

## Why I Chose Court Reporting...

By Megan Reeves

In 2012, I was working in the Clerk of Court's Office in Sioux Falls. It was the first full-time job with benefits I had ever had. I thought I had made it! However, I was a single parent to two little girls and I was on state assistance and couldn't make ends meet. I didn't want to live off state assistance forever, but I knew if I stayed in that job, I would more than likely have to. So, I started brainstorming ideas. I loved being in court. I loved working in the courthouse. I loved hearing the arguments each side gave and then watching the judge issue a decision. I considered law school, but then decided that would take too much time and be far too expensive. Then I considered court reporting school. I knew nothing about it, but I could type really well, so it should be easy; right? (Boy, was I wrong!)



I contacted a very helpful court reporter by the name of Jena Skorczewski and went to her office to discuss reporting. That day she told me she loved her job, loved the online school she attended, made good money, and had no regrets. Her enthusiasm towards her career got me hooked. I decided that day that I was going to court reporting school at the same online school she attended, the College of Court Reporting. I quit my job and started school shortly thereafter.

Online school was a challenge. I loved everything I was learning, but I longed to be in a classroom with one-on-one direction and assistance. However, that wasn't an option, so I did the best I could. The staff, my teachers, and the other students made it the best situation possible. I graduated a little over three years later. I was in McDonald's eating supper with my kids when I got the call that I had passed my last test. I was jumping up and down and crying the happiest tears I have ever cried.

I freelanced in and around the Sioux Falls area for a while before I interviewed for and was offered an official position in Yankton, SD. I had been there only one time before, but I was not passing up an opportunity to get the job and the career I wanted and had worked so hard

to attain. I accepted the position on a Friday and told them I had no issues starting work the following Monday. I moved my kids, my home, and my life to a new town in just a few short days. It all happened so fast that it's really a blur and I have no idea how I managed to do it. I have no regrets. I absolutely love my job. I love my judge - she's brilliant. I learn so much from her every single day. I love the other reporters in my circuit. I love the clerks. I love it all.

I knew on my first day as an Official Court Reporter that I had the job I wanted and the job that made me feel happy, proud, and fulfilled. Shortly after I started my new position, I was able to end all the assistance I was receiving from the state. I had accomplished my goal. I no longer struggle to make ends meet. My kids are happy, healthy, and have everything they need. And, most importantly, they are proud of me and I am proud of me. All the tests I failed, all the tears I cried, all the frustration I felt, all the times I wanted to quit led me to where I am now, and I wouldn't change it for anything.