

**Anna Scott, RN**  
**9955 10 Mile Rd. NE**  
**Rockford, MI 49341**  
**(616) 450-0435**  
**annamars@umflint.edu**

Throughout all of the trauma, pain and distress, I am here today because I have to be. I have to be the voice for myself, my boyfriend, his children, his mother, my mother, and all of the rest of the men, woman and children of Kent County who have been victims and traumatized by so many systems, and don't have an Anna to advocate for them.

While my thoughts are everywhere and I pray that I still am able to get across to you today what has happened to us and I plead with you that action is taken.

Who I am, where I've come from, and my accomplishments are important for you to understand our current situation.

The retraumatization of recalling the trauma we have been through and continue to go through on a daily basis, has almost pushed me over the edge and I had decided last night that I could not be here in front of you today because of this. What feels like the hardest I thing I've ever had to do, I am reminded of who I am, where I've come from and my accomplishments in life.

### **Intro:**

My name is Anna Scott. I am a resident of Rockford, here in Kent County. I am a Registered Nurse, in which I obtained my Associates Degree in Nursing (ADN) from Grand Rapids Community College. While there, my nursing care plans were put on display for relicensure from the state. I planned and organized my classes' nursing pinning ceremony, at which my class presented me with the President Award, for my leadership and advocacy throughout our nursing school journey. I currently attend The University of Michigan, as a student in their RN-to-BSN program through the Flint campus, where I hold a 4.0 GPA and am Golden Key International Honour Society member. Achieving these goals thus far have exceeded my own expectations and

Would it surprise you to know that I have accomplished all of these things despite having Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), a past history of co-occurring substance abuse, and a criminal record with 2 drunk drivings and a minor in possession.

Why do I tell you these things up front? Because it goes to show you that through a personal and professional background in Mental Health and Wellness, I have experience and expertise on what works, and what doesn't. I just want you to be able to understand where I am coming from, as I now share with you where I'm at in my life today.

## **Our Story**

### **The Background Events**

My boyfriend, and love of my life, Chad Robert Bruining is currently sitting in the Kent County Correctional Facility. The sentence of 365 days. The charge probation violation use of alcohol.

### **Original Charges**

- The original charges in which we were going to go to trial for because he was not guilty, he ended up pleading no contest on the day of trial, because even though he was not guilty and their whole case was circumstantial, we did not trust the system, especially when he had two children he had primary custody of and did not want to put their lives in the chances of a system we did not trust. This is the start of our traumatic journey.
- He was a successful small business owner. Due to this and his children, the judge gave him 3 weeks to report to jail, to attend to his affairs. He was given a sentence of 75 days, with good time and time served would end up around 60 days. The judge also ordered work release, as he was our only income since I was continuing my education. The no contest pleas to 3rd offense DUI and Resisting and Obstructing a Police officer, both being felonies, put him under probation supervision of the Michigan Department of Corrections. He was arrested at his house for a DUI in which didn't occur because no one even seen him driving. His R&O from tensing up when he had been cooperative then suddenly put under arrest. At the time he was assaulted with permanent nerve damage in his wrist.
- On our last day together before his incarceration, he got a room at the Amway for us, his 2 children and his friend who was in town. While he watched the children, we went to eat at a restaurant down the street and spend time together. We played pool and music on the jukebox and were having a great time until after being apart for no more than 5-10 mins while I was inside with his wallet paying our tab, and he had gone to the store below and was accused of stealing a bag of combos. He explained I had his wallet and would be right there. Instead, police officers show up and what do you know, he gets charged with another R&O but consequently his entire face is smashed as well as his cell phone. As I am crying trying to figure out

what just happened, I was told by the officer, "Do you want an obstructing charge too?"

## **The Probation Violation**

I am already in shock and trying to comfort the children. I lived in Chad's house with them and it was already set up that I would be taking care of them while he was in jail for those 60 days.

- I received a phone call from his probation officer. She said she only met him once, didn't know much about him and he already picked up charges before going to jail. She asked what was she supposed to do. Myself being compassionate, honest and believing she was trying to help him, attempted to give her some background on him, who he is and the situation. She stated the police noted he smelt of alcohol. I did something I never should have done...I was honest. I told her that yes he had been drinking, I also told her that AA is not the way to go for him, that he needed intensive outpatient therapy to address the trauma of his adolescence, the continuing trauma he had been through, as well as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to help address his diagnosed Generalized Anxiety Disorder and panic attacks.
  - She turned around and instead of helping him, used my admission of his use of alcohol to charge him with a probation violation. The probation violation report specifically said that his girlfriend Anna Scott told this officer of his alcohol use. WOW. Her recommendation to the judge was 365 days, followed by 6 months of SCRAM which is alcohol tether.
  - Unaware of her recommendation, he pled guilty to the judge of using alcohol. In his plea, he took responsibility for his actions, and earnestly and honestly asked the judge for help and treatment, asking to go to the Sober Living Unit at the Jail. The judge ordered Sober Living Unit and/or work release.
  - Chad was sentenced to 365 days in jail for violating probation and by using alcohol.

## **What's Happened and What's Wrong**

- Even though our Child Protective Services investigated and gave Power of Attorney over them to myself, and his brother. The Wisconsin court, where their divorce originated in 2006, took his children away to live with the Grandmother over there.
- His very successful business which he has worked years to build up. Is in-operational. He's lost his business.
- The jail took him off his medication

- They have provided him no therapy, treatment
- He can't go to the reentry building b/c of his "violent" R&O
- His mother with Advanced Stage Parkinsons Disease has moved in with us. Me being a nurse and she has helped us keep his house instead of paying \$6,000/mo. to stay in an assistive living center.
- I am mentally, physically and emotionally traumatized
- My health is at jeopardy
- His mothers health has declined from the stress
- His children have been restricted from speaking to us because they do not want to be there and want to live here.
- I could not file a PPO against his second wife and continue to be tormented from her
- He hasn't spoken with his other daughter b/c his second ex-wife keeps asking for his mothers money and not letting him to talk to her
- She has also interfered with and played an intricate part in the kids being taken away

## **The Problems**

- Health includes mental health and it needs to stop being looked at as a separate entity. Since 1946, WHO has stated the definition of health with mental health being included, so why we still look at it separately is beyond me.
- According to Samsa, those with Mental Illness and Substance Abuse all have the universal theme of having been traumatized. Their initiative of Trauma and Justice addresses these issues because even as Gov. Snyder had said 70-80% of those incarcerated have a substance use disorder.
- Mental Illness and co-occurring substance abuse disorders are diseases in which in order to treat them, you need knowledge.
- The criminal justice system is in every way responsible for the care of many of these people, without any behavioral health knowledge and are retraumatized by the system.

## **What needs to be done**

### **ACTION**

While I commend everyone out there trying to make a difference, for years, all that I've seen occur is a lot of talk. We can discuss all day what is wrong but when nothing is done, more lives are ruined, more people traumatized, recovery from mental health is regressed

I Challenge you to start with action and to start taking that action today. Since when is losing everything, taking away treatment, not allowing therapy, and ruining the mental health of that individual, myself, both of our moms, his children, our communities, justice or recovery..

It takes approx. \$30,000 to jail someone for a year, approx. \$3,500 a year for someone to be on house arrest with alcohol monitoring. Being in the community allows the proper treatment, therapy, medicine, and support needed to recover. Please do not allow our lives to be ruined any further.

The following information is provided for your reference:

1. The first section of the document contains the main findings of the study.

2. The second section discusses the implications of these findings for future research.

3. The third section provides a detailed analysis of the data collected during the study.

4. The fourth section concludes the report and offers recommendations for further action.