

LOST MY JOB BECAUSE OF THIS... I CALL EVERY DAY TO SEE IF I NEED A DRUG TEST.

MY CAR WAS REPOSSESSED, I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.

GETTING MONEY TOGETHER FOR THE FEES IS TOUGH, 'CAUSE YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR YOUR OWN DRUG TEST, OF COURSE.

I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH SAVINGS, YOU KNOW, WITH THE LIFE I LIVED.

HAD TO USE ALL THAT. IT TOOK A FINANCIAL TOLL ON ME AT FIRST...

STILL TRYING TO GET MY CREDIT BACK TOGETHER.

HAD TO PAY COURT COSTS AND FEES, LAWYER FEES, AND GET MY CAR OUTTA THE TOW YARD.

LACK OF COMMUNICATION. IT'S LIKE, 'DO IT YOURSELF AND FIGURE IT OUT, AND IF YOU DON'T, THAT'S ON YOU.'

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED DURING THE PRETRIAL PERIOD?

IT WAS REALLY SCARY—I WAS IN A DIFFERENT TOWN AND DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

WHEN THEY RELEASED ME, I WAS SUPPOSED TO CHECK IN BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GO OR WHAT TO DO.

MY COURT DATE'S BEEN RESCHEDULED ALREADY.

THEY SENT ME A VOICEMAIL REMINDER BUT DIDN'T TELL ME THEY RESCHEDULED IT.

I FELL INTO THAT MYSELF. CHOSE ALCOHOL OVER MYSELF AND MY FAMILY.

I'VE HAD A HISTORY OF ALCOHOLISM IN MY FAMILY...

DON'T THINK IT WAS A CONSCIOUS DECISION, BUT I KNEW I DIDN'T WANT TO FEEL WHAT I WAS FEELING ANYMORE.

THAT'S LED TO SOME ISSUES IN MY MARRIAGE...

I MISS MY FAMILY, MY CHILDREN.

I THOUGHT, I'M GONNA LOSE MY HOUSING OVER THIS, AND I HAVE KIDS.

YOU CAN'T HAVE THAT ON YOUR RECORD.

FENTANYL MADE ME NUMB

DIDN'T FEEL NOTHING. NOW, TRYING TO BE CLEAN, I FEEL EVERYTHING TIMES TWO, AND IT HURTS SO BAD.

I GOT ADDICTED TO OPIATES.

BEEN BATTLING TO STAY CLEAN, BUT DON'T KNOW ANY OTHER RELEASE.

Navigating the Pretrial Experience:

— CHALLENGES —

THE EXTRA FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, YOU KNOW, THEY REALLY WEIGH ON ME. AND THERE'S SOME EMBARRASSMENT—JUST THE WHOLE SITUATION, YOU KNOW?

ONE DAY, I HAD TO WORK OVER, BUT IT WASN'T NO PROBLEM. I TOLD HER I HAD AN APPOINTMENT, AND SHE GAVE ME LEEWAY TO GET THERE BEFORE THEY CLOSED, SO THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD

AND JUST, JUST THE FACT OF LETTING, QUOTE UNQUOTE, THE SYSTEM HAVE POWER OVER ME.

I THOUGHT I COULD GET A JOB DOING SOMETHING, BUT NOT BEING ABLE TO HAS ME WORRIED. I'M AFRAID MY CAR WILL GET TAKEN AGAIN.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE PROSECUTOR LEGALLY WISE, YOU KNOW?

I DON'T LIVE NEAR PUBLIC TRANSIT, AND I'D HAVE TO WALK FOUR MILES TO THE CLOSEST BUS STOP, WHICH IS A PROBLEM.

I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW THE SPECIFIC LEGAL CAPABILITIES OF ALL OF THAT.



WHAT ARE YOUR NEEDS DURING THIS CHALLENGING TIME?



I FEEL LIKE IF I HAD MONEY, IT WOULD PROBABLY WENT A WAY BETTER DIRECTION.

I LITERALLY LEFT WITH NOTHING SO ANYTHING THAT I HAD THAT KEPT ME COMFORTABLE IS THAT I WAS A STAY AT HOME DAD SO I HAD MY HEAD MY DAUGHTERS IN THE EVENINGS AND NOTHING'S THERE ANYMORE ...

BECAUSE I DON'T THINK PEOPLE THAT HAVE THE FUNDS TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY, THEY DON'T GET TO TALK TO THEIR ATTORNEY LIKE THE OTHERS DO.

AND NOW I'M AN UNEMPLOYED PERSON WITH NO FAMILY, HOME, OR VEHICLE.



THEY DON'T GET TO SEE, YOU KNOW, WHAT, THEIR ATTORNEY'S TRYING TO WORK FOR THEM AND FIGURE OUT WITH THEM.

PEOPLE LIKE ME JUST NEED SOMEONE TO CHECK IN, SEE HOW WE'RE DOING, OR WHAT WE NEED.

A HELPING HAND OR A SHOULDER TO LEAN ON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE,

SOMEONE WHO CARES COULD HELP BREAK THE CYCLE.



ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE FEELING TRAPPED AND TRYING TO MEET HOUSING AND CUSTODY DEMANDS.

Navigating the Pretrial Experience:

— NEEDS —

I'M BACK INTO THE GYM WORKING OUT AGAIN. I'M RUNNING. I'M JUST, YOU KNOW, I'M EATING MORE HEALTHY.

IT'S JUST LIKE IT JUST GAVE ME A WAKE UP CALL TO DO POSITIVE THINGS IN MY WHOLE LIFE...

MY OFFICER ACTUALLY HAS BEEN THE MOST HELPFUL, OF COURSE...

SHE GOT MY DRUG, YOU KNOW, DRUG TESTING FEES WAIVED, THANK GOODNESS...

I HAVE FAMILY FRIEND AND MY CHILDREN. AND I HAVE MY NEW CHURCH FAMILY.

THEY SUPPORT ME.

MY MOTHER'S A GOOD SUPPORT SYSTEM...

I'M VERY FORTUNATE. I HAVE A HOME. I HAVE A JOB...

WHAT HAS HELPED YOU NAVIGATE THE PRETRIAL PERIOD, STAY POSITIVE, OR HANDLE CHALLENGES?

IF I HAVE A QUESTION, AND I CALL AND LEAVE A MESSAGE, SHE CALLS ME AND TALKS TO ME ABOUT IT.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY CHILDREN, LIKE, I WOULD BE LOST.

ONE POSITIVE THING...

I ALSO HAVE MY OWN TRANSPORTATION. I HAVE A CAR.

WOULD BE MY SISTER HELPING ME OUT...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I'D BE.

IT'S SUCH A BLESSING THAT I HAVE THEM NOW.

IT'S BEEN A BLESSING THAT SHE'S LET ME COME STAY WITH HER.

GETTING BACK CUSTODY OF MY KIDS, THAT'S MY MOTIVATION...

WITH THE FAMILY COURTS REMINDING ME HEY, YOU NEED TO BE GETTING A JOB, YOU NEED TO BE GETTING HOUSING.

LIKE, YOU KNOW, THAT'S, YOU KNOW, SOMEBODY'S TELLING ME TO DO GOOD

Navigating the Pretrial Experience:

— SUPPORTS —