

What make Gerald successful?

Gerald began his supervised release term in November 2011 in the Mobile Office Division after completing a 121-month custody sentence for the offense of Distribution of Cocaine Base. His risk score of 5 placed him the low to moderate range of recidivism. He also had several prior arrests and convictions involving weapons, drugs, assault, criminal mischief, domestic violence, disorderly conduct, and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. His prior criminal activities and associations also lead to gunshot injuries that he still struggles with.

Gerald graduated high school in 1988, and also spent 4 years in the Army as a communications specialist where his service included Desert Storm and Desert Shield. He was honorably discharged in 1992. He also has experience working in manufacturing and production, but despite this, lost his car to repossession in 1996. His background also involves some drug and alcohol use in his early 20s, and many drug related criminal activities as listed above.

He was referred by Senior U.S. Probation Officer Michael Laughlin for a counseling evaluation at release, and was found not in need of services at that time. He has continued to participate in the drug testing program without problems, and until recently resided with his sister following release in order to save money, and make plans for his own residence.

Gerald initially had difficulty finding a job other than part-time, temporary work. He was then referred by the Probation Office in February 2012, to the Construction Education Foundation program conducted on the Northlake College West campus (Build4Success Program of Dallas CitySquare). He graduated May 22, 2012, getting certifications in OSHA safety, soil, lead, mold, and hazardous handling and remediation, as well as class training in building and construction trades (plumbing, electrical, air conditioning, and others). He then secured a good-paying job via a local staffing company working for UPS doing warehouse and forklift operation. He will complete his 90 days probation on the job in the next week, and will likely be hired on full-time soon thereafter.

He began dating his old girlfriend in 2011, and a few months ago they married each other in January 2012. She works as a nurse, has two children herself in the home, and they now live together with Gerald in a nice 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in DeSoto, Texas. He also has an 8th grade son in the Pittsburgh, Texas area that he pays child support on, and visits regularly.

What did the officer do to facilitate this offender's success?

We worked together to set goals and plans toward training for a better job, rebuilding relationships, and securing his own residence. The probation office has encouraged and helped him to move toward attaining those goals everywhere possible by providing encouragement, monitoring of progress and compliance, providing guidance, feedback, and recognition, as well as urinalysis testing, and direct referrals for counseling and job training. This has truly been a collaborative effort, but one in which all the accomplishments and successes clearly belong to Gerald.