

ADAIR COUNTY WOMAN ACCEPTS DIVERTED SENTENCE IN ASSAULT CASE INVOLVING HUSBAND

Tammy Bledsoe had lived with verbal abuse and the destructive tirades of her husband for years. But, when he turned to using methamphetamine, she picked up a handgun and, shooting him four times, ended his threatening behavior before it really got out of control. Thanks to the early advocacy of Stanziano & Catron, PSC., she has been placed on pretrial diversion and has her life back.

“Tammy has always worked and been a respected member of the community,” said Bethany Catron, Bledsoe’s lead attorney. “She has been a phlebotomist for 17 years. She doesn’t drink or do drugs. She is pretty much a homebody. Unfortunately, she was in a marriage where there was a lot of bickering and, of late, violence directed at the home itself.” Indeed, patched walls where holes had been punched in them were common. “Tammy just snapped on the day she shot Ricky. She couldn’t take any more and it looked like this latest blow-up was going to be much worse than other blow-ups had been.”

Stanziano added, “Bethany’s early intervention made all the difference. She and Tammy have known each other for many years and Tammy’s cousin knew just who to call when Tammy was arrested.” Catron hurried to add, “It is so much easier for us—for any attorney actually—to help a client when the attorney is brought on board as early as possible in a case. Helping clients after cases have gone south is so much more difficult.”

The case was mediated under the Adair Circuit Court’s mediation program and a resolution was arrived at whereby Bledsoe would plead guilty to an amended charge of Assault in the Second Degree, Under Extreme Emotional Disturbance. Following her plea, her case would be held in abeyance for a period of no less than three, and no more than five, years. During that time, Bledsoe will be expected to comply with a number of terms and conditions of diversion. If she completes her period of diversion successfully, she will be released from supervision and the charges will be dismissed. If she fails to comply with one or more conditions of her diversion, she faces the prospect of five years in prison and a life-time felony record.

“I think that if I have any client who is capable of completing a pretrial diversion, it is Tammy. As long as she stays focused, she will do just fine,” said Catron. “I think Tammy and Ricky need to spend some serious time together in counseling, but she tells me both of them are willing to do that.” Ricky, who nearly died from his injuries but made a miraculous recovery, agrees.

“A good result all the way around,” said Catron. “Hopefully, this will be the end of the violence and the start of a stronger and more loving relationship for these two.”