

April 17, 2015

Rosemarie Seider-Paquin, Victim Advocate
Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office
P.O. Box 623
Woodbury, NJ 08096

Re: Clinical Alcohol Assessment for Daniel Zierten

Dear Ms. Seider-Paquin:

I performed a Clinical *Alcohol Assessment* for Mr. Zierten in reference to his *disorderly conduct* and *domestic violence* charges in July of 2014 in Gloucester 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 50 minute 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 = 0 / **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 alcohol related symptoms found

Anxiety/Depression Screening: no clinically significant concerns reported

Substance Related Legal History Reported: acknowledges DUI charges in 2006 (9 years ago) and 2008 (8 years ago)

Clinical Interview/Summary: Mr. Zierten's written screenings provided no indication of an alcohol use disorder at any level (mild, moderate or severe). He reported normal use of alcohol *prior* to his charges as 1-2 drinks on 1-2 occasions per month. He also acknowledged use *prior* to his charges as 3-6 drinks on special occasions (weddings, birthdays, etc.) or about 5 times per year. However, Mr. Zierten states that he has completely abstained from all alcohol use for the past 10 months. Mr. Zierten and I discussed the *disorderly conduct* and *domestic violence* 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. Mr. Zierten seems to have done some meaningful reflection as a result of his charges and was able to list coping skills that he has learned such as staying away from unhealthy social situations and regularly attending AA meetings. It is my clinical opinion that these factors are positive preventative measures that should help him to avoid any future problems associated with alcohol.

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

Treatment Recommendations: I have no further professional recommendations for Mr. Zierten 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. Zierten and yourself in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Anita McLeod, LCSW, SAP
cc: Daniel Zierten

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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.