

PROBATION SPOTLIGHT

DPO II HEIDI DERBY

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DPO II Heidi Derby

"The team has been actively engaged from the start and the youth knows this. Now, with the mother on board, her chance of success is even stronger."

-DPO II Derby

I'd like to highlight the great work of a Deputy Probation Officer II from the Harbor Area Office, Heidi Derby, for the wonderful work and service she provides. I have been impressed with the diligent dedication DPO Derby has provided to a youth even though the youth is not on her caseload.

DPO II Derby is an investigation DPO which typically does not supervise a caseload. Although this category does not apply to her normal job duties, she has taken it upon herself to mentor and supervise a youth that she has built an exemplary rapport with. DPO Derby acted as a liaison between the youth and her school Director to procure the youth a laptop. She assisted in getting the youth re-enrolled in school, and she continues to monitor the youth and has had the youth write self-reflective essays to help raise her overall self-confidence. On one occasion the youth was instructed to write a two paragraph essay on educational and life goals. Without procrastination, she presented the assignment to DPO Derby the following morning.

As the investigator handling the initial investigation when this case was "farmed-in" to our office, DPO Derby did not hesitate to get involved in the youth's life.

From DPO Derby:

I inherited this case as she was a bench warrant and a report was due. After receiving my certified letter, the mother contacted me and had the minor contact me. Since that time I have checked in with the youth daily and she was officially enrolled in school at the end of January, 2021. We established an immediate rapport and she has done everything that I and the school have asked of her.

We have made it clear that we believe in her and that we will all be at her graduation when she receives her diploma, hopefully in a year. She was also so excited when she received the laptop. When I called her after I sent the pictures, I heard in her voice how proud of herself she is.

I know this will be a long journey, but if the 'team' keeps supporting her, I KNOW the youth will receive her diploma. The team (Jerome Davis, Director of student recovery of SEA (Soledad Enrichment Action), her teacher, and her teacher's Supervisor), have been actively engaged from the start and the youth knows this. Now, with the mother on board, her chance of success is even stronger. Further, Mr. Davis has now started on getting her a work permit.