

180 Jack's Drive, Inman, S. C. 29349

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

My name is Daniel Casasanta. I am 29 years old. I am a local musician in the Upstate of South Carolina. I am sending this letter to tell you my story. On June 23rd of 2009 my life forever changed. After binge drinking, I wrecked my car into a ditch. I received my 3rd DUI and spent 64 days in Spartanburg County Jail (the minimum time with good behavior for the offense). Bond was posted. As I awaited my court date (on house arrest for 6 months). While on house arrest, like in jail, I realized who and what were important in my life and the changes I wanted to make. I went to court. My attorney Holman Gossett spoke and then the judge asked me if I had anything to say. I told him that "The only people that have stuck by my side are the people that I have hurt the most with my addiction: my family." The judge sat there for a few minutes in silence then he said, " I can tell right now. You're going to be just fine." He gave me time served and I was released from house arrest. I then began to pursue my passion again: performing live music. I was excited and very scared too. I was nervous to do it completely sober. I played my first show at Mo Daddy's in Asheville and I was shaking like a leaf, but I made it through it 100% completely sober. That was in the Spring of 2010, I believe. For the next few years, with the support of my Father driving me to all of my shows, I managed to play each and every show sober. In February of 2014, I was able to get my license back. I have the IID Guardian breathalyzer device installed on my vehicle. I had to have it installed, before I could take my driving test. I have now been living my life completely sober for over 5 years. On June 23rd, it will be my 6th anniversary of getting sober. Each and every year that I get another year of sobriety under my belt, I tell my story on Facebook. If I can inspire, educate, and help people not have to go through what I have, then it's all worth it. I am thankful to God that I am alive and well, performing my music, spending time with my family, and living the life of a

respectable citizen. I heard from the people that facilitate my breathalyzer checks, that some people's time with the devices have been reduced. I contacted Ruth Ann Cartwright at The Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services. I was under the impression from Guardian, that I had to have the IID breathalyzer device on my vehicle for 2 years, as stated in the contract I signed. Ruth informed me that I have to have it on my vehicle for a total of 3 years, ending January 5, 2017, rather than my anticipated and misinformed date a year earlier in 2016. At first, I was very discouraged to hear I had 22 more months to go with the IID on my car. After more reflection, I understand that this is the law and that I'm proud to say that I am a law abiding citizen of the state of South Carolina. Unlike a lot of people with DUI's, I did not get behind the wheel, drink any alcohol, or break the laws, preventing me from operating a motor vehicle. I want to thank you for making these laws tough. I don't want anyone out on the roads, driving under the influence the way that I used to. I believe that these new laws are tighter and more fitting for DUI offenders. When I go each month to have my inspections, I hear that there have been people that get the IID removed earlier, receiving reduced time sentences. I'm not sure how one qualifies for that to happen, or if it is really even possible. All I do know is that I am 29 years old, happy and blessed to be alive, happy to have my family, girlfriend, and friends and extremely happy that my past has not defined my future. I perform music in the "belly of the beast" (bars, clubs, and medium sized venues) in and out of the state of South Carolina...and I do it 100% completely sober. My main purpose of this letter is to show you that I have changed my life for the better. I thank you so very much for all of your hard work for the State Of South Carolina and may God bless you.

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Casasanta

DWC/c

Attachments

Sly Sparrow



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