

March 6, 2015

Ryan Russman, Attorney
14 Center Street
Exeter, NH 03833

Re: Clinical Alcohol Assessment for Andrew Newton

Dear Mr. Russman:

I performed a Clinical Alcohol Assessment for Mr. Newton in reference to his *wreckless driving* charge in Stafford County. 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 clinical interview by telephone. The following items provide a summary of the screening results, my diagnostic opinion and professional recommendations:

MAST: NEGATIVE SCREEN; no direct or indirect indication of problem alcohol use

AUDIT: score = 5 / **NEGATIVE SCREEN;** scores above 8 indicate hazardous use, above 13 indicates moderate to severe disorder present

DSM/Other Substance Related Concerns: clinical interview revealed 0 of 11 DSM 5 substance related symptoms present

Anxiety/Depression Screening: no clinically significant concerns reported

Substance Related Legal History Reported: denies any previous history of alcohol or substance related arrests/legal charges

Clinical Interview/Summary: Mr. Newton's written screenings provided no indication of an alcohol use disorder at any level (mild, moderate or severe). He reported normal use of alcohol as 2-4 drinks on 2-3 occasions per week. He also acknowledged use of 3-4 drinks on special occasions (weddings, birthdays, etc.) or about 3 occasions per year. Mr. Newton and I discussed the *wreckless driving* incident and his general use of alcohol at length but I was unable to find the incident or his overall history and presentation indicative of someone experiencing DSM 5 alcohol use disorder symptoms. My clinical opinion is that he believed he was being prudent in sleeping in his car after drinking and did not understand that this would be a violation even if he did not have keys in the ignition. We discussed his general emotional state and response to stressors the evening of his charges as well. I believe that he has gained some valuable insight as a result of his charges and has developed some effective ways to problem solve should he be faced with a similar situation in the future. My opinion is that these problem solving skills are a positive deterrent for him to avoid further incidents of a similar nature going forward.

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

Treatment Recommendations: I have no further professional recommendations for Mr. Newton at this time. If he incurs additional negative or legal consequence as a result of alcohol use I recommend he obtain an updated assessment and follow all professional recommendations.

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

Sincerely,



Anita McLeod, LCSW, SAP
cc: Andrew Newton

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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.