



STRAFFORD
GUIDANCE
CENTER, INC.

AND STRAFFORD PSYCHOTHERAPY & FAMILY SERVICES

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September 28, 1999

RE: Chad Evans

To Whom it May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to report on Mr. Evan's compliance with the program requirements of Strafford Guidance Center's Domestic Violence Program. Mr. Evans has attended all 26 weeks of the required 26 week program. By "attended" we mean that he has been physically present, had paid the fee and has not been asked to leave the session for any violations of the group contract (including demonstrating abusive behavior in the group).

The following topics have been covered during Mr. Evan's attendance in the program:

- ___ Defining abusive behavior and its alternatives;
- ___ The impact of abusive choices on self and others;
- ___ Male/female socialization;
- ___ Beliefs and attitudes as reflected in language;
- ___ Oppression and its violent consequences;
- ___ Myths and realities about why people batter;
- ___ Gaining control by giving up control;
- ___ Stages of change;
- ___ Relapse prevention strategies;
- ___ Anger management;
- ___ Stress management;
- ___ The Cycle of Violence;
- ___ Substance abuse and domestic violence;
- ___ Parenting skills (includes the impact of abuse on children);
- ___ Developing social supports;
- ___ Restitution;
- ___ Equal partnership;
- ___ Intimacy (physical and emotional);
- ___ Intergenerational transmission of abuse (and its alternatives);
- ___ Timelines (includes family of origin work).

Currently, no group member has been mandated to our program for more than six months (26 weeks) by an outside agency (e.g., district courts). We believe that changing what may be a lifelong pattern of making harmful choices (harmful to self and others) requires more than 90 minutes per week for 26 weeks. Therefore, we report on "compliance" rather than "completion" or "graduation" from the program.

In addition, we only have access to "in-session" behavior. Therefore, we do not make judgments on how much progress a particular group member makes, or how much better a spouse or partner he has become. We will report on any specific in-session behaviors that are deemed by staff to be abusive.

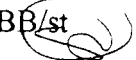
Our service is largely an educational one, designed to provide each member with the information necessary to make nonabusive choices, show he choose to do so. But the choice is entirely up to the client. Anyone could choose to use the information presented in this program to control, manipulate or otherwise harm someone, if that person is motivated to do so. It is the responsibility of our entire community to discourage such harmful behavior. Our program can only play a small (though vital) part in that process.

We hope that this information has been useful to you. We are eager to hear any comments or suggestions you may have to improve our program.

Sincerely,



Bruce Bissett
Group Facilitator

BB/st 

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