

Watson's Second Chance Program

One of the major problems in Texas is the large group of people who have trouble getting good jobs because of fairly minor previous criminal conduct. *A criminal record, including a successfully lived out deferred adjudication, can stay on an individual's record forever.*

This effectively makes them part of a permanent underclass. My "Second Chance" program is for non-violent offenders who have the desire to better themselves and get out of the criminal justice system. Individuals with pending criminal cases can work for two years and stay out of trouble, without pleading guilty and receiving probation. Restitution for any loss, drug treatment, and job training will be part of the program. At the end of two years, after consulting and agreement by the District Attorney, the case will be dismissed in a manner that can be expunged.

I will use volunteers from the community (there are many people who want to help) to act as mentors to these individuals, and help them get jobs, a better place to live, and some kind of job training or education. This program is not for fraudsters or people who prey on the vulnerable people in our society.

I look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Mark Watson

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