



South Dakota Unified Judicial System

"I'd be homeless and still using."

Amidst a worldwide pandemic, South Dakota's drug court program gives addicts a chance at recovery

PIERRE, SD - Maintaining recovery is hard enough, maintaining it through a worldwide pandemic is a colossal task. That is just what Sioux Falls Drug Courts upcoming graduates have accomplished. While obtaining their recovery these graduates faced quarantines and disruptions to support services that no other group before them have had to face. Active addiction soared nationally as well as locally due to the pandemic and its accompanying complications, nonetheless, they persevered and continued in the path they had set for themselves with the support of their dedicated Drug Court team.

Treatment courts represent a comprehensive approach to the ravages of addiction. Jared is just one of the thousands of individual stories that demonstrate why treatment courts are so critical in the effort to address addiction and reduce crime. Sioux Falls Drug Court reduces substance abuse and recidivism among targeted offenders. Numerous studies have found that treatment courts reduce drug use, save the community money, and increase public safety. Our Drug Court increases the number of offenders able to work, parent, and participate in the community.

When Jared first entered our treatment court he was experiencing homelessness, unemployment, and struggling with a drug addiction he had been battling for years. He was arrested numerous times, but nothing changed. He was facing years in prison when he received the opportunity to participate in Sioux Falls Drug Court.

As a part of his program, he met regularly with a case manager and participated in rigorous treatment and counseling services. With the help of the court team, including community-based treatment providers, he began to put the pieces of his life back together.

Jared actively participated in his treatment court program and states "Drug Court gave me a lot of support and a lot of help in my sobriety." Jared was held accountable to the standards of probation along with following through with all his treatment providers recommendations. When asked where he would be without Drug Court Jared says, "I'd be homeless and still using." Jared shares that he has been drug and alcohol-free since he began the program but did witness those around him struggling with their sobriety with the added stress of COVID19. Jared says with the help of Drug Court and his faith in God he was able to maintain the sobriety he worked so hard for. Today Jared is happy, healthy, employed, and contributing to our community.

Jared, along with 3 other individuals will successfully graduate from the Sioux Falls Drug Court on Nov 19th, 2020. These Drug Court graduates applied what they have learned through their extensive treatment programming to maintain their sobriety. They became leaders in the past 18 months or longer to those struggling with addiction. These 4 graduates completed a laborious programming schedule, overcame mammoth obstacles, and followed the rules of a demanding treatment court program. And on top of all of that – working on continuing to better themselves amidst a worldwide crisis.