

Margaret Brennan

Hello, my name is Margaret Brennan. I preferred to be called Peggy. I am married to my best friend, Jerry for almost 15 years. I am the mother of 3 girls (Heather-27, Emilee-18 and Meghan-16), as well as the grandmother of 2 granddaughters (Paige-4 and Abigail-11 months).

My previous career was as a Nationally Registered EMT and Firefighter. This was something that I had worked very hard for and was proud of. I have always wanted to do something where I was helping others.

In a roundabout way, it was my career that ended up bringing me to the Mental Health Court. I was injured on the job back in October 2009. I was in the process of transporting a patient when the stretcher got jammed under the back of the ambulance. While wrestling with the stretcher I injured my neck and back.

It ended up that I had herniated disks in my neck and lower back. I had to see several doctors for my injuries. The different doctors prescribed different medications. None of the doctors that I saw, along with the pharmacy that I used, advised me to stop some medications, nor did they advise me of any possible reactions from mixing medications. At one point I was on approximately 17 different medications at one time.

I found out, after the fact, that I was doing odd things and of course I couldn't recall any of it. In October of 2011 I got up out of bed, set the blinds in my living room on fire and went back to bed. The smoke detector woke my husband. He got the family out of the house and put the fire out. I don't remember any of this.

I ended up in The Rockford Center for several days. Once I was released, I was placed on Probation and became a client of the Mental Health Court. I successfully graduated from the Mental Health Court with the guidance from my Mental Health Court Team.

I am now gainfully employed as a Mental Health Court Peer Support Specialist. I look forward to being able to help others in their recovery, as well as continue mine.

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