

## DECLARATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare as follows:

1. In 2008, I was convicted of driving under the influence causing bodily injury. I take full responsibility for, and deeply regret, my past actions and the impact my actions had on other people. I now petition the court to consider my motion to dismiss my conviction due to the work I have done since my conviction.

2. I write this letter NOT as the same person you see on paper. My record is nothing to be proud of, it's filled with selfish, drunken acts that disgust me and show the lack of regard I had for others. I will never make excuses for my past behaviors, but hope to make amends moving forward. I made many terrible decisions when I was younger and suffered from an alcohol addiction. I hung out with the wrong friends and lived in denial of my alcoholism. As you will see from my record, the only time I had been in trouble with the law was when alcohol was involved.

3. On February 28, 2007, my life changed forever when I got into an accident while under the influence of alcohol. I was nearly twice over the legal limit and nearly killed someone. The horror of my actions was truly a wake-up call as the reality of causing such a life changing injury to an innocent person and family was at times more than I could bear. I am ashamed and horrified by my actions and there isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about it. But reflecting on past actions are not always a bad thing, as since that day I haven't had a drink and have been trying to lead a life committed to my rehabilitation, sobriety, community and family.

4. Not too long before the accident I met \_\_\_\_\_, who would later become my wife. She was beautiful and smart and had these two-year-old twins who were adorable and who I loved immediately. After the accident, and while out on bail, \_\_\_\_\_ chose to stand by me and we became

a family of four. I learnt to love reading books to the kids, walking with them to the park and the pool and finally being a part of something I never had: a real family. Realizing the importance of what I was missing, I worked on my sobriety and being the best person I could be. When it was time to be sentenced and go pay my debt to society,            made me the luckiest man by marrying me two days before I went to prison. Having the support of her and the twins allowed me to grow both personally and emotionally while in prison. Although I was a man at the time of my accident, emotionally I was very immature and my addiction did not help. In prison and later in fire camp, I found new skills, worked on my sobriety and looked forward to my future at home with and the kids.

5. Today, I am a happy, loving, compassionate father, husband and son. I am trying to do better each and every day in my personal life and career. I am an only child, with no family on my side but my mom, who is in ill health and who I help take care of on a daily basis. I am active in my twins lives with their school, sports and teaching them not to make the same mistakes I did when I was growing up. I am a committed and devoted husband who loves to travel with my wife and practice yoga with her. I adore my new extended family that I get together at least twice a month for family dinners to try and create a sense of family for our kids. I especially cherish these moments as a sense of belonging and family was one of the things I was missing in my prior life. To try and give back to the support system that helped me grow from my addiction, I remain an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous to maintain sober and I help at meetings by volunteering to set up chairs and make coffee. I've worked the 12 steps and I am very proud of my sobriety. I have worked with a therapist since my release and still have check-ups about every 6 weeks, learning that taking care of your mental health is an essential part of staying in recovery. A record of my attendance with Dr.    is attached. I am a community member who seeks to make a

difference having volunteered at the twins middle and high school during their school years and I volunteer at the Hoag Oasslc. One of the things I am most proud of is that I've had the opportunity to be a guest lecturer in my wife's Social Problems class at Saddleback College. I was invited to speak during the alcohol and addiction section of her class and share my story. If I can prevent one person from causing the harm to others I did, then it is worth it.

6. I am a hard worker and have held a job since my release in 2014 with my first job being just 6 weeks after I was released. I eventually became a manager of an ACE hardware store for over 6 years! During that time, I decided I wanted to shift out of retail and work in public service as I missed the feeling of making an impact on a greater level in the world like I did at fire camp, where I served 4 years of my sentence fighting wildfires. In order to pursue a career in public service, I went back to school and took 6 to 9 units a semester all while juggling 45-50 hours of work a week. I earned my Associate of Science degree and Certificate of Achievement in water utility science and maintained a 4.0 GPA during my courses. A transcript from Rancho Santiago Community College is attached. I took the state test and currently hold a Distribution 2 Water Distribution Operator Certificate issued by the State of California State Water Resources Control Board. A certificate documenting this achievement is attached.

7. Not only do my convictions not represent who I am today, they have severely limited my career opportunities and in order to move forward in my preferred career I need to be able to expunge/reduce my convictions. Although I've been hired by three districts, I am unable to get past the background check due to my record. Conditional letters of employment subject to successful background checks from the City of Orange and the City of Santa Ana, as well as a letter denying me employment due to not successfully complete the background review process are attached. Currently, my mother, wife and four children depend on me for income and expunging my record

will greatly help me in being able to continue providing for them by pursuing more interesting and rewarding career opportunities in a field I'm more passionate and knowledgeable about.

8. I am a totally different person today than I was in 2007 and in earlier years. I've worked hard to change and rehabilitate myself but my record currently prevents me from fully achieving this and always serves as a reminder of my mistakes in the past. I want to make a difference in my community and I want to help support my family. I know I made big mistakes in the past, but I think I am a prime example of someone who has learned from their past mistake and taken steps to try and rectify them.

9. I am asking for my record to reflect all of my hard changes over the past 17 and half years. I appreciate your time and consideration in reading my letter and those of support. I am thankful for the Project Rebound and a chance at a shot of being made fully whole. For these reasons, I respectfully request that the court expunge my convictions so that I can continue to achieve my goals, contribute to society to the best of my ability and continue to support those who depend on me.

10. In furtherance of my declaration, attached are letters of support from the following people:

1. Letter of Recommendation from \_\_\_\_\_ ;

2. Letter of Recommendation from \_\_\_\_\_ ;

3. Letter of Recommendation from \_\_\_\_\_ ;

4. Letter of Support from \_\_\_\_\_ ;

5. Letter of Support from \_\_\_\_\_ ;

6. Letter of Support from \_\_\_\_\_ ;
7. Letter of Support from \_\_\_\_\_ ;
8. Letter of Support from \_\_\_\_\_ ;
9. Letter of Support from \_\_\_\_\_ ;
10. Letter of Support from \_\_\_\_\_ ; and
11. Letter of Support from \_\_\_\_\_ .

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

Sincerely,

████

██████████

[████@gmail.com](mailto:████@gmail.com)