

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding the court's review of Kevin Fossen's case, I would like to offer my personal experience with him for consideration. For the better part of the last year, I have had the blessing of getting to know Kevin quite closely within the recovery community of Dickinson, ND.

Kevin has grown to be a pillar of our community. He is exceedingly compassionate and has dedicated his daily life to the service of others struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. He has worked tirelessly to become a Certified Peer Support Specialist and has thrown himself completely into the work of helping individuals and groups in recovery. He organizes and leads three Narcotics Anonymous meetings in town and gives struggling addicts a place to turn for support in their recovery.

Although he is too humble to admit it, I remember the night Kevin sprinted barefoot through snow and gravel to administer Narcan to a fellow addict who was overdosing—thereby saving his life. I think that story is the best example of how Kevin treats other people. I know that if I were ever struggling or having difficulties, he is the type of man who would drop what he's doing and rush to help.

I've come to know him as reliable, trustworthy, and loyal to a fault—not only to people with whom he has close relationships, either. He'll go out of his way to greet any newcomer to NA or AA as soon as they walk through the doors. The patients at Heartview have also become reliant on Kevin's support. I remember last New Year's at the Alcoholics Anonymous party, one of the patients was really struggling with the holiday, and Kevin would not leave her side the entire night.

He has been an example of repentance and redemption to me and many others. The most striking quality about listening to Kevin share about his life or discuss his past is that he is relentlessly accountable. He takes extreme ownership of every aspect of his actions. I have never heard him make an excuse or blame anyone else for the consequences of his decisions.

I respect and admire Kevin very deeply. He is an example of self-sacrificial love, and there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that he will continue to flourish and grow, if only given the opportunity.

I thank God for his friendship, compassion, and leadership within our community. His story is one of repentance and redemption, and my prayer is that he would be allowed to continue to blossom and thrive—because he is a blessing to everyone around him.

Kevin Fossen is not the same man he once was, he fights valiantly every day to become the man God created him to be.

Respectfully,
Joseph Scanlon