

**Address the Root Cause**

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After picking my children up at school, I headed home to find that my house had been broken into and items were stolen from my house, sentimental items that I cannot get back. During the process of this traumatic event, I was even more scared when I learned that he was still in the house when I got back. But it did make me realize, he was given an opportunity to hurt me or my kids and instead fled the scene. Yes, there was a significant amount of trauma, but in this case it seems like he needs some help himself. He does need some kind of punishment to learn that what he did is wrong, he broke the law but in his case, he was at a disadvantage from a young age. He never got a proper education and suffers from a drug addiction. So with my history of a Criminal Justice degree, I have come up with three sanctions within the system to help him with his addiction while he also is under supervision to learn from his mistakes. The three intermediate sanctions that I have come up with for Jaime are drug court, intensive supervision probation, and a community based correction center.

For the first sanction, I mentioned drug court. With drug court programs, professionals and the individual work to acknowledge that addiction is a chronic condition that impacts the way a person behaves (National Treatment Court Resource Center, 2023). Instead of serving time in prison, Jaime can go through the drug court process and seek help that will, hopefully, prevent him from reoffending in the future. His rehabilitation can be tailored for what he needs and he will need to comply with what the court decides to be the best schedule for him. With a case worker, he will undergo multiple rules that a judge sets out for him, including: drug testing frequently, attending narcotics anonymous meetings, and meeting with a social worker or psychologist that can work with him utilizing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to get down to the root of his problems. He may even be asked to go to classes in pursuit of an education or seeking

out employment. We want to deter him from committing crimes and feel a part of a community and with diversion programs such as drug courts, we keep him from anti-social behaviors.

Another program that, in my opinion, could help Jaime from reoffending is setting him up with a probation officer that works with individuals in the Intensive Supervision Probation program. This program is keeping the individual out of jail but under strict guidelines that must be followed and frequent meetings with a case worker. Meant to protect the community and deter the individual from breaking the law (Schmallegger, F., & Smykla, J. O. 2024). Under this program, Jaime could seek out employment to help him afford a place to live in a good neighborhood and to reduce the risk of him being alienated in jail and unable to reintegrate back into society afterwards. It is meant to help him set up a healthy life with good coping skills and tools to help him in his day to day life to aid him in his recovery process and reduce recidivism. With a constant eye on him, knowing that if he messes up, he will go back to jail and instead, give a hand to help him Jaime just may turn his life around. Though, this will only work if Jaime truly stops using drugs and wants to live a different life.

The final sanction that I would like to discuss is Jaime being ordered to participate in a Community Based Correctional Center. While he can leave during the day, for a job or for educational purposes, he must be back for curfew. Jaime must also submit himself to drug testing and searches that he must pass every night he comes back to the facility. He has a constant structure that will help him but he is also not taken out of society and potentially away from a support system. Several theories state that a stable work environment can reduce the rate of recidivism in an individual who has been incarcerated (Ramakers et al., 2016). I do think that with this program that he may need monitoring, perhaps, just to make sure that while he is out in the community, he is not going in the neighborhoods that he burglarized to potentially run into

victims or hanging out in areas that are known by law enforcement to be places that drugs are frequently used. This could just be an additional step but ultimately up to what the court and probation court work out.

Ultimately, for me, I believe that there should be sanctions given in turn to a jail or prison sentence. Jaime did not get violent with me or my children, but he did still steal and it was still very traumatic for me and my children. He needs help that I feel jail or prison may not be able to accomplish to the full extent. It may even make it worse in the long run. With either three sanctions drug court, intensive supervision probation, and a community based correction center Jaime would still have to work hard to get his life in order and make up for the laws that he broke. But with his wrongs, he can make improvements through these programs, really seek help, and do good with his community to make it right. The goal of Jaime's sentencing needs to be rehabilitation and diversion to help the individual and the community. These programs cost less for the community to fund and have shown are successful but there are tools that need to be used in order for it to truly work. As I mentioned earlier, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, can get to the root cause of Jaime's addiction and addressing that head on can help him cope with his addiction and stop abusing drugs. Getting him rehabilitated and keeping him out of jail can drastically change how he views the community for the better.

### References

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