

1 **DECLARATION OF JANE SMITH**

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3 I, Jane Smith declare:

4 I believe the following facts justify my petition for expungement.

- 5 1. From 1992 to 2008, I received numerous convictions, including possession, prostitution,  
6 and theft.
- 7 2. I have not engaged in any criminal behavior since the summer of 2008, and have been clean  
8 and sober since October 5, 2008, when I began the Citytown Drug Court program.
- 9 3. I take full responsibility for the conduct leading to my convictions. All of my convictions  
10 stemmed from my addiction to crack cocaine, which went on for almost 20 years.
- 11 4. I started using crack when I was about 17. I was raised by aunt and uncle who adopted me,  
12 because my mother was an addict. When I was 15, I tracked my mom down—she was still  
13 using. Even though I knew how much her use had hurt my family, I started using with her.  
14 I was young and just didn't know—if I couldn't save her, I would join her. By the time I  
15 was 19 I was fully addicted. I spent the next 16 years in and out of jail and drug programs.  
16 I had two sons, both of whom were raised by other people. I figured that this was what my  
17 life would be like—addiction and jail.
- 18 5. At the time of my last arrest in 2008, I was just tired. Somehow, I knew that going any  
19 further down would have been my death. I was sent to drug court, which I had failed  
20 before, but this time, I did it differently. I followed instructions; I went to meetings; I got a  
21 sponsor. Little by little, I gave myself a chance—each small accomplishment built my self  
22 esteem, and I was finally able to pull myself out. My sobriety date is 10/5/2008, and I am  
23 proud to be sober for over 3 1/2 years.
- 24 6. I am presently living with my partner of two years, and we are raising the daughter of a  
25 friend of mine. I met her mother back when I was addicted, and we both recovered around  
26 the same time. Shortly after she gave birth to Susan, she was diagnosed with cancer and  
27 became unable to care for her daughter. My partner and I agreed to help her, and have had  
28 Susan living with us for over a year now. Taking care of means so much to me—partly

- 1 because I did not raise my own sons, and partly because it's just a miracle watching her  
2 grow.
- 3 7. I have been working as a caretaker for IHSS for about a year and half, caring for the same  
4 person, Mary. I first started working with her while I was a contractor with a company  
5 called Healthcare Co.; she needed a full time IHSS caregiver so I moved into that role.
- 6 8. I am currently going to school at Citytown City College, working on two Associates  
7 Degrees—Drug and Alcohol Counseling and Human Services. My ultimate goal is to work  
8 with at-risk youth as a case worker and mentor. In August I will be starting my internship  
9 at Rehab Org, the program that I graduated from.
- 10 9. I recently was the guest speaker at the Citytown Drug Court's graduation program with  
11 Judge Gavel who presides over the program. I remained in close contact with Jennifer  
12 Guidance, my counselor at the drug court, until she left the court. It is important to me to  
13 reach out to others who are in the same place I was, to help them realize that it is possible to  
14 turn their lives around.
- 15 10. I am filing this petition so that I can get low income housing. I have tentatively been  
16 approved for housing at Housing Project in Citytown, but before I can be approved I have  
17 to get this conviction expunged from my record.
- 18 11. Although sometimes I am overwhelmed by shame and regret for any harm I have caused, I  
19 have worked very hard for the past 3 1/2 years to become a law-abiding and respectable  
20 person. I will continue to make sure that I do not repeat the same mistakes in the future.

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22 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California that the above is true  
23 and correct to the best of my knowledge.

24 Executed on September 32, 2064, at Los Angeles, California.

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Jane Smith, Defendant

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