

Hello: My name is Larry Jay, I am 74 years old and at the age of 48 years old I realized that I had a problem with substances. I was living in a tent in 1997 in my mother back yard. I had been living there for four months. While living there I did nothing but use substance all day long. Now in the meantime I had a PO that had been looking for me for three months and I had two warrants for my arrest. I also was facing three years in the penitentiary. Now of this matter to me, until one morning I woke up, and realized there was snow on the ground and that one fact shocked me back to the realization that I was living in a manner that was below human standards. I also realized that I had warrants, a PO and was facing time.

At this point I made a decision to go to a place to figure out how to stay out of prison? Although the only place I knew that would be safe was a treatment center call Stay Clean. This was a treatment center that was ran by Culturally Specific, Afro-American individuals. I knew that once I got there I would be safe from the law and maybe I could find an answer to help me avoid prison time. While there due to my inability to except the fact that I was an addict they soon ask me to leave. After three months of only being safe from my PO and the police. At this time I made a decision to beg for a chance to get the program called Narcotics Anonymous. They allow me to stay and in the next three months I obtained enough information to remain abstinent for the next three months, completing treatment with six months of clean time, I was able to go to my PO, face her with a different frame of mind, thinking and understanding of my life. Not real sure what I said, due to going to see my PO with the God of my understanding and allowing my faith in him to guide my words and my actions. I was freed by my PO and have remained abstinent for past 26 years without a relapse, or breakage of the law.

My life today has changed from being a street person sleeping in a tent to, completing college at the age of 66 years old and become a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor and now a Substance Use Disorder Supervision of a SUD Program. I believe that given hope and a chance by my PO and finding a God of my own understanding and practicing the understanding of the principles of Narcotics Anonymous has saved my life and given me a life I never thought I could have coming from that tent in my mother's back yard.