

Ben, 21 years old, university student

“I’m in jail now for assault but I can still go to my classes. I want to be a high school math teacher but I might not be able to with my criminal record. I was diagnosed in high school with ADD. I know I haven’t always used the best judgment. But I really want to do this & I know I could be a really good teacher. I had a problem with substance abuse but I’m not using anymore.”

Ben & I decided on the following goals for our work together:

- To determine employment demand in math education in MN & other states
- To pursue options for other professional alternatives upon graduation should teacher licensure not be allowed at that point
- To strengthen writing skills in preparation for the PPST exam
- To work together on English 111 assignments
- To pursue the requirements for the "Good Citizenship" record for the teacher education program
- To begin an exercise program, perhaps beginning with walking and working up to running.
- To phase out smoking when he's ready
- To find new social support through healthy activities
- To practice strategies for taking personal responsibility

Ben has been such a blessing in my life,-as he inspires me as his coach & in my life. His dedication to & aptitude for teaching, along with his desire to turn his life around have given him the ability:

- To work patiently & diligently through the criminal justice system
- To become skilled in communicating appropriately regarding his criminal history
- To achieve a 4.0 GPA
- To secure both volunteer & paid positions in the community working in education-related programs
- To assume responsibility for his decisions and actions
- To choose his friends carefully
- To maintain a healthy lifestyle