarify severity of condition and provide appropriate clinical recommendations

**AUDIT:** score = 19 / *POSITIVE SCREEN*; scores of 15 or more in men indicate *moderate to severe* disorder present, mitigate concerns with clinical recommendations

**DSM - 5 Alcohol Use 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 contra physical or psychological condition
  - ☒ Tolerance
  - ☒ Withdrawal symptoms (intermittent)
- Summary – 9 of 11 symptoms (severe)*

**General Mental Health Screening:** Mr. Nicholson reported a variety of anxiety and depressive symptoms, currently not experiencing a mental health crisis but I advised he seek consultation with a physician and simultaneously treat the alcohol use disorder and anxiety and depression.

**Clinical Interview/Summary:** Mr. Nicholson's written screenings provided clear indications of an alcohol use disorder at significant level. He was open in the clinical interview and shared detailed information indicating 9 problem alcohol use symptoms (see above). Mr. Nicholson stated that he has not been using alcohol on a daily basis and did not give indications, nor did I observe signs of, moderate to severe withdrawal symptoms. He fully recognized that he is in need of treatment to stop using alcohol on a permanent basis and was articulate about interventions he found helpful toward this goal in the past; including participation in a local IOP (*Lower Lights IOP*) and use of a SCRAM device. He was articulate about rapport built during his treatment at Lower Lights and expressed both motivation and a desire to return to the same IOP for this reason. The recommendations below provide a combination of interventions to help him reach full recovery from a severe alcohol use problem.

**DSM-5 DIAGNOSIS in Reference to Substances:** F10.20 severe alcohol use disorder

**Treatment Recommendations:**

- 1) Complete an Intensive Outpatient Program – recommend returning to Lower Lights IOP;
- 2) SCRAM Usage – use SCRAM for accountability, initial recommendation of 3-month usage period, defer to professional counselor for appropriate timeframe beyond 3 months;
- 3) AA, 12 Step or Smart Recovery Meeting Attendance – 3 sessions per week minimum and provide proof of attendance to probation department or therapist;
- 4) Outpatient Counseling – after completion of IOP, weekly sessions gradually stepping down frequency over a one-year period;
- 5) Abstinence – abstain from all alcohol use permanently;
- 6) Physician consult – for continuity of care, inform primary care doctor of the results of this assessment and obtain appropriate medical recommendations;
- 7) If abstinence is compromised – an increased level of treatment will be recommended (e.g. inpatient, residential treatment, etc.)

If you or the court possess additional information about Mr. Nicholson'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. Nicholson, and yourself in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Brian T. Davis, LISW-S, SAP  
LIC# I-7948  
cc: Dustin Nicholson

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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.