

February 9, 2010


Wendy Leach
North Star Youth Court
800 Cushman St., Suite 101
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Wendy,

I am writing to compliment you and the rest of the North Star Youth Court on the great job you are doing with Minor Consuming and Minor Operating After Consuming cases that are referred to the Youth Court by our court. It is important for our society to have a variety of options for the administration of criminal justice in order to promote rehabilitation and public safety, and to decrease recidivism. Youth courts are one such option. As you know, our referrals to your court are good for both the offender and for the public. I have seen that the confidentiality of your program is a real benefit to young offenders. Similarly, the public benefits in many ways, including through a reduced financial cost to the court system and law enforcement, through the Youth Court's focus on service to our community, and through the high rate of successful rehabilitation for offenders who complete the youth court program. It is my experience that offenders who are referred to your court are unlikely to return to ours.

Thank you very much for the work done by the young people and the adults of the North Star Youth Court. I would be happy to continue to work with the Youth Court to provide training for your judges, so please let me know when there is a Youth Court Judge who would like to shadow a Magistrate in the Fairbanks District Court or when you would like me to speak at a Youth Court Judge's training session.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bethany Harbison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bethany Harbison
Magistrate