

SAMPLE DECLARATION #3

I declare as follows:

1. I would like to thank the court for considering giving me the opportunity to put my past behind me. For many years as a younger man I was involved with drugs and criminal activity, but I have been sober and have had a clean record for nearly 12 years.
2. At the age of 16, I started using marijuana and methamphetamines. Soon I was using meth daily. I had a child at 17 who I was never a father to because of my drug use. I have a great relationship with her now, and I'm about to become a grandfather. I had a second child at 24, and I was in and out of her life because of my drug use. She would write and tell me she needed me, but I was often in jail. I was trying to get right so that I could be there for my children, but I couldn't get past my addiction.
3. In 2002 I had a son, but I continued to live the same way. He was taken into foster care at age 4, and then my son's grandfather was able to get temporary custody of him.
4. In 2007, I was arrested for the final time. While I was restrained in [REDACTED], my phone rang, and the officer put the phone on speaker. It was my son. Suddenly I was at peace, and I knew that I could do what was necessary for my children. That was the last day I ever did any drugs or committed any crime.
5. After that arrest I was offered a rehabilitation program [REDACTED]. During that program, my son visited me, and I immediately started the process of applying to get custody. When I completed the program, my son came to live with me on a trial basis, and shortly after that I received full custody. My son has lived with me ever since.
6. Since my last conviction and rehab, I have taken many steps to right my wrongs and change myself for the better. I am a faithful member [REDACTED]. I spend as much time with my extended family as I can, planning family outings, weekends at my parents' ranch, and holiday celebrations. I've repaired my relationships with my older daughters, who are now adults. We have been very close for many years, and I communicate with them almost daily and share in their problems and their triumphs. I now live with my girlfriend, her daughter, my son, and I have joint custody of my youngest daughter. The children are all excelling in school as well as in life. I have also repaired my relationship with my parents, who I had hurt with my drug use and criminal activity, and whom I sometimes did not see for years. We are now very close, and I help them with their household needs, as they are now getting older.

7. I have been steadily employed since I finished rehab. I have worked in construction. For several years I worked at the [REDACTED] until it closed and I was laid off. I went to trucking school and earned my Class A license. I now work [REDACTED].

8. I have been very fortunate that I have been able to stay off of drugs, and that by the grace of God I no longer have any desire for drugs. I recognize the harm that I caused to my family and my community, and I regret all the time I lost with my family because of the choices I made. I feel lucky that my children have given me a second chance. Now that all of this is behind me, I would like to have my record reflect the person I am today. It would restore my dignity, and, if I needed to get a new job, it would help me continue to support my family. Attached are letters from family and community members who can attest to my recovery and my contribution to my community.