

L.I.F.E. Success Stories

The female youth was placed on probation in May of 2005 for a Domestic Violence offense and referred to the L.I.F.E. program in July of 2006. While the youth was on probation she was adjudicated of several Domestic Violence offenses and a felony Assault offense. She was very physically violent towards her family and refused to follow any household rules. She had very few friends and frequently would bully peers at school. The youth was placed on home instruction due to her behaviors in class. She had a history of leaving the house for several days at a time without permission and frequently abused Marijuana, Cocaine, and Xanax. Her parents were constantly in fear of her assaultive behavior and felt like hostages in their home. She was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder and Manic Depression, however would rarely participate in therapy.

As a result of the youth's out-of-control behavior, the Court placed her at a residential treatment center to address her mental health and substance abuse issues. While in treatment, she continued to be resistant and was frequently a disruption. The agency asked that the youth be removed from placement due to consistent non-compliance. She was given one last chance to change her behavior and was referred to the L.I.F.E. program instead of being placed at the Ohio Department of Youth Services. She participated in family therapy for four months and developed coping skills that eliminated the physical violence towards her parents. She continues to attend weekly AA/NA groups to maintain sobriety, has completed her G.E.D. and she successfully completed probation in December of 2006.

The juvenile is a female that was referred to the L.I.F.E. program in June of 2006. She was placed on probation in September of 2004 for a runaway offense. While the youth was placed on probation she continued to be truant from school, runaway frequently, and was also charged and adjudicated with several counts of Domestic Violence against her mother. She lived in a very unstable home. Her father abused alcohol and crack cocaine and was very verbally and physically abusive towards the youth and her mother. As a result of this instability, the youth would resort to the living on the street, abusing drugs, and engaging in inappropriate relationships with older men. She was expelled from several schools due to being physically aggressive towards peers and teachers. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son at only 15-years-old. She was very violent towards her mother and would frequently get into verbal and physical altercations that resulted in police intervention. The youth was diagnosed with Post Partum Depression and Oppositional Defiant Disorder in June of 2006.

The young mother was referred to the L.I.F.E. program because she continued to be violent towards her mother and would frequently abandon her son. Her probation officer was requesting that the youth be removed from the home because her behavior appeared to be escalating. She was struggling with depression and agreed to participate in the program to improve her relationship with her mother and to be a better parent to her son. After six months of weekly family therapy and intensive probation supervision the youth successfully completed the program. She struggled with her lack of coping skills, however was able to remain focused and engage in new ways of communicating with her mother. She has not received any new charges and did not runaway. She began testing negative for all illegal substances, participated in parenting classes and is passing her classes at school.