

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: Keep the LLLT 's Licensing
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 8:05:11 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: mamakatt N [<mailto:wytewynter@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 11:36 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Cc: Christy Carpenter <christy@myllt.com>
Subject: Keep the LLLT 's Licensing

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To Whom it may concern:

My name is Mary and I would like to share with you my experiences with my LLLT in hopes that you will understand the impact that the loss of LLLT's would be.

I began the divorce process 3 years ago now and what started out as what should have been a mature and mutual end of a 30 year marriage quickly became a nightmarish hell for me, particularly when my soon to be ex spouse showed up in court with a family-funded attorney, while I stood alone in front of the judge unrepresented at our pre trial conference.

Due to my financial situation- (I had recently been disabled from work due to long term repetitive work injuries) I found myself turning to other resources referred to me by the court system.

Legal aid- or what they believe is legal aid- was not helpful to me at all. No one could do anything for me except offer me a free half-hour consultation with a volunteer attorney who was mostly bored and uninterested in my questions and concerns and who, quite frankly, offered me no help, guidance or comfort.

To say I was financially troubled is an understatement. I was forced to stay at the marital home for the duration of the divorce process, which became 2 years thanks to my ex-spouse who intentionally dragged the process out in an attempt to "wear me out". It was a hostile living environment for me and one that I would not recommend to anyone- but I had no choice, nowhere to stay during this time until the completion of the divorce where I would receive some money from the buy-out of my parents house.

That is when a friend suggested an LLLT and actually found mine for me.

Christy came at a time where I had just about given up. She was kind, caring and deeply invested in helping me in any way that she was able. She did all of the legwork and in the end, when it came close to the hearing time, I had to hire an attorney because Christy could not represent me in court. It cost me an enormous amount of money to hire that lawyer for even that 1 month- Christy literally saved me tens of thousands of dollars. Had I hired a lawyer at the beginning of these proceedings I would have likely ended up bankrupt and homeless. Or alternatively stuck in a hostile marriage at the mercy of a very mentally abusive spouse.

Until I met Christy I never knew anything about LLLT's, and based on my experience, this is a disservice to everyone who needs this kind of help. It makes me wonder- how many people find themselves hostage in a bad relationship, or destitute and homeless due to the ridiculous cost of attorneys, with no help from these "legal aid"

programs. It makes me wonder if the rising cost of ending a marriage lends to an increase in depression, domestic violence, even suicide. Not to mention the damage and trauma of the children stuck in these hostile environments. I beg you to reconsider the sun downing of the LLLT programs. Our legal system has a moral obligation to protect people and offer better means of obtaining affordable legal services without becoming just another sad statistic.

Respectfully,

Mary M Nielsen
Sent from my iPhone