

Is a court action pending? False

Do you have an attorney representing you on this matter? False

Are you willing to testify in court regarding this complaint? True

Did you complain directly to the business? False

What was the response from the business?

If no complaint was given to the business directly, why?

Was this complaint filed with any other agencies? False

---

### Complaint Detail/Inquiry Information

My name is [REDACTED] and the allegation below is against A Forever Recovery, located in Battle Creek, Michigan. I flew to Michigan on October 27, 2008 to check myself into the A Forever Recovery rehab facility. I have a [REDACTED] disease and was getting pain medications prescribed to me which I then became dependent upon. I no longer wanted to live that life so I went as far away as possible to get the help that I needed. During my 3 month stay in A Forever Recovery's facility I met Keith Matthews who became my one-on-one counselor. When I graduated the program A Forever Recovery asked me to stay and work. I decided it would be best to stay in order to maintain my sobriety. I did not want to go back home around the same people I used to associate with. I initially wanted to work as a security guard for A Forever Recovery due to the fact that it would look good on my resume because I intend to become a police officer. Unfortunately, Per Wickstrom, the owner of AFR needed a personal assistant not another security guard. So even though I had no idea what a personal assistant did, I decided to give it a chance. They found out really quickly that I wasn't lying because instead of training me they just said "here do it" and when I asked Pamela (Per's sister and co-owner) questions about how to do something I was yelled at and told to figure it out on my own and when I did it wrong I was yelled at again and basically [REDACTED]. So after they realized on their own that I was not cut out to be anyone's secretary they moved me to an intake counselor position which, again, I knew nothing about. I was enthused to try anything because I couldn't leave because I knew my [REDACTED] would be in jeopardy if I went back home. So, fresh out of treatment they had me working from 9am to 9pm everyday with one day starting at 12:00 to 9pm and one day off. Needless to say I got burned out and frustrated very quickly. During this time I looked to my counselor Keith Matthews to help me through these hard times. So basically I was talking to Keith as often as Per the C.E.O would let me, which wasn't too often. Later Keith told me that Paul his supervisor told him if he wanted to continue counseling myself and other graduate's, who AFR had working 50 hours a week with out being allowed to leave the building that he would have to do it on his own time. Keith told them that what they were doing was prescribing for pushing myself and other graduates to relapsing. While working at this new position I met another fellow intake counselor by the name of Murray Dailey. Mr. Dailey was the person who trained me to be an intake counselor and who was also one of my bosses. He had me sit in his office every day for a week and a half just listening to him pitch or try to sell the program to other struggling drug addicts. During the time I started working as an intake counselor I had to sign a contract saying I could not leave the premises without one other staff member so I looked to anyone and everyone to take me off-site because I had been there so long and was working so much I just wanted to get away. One day when I was sitting in Mr. Dailey's office when he was training me I had asked him if it would be alright if he could take me off-site which I explained to him that was the only way I could leave, he obliged and later that day after work I went with him off-site. He first stopped at a liquor store to buy himself a six pack of beer. I went into the store with him and he offered to buy me a can of Sparks, which has 6% alcohol, as well as his 6 pack of beer we then went to his house. I was a little apprehensive but really did not want to go back to AFR after being there for months. I just wanted to get away for a little while. After not [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] I quickly became [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED] and that's when Mr. Daily [REDACTED] me for the first time. I felt uncomfortable but knew that he voluntarily took me with him and I didn't want to make a scene. So after that we [REDACTED] around until my 30 days were up. I asked him if this was wrong and he said no because we were equals because I worked with him so I said okay. This was not true because it states in AFR own policies and principles (#9) booklet that no counselor or employee of AFR can have any type of [REDACTED] contact with a client for 3 to 5 years or it will result in immediate termination. Right when I got off those 30 days probation where I could only leave with a staff member he [REDACTED] me to his house where we [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] for the first time. Every day I would go with Murray after we both got off work and he would stop at the [REDACTED] store and he would buy us some [REDACTED] and then he would [REDACTED] me to his house where we [REDACTED] together and [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] every night. After about 2 weeks he started telling me I should just [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] because I had a curfew at 2:00 a.m. which he never got me back on time so after [REDACTED] together he would [REDACTED] me back to the center around 3am or later so he kept telling me "you don't want to live at the center because of

the curfew, the dirty rooms with smelly water and with a roommate I was forced to live. He kept reminding me of all the negative things because he wanted me to [redacted] in with him. Honestly I had been in that place for so long and had no car to go and come as I pleased so I really did not like staying there at all and if I had the money I would have moved out to my own apartment. However the fact was that I had absolutely no money and Murray kept telling me I could come [redacted] in with him and I wouldn't have to pay for anything to stay there. So it was either be at the center where it was dirty, cold, uncomfortable, and lonely or go [redacted] at Murray's house and watch TV and sleep in a comfortable bed. So Murray said we will just tell everyone that I was paying him to stay in his extra bedroom and that it was no one's business what we do. So when people asked if we were together I had to lie to them because Murray thought it would be better that way. So after I stayed there for a few weeks Murray started talking about how I don't even really need to work that he makes a lot of money and he would give me money if I decided I didn't want to work. I work so much and I was burned out so it sounded like a good idea. He also said he would buy me a car. So I had been [redacted] with Murray for about a month when unfortunately my [redacted] passed away on March 10, 2009 so I went back to Tucson, Arizona, on March 6th or 7th, 2009 so I could attend his funeral. We were very close and he had always prayed for me to get off my [redacted] so in a way I felt like I got clean for him. I was devastated so I only stayed in Tucson for a week because I was just too sad and I wanted to get away from the people and places and things that reminded me of when I used to take [redacted] pills. So I went back to [redacted] with Murray and to continue working at AFR. One day Murray went grocery shopping and I guess when he bent down to pick up a bag of groceries he hurt his back so he went to the ER where they first gave him [redacted]. Then he followed up with a primary care provider where he first got a script for [redacted] (I think that was the milligrams). They were white with pinkish spots on them. So I was now living with someone who has [redacted]. Needless to say I saw him taking them and naturally wanted to take them also since they had been my "[redacted] of choice" before [redacted]. I asked him if Per would be mad if he took [redacted] while working a AFR as an intake counselor and he said no because it's a [redacted] and that he told Per he needed them because he was in a lot of pain and he told me that Per said just go down to the Church of Scientology and write up your averts and then everything will be fine. That is when Murray started telling me how I should go down there and watch the DVD that explains about it and he said it would look really good to Per and that he would love me if I started studying Scientology. I had heard people and staff talk about Scientology and how it was a form of brain washing and many stated that it was a cult. Also, Murray said he wanted a [redacted] that was interested in Scientology just like he was. So I decided to give it a shot mainly because I wanted to impress Murray and Per and I knew Per would respect me more if I did. After Murray got [redacted] from his doctor he started giving me some to take because sometimes I would ask him because they were always around and I always saw him taking them. Then his doctor referred him to a physical therapist and that doctor started giving him 7.5 milligrams of [redacted] which were orange and that were obviously stronger than the 5 mg ones. So he would keep them in the house and that is when I decided to go home and visit for a while because I was working so much and Murray was giving me his [redacted] so I thought it might be a good idea to leave until he can get off of them when his back stopped hurting. So I went home for about 3 or 4 weeks and I talked to Murray everyday and when it came close to going back I asked him if he was done taking [redacted] because there was no way I could live with him when he was taking [redacted] because I didn't want to [redacted] again. He told me he had no [redacted] and he wasn't taking them anymore so I believed him and went back to Battle Creek, MI to [redacted] with him. The day I got back he told me "well I had like 10-12 of them left" and that he would give me half of them and he would take half and no more after that so of course I didn't say no to free [redacted]. Murray lied to me when I came back to live with Murray he had the "thousands" which are the strongest [redacted] that there is and these ones were yellow. So he has had three different types of [redacted]. Well needless to say that was not the case because Murray kept getting script after script and so we started taking [redacted] everyday. This was after I stopped working at AFR because when I came back they finally let me be a security guard which was what I really wanted to do because I want to be a police officer some day. Well, that didn't last long because Murray recently started working in a different building and so I would tell him how Pam who was part owner and Pers sister would tell me oh you can do better than Murray and that he was too old for me so when I told him that a few times Pam had said it he decided he would send an email to Pam to tell her to mind her own business. I asked him not to say anything because she was basically my boss and he said he would not. He sent her an email against my wishes and when Pam got that email she was furious at me. She told me "oh you have to run and tell Murray everything and that my days there were numbered". For some reason I thought Murray wanted me to get fired because he said I didn't have to work that he would give me money if I maintained the house and took his dog Lenny for walks as often as possible and of course keep having [redacted] and getting [redacted] with him. So Pam started asking around trying to find anything and everything she could about me so she had a reason to fire me. Well, she got some hearsay personal information from a few people and she fired me the very next day. So I was sad I lost my job but Murray said it was better this way. I was so upset at him and the whole situation that I went back

home again. He started calling me telling me I should come back and just [redacted] with him. He would buy me a car and I wouldn't have to work and so I went back and that's when he swore he was done taking [redacted] again. It didn't take long to realize he was not done and he immediately started giving me more and more of his [redacted] every day. He also bought me a car but every time we got into a fight he would make me give him the car keys and I wasn't allowed to go any where. I told him he always controlled me with the car and if I wanted to take a drive after a fight I was not allowed to and when I did once he said if I didn't come right back he was going to call the police so basically I was his property now. He had me back on [redacted] thousand of miles from home with no job because of him and no money but what he gave me. So I got scared and brought the car right back So now he has been giving me his [redacted] for a month and I met this girl who had some stronger [redacted] and I told Murray and he gave me money to go buy us some and sometimes he would come with me to get them. Soon he had a girl he was getting [redacted] from because his script always ran out early because we were both taking them so he would buy us some of those yellow [redacted] which he called [redacted] So I ended up [redacted] with him having [redacted] with him, and taking [redacted] with him for about three months when I had finally had enough of him trying to control me with the [redacted] money, and the car. That is when I broke up with him because at this point he was taking a lot of [redacted] and he was buying him and me [redacted] as well. So one day when he was at work I packed all my things, put them in boxes and was ready to leave as soon as he got home. I always told him that it made me nervous about the fact that I knew practically on one and I was thousands of miles away from home and he would always tell me not to worry if something were to happen to us like [redacted] up he would buy me a plane ticket and send me my stuff through the mail or Fed Ex. Well when it happened he did none of those things. He told me he bought me an airplane ticket for a flight that departed out of Detroit not Battle Creek and that I had to find a ride there because it's not his problem and he packed up all my stuff and took away my cell phone that he had bought for me so there was no way I could call anyone for help and he dropped me and some of my stuff off at a hotel. I begged him to switch the flight to Battle Creek and told him there was no way I could get there unless he paid for a cab. After practically begging him to switch the flight he said he would just pay for a taxi to take me and he swore he would send my 4-5 boxes of belonging because there was no way I could bring them. I didn't have the money to ship them myself. I stayed in the hotel by myself and after taking [redacted] with Murray for 3 months I didn't want to [redacted] on the plane so I had to go buy some. I tried calling Tim, the aftercare specialist his job was to call and keep check up on students that had graduated the program. Part of the payment my m [redacted] paid AFR for was supposed to be for Tim's help to check up on and help graduates if they [redacted] or needed a [redacted]'s phone number for support. I told him what Murray had did and asked for his help in getting a ride to Detroit but he said that he could not help me. So I'm on my way to Detroit with less than half of my belongings. When I get to the Detroit airport and the taxi leaves and I go check in at my flight, and they tell me that it was reserved but never paid for so now I am stranded in Detroit with no cell phone, no money, and nowhere to go and I didn't know anyone in Detroit so I begin to panic and cry and I call my n [redacted] crying hysterically telling her I was scared and I didn't know what to do. My [redacted] took the first available flight to Detroit to come help me. My [redacted] decided that it would be best for us to drive to Battle Creek to get my belonging. The next day we rented a car to drive the 2 hours back to Battle Creek so I could get my boxes of belongings because at this point I did not trust Murray to send them to me as he said he would. Unfortunately this trip cost my [redacted] all the money that she had and could borrow. She had spent all the money she could get a hold of to send me to [redacted] in the first place. I feel as if Murray Daily manipulated and used me when I was at my most vulnerable. He supplied me with [redacted] and [redacted] because he knew it would have a hold on me. He purposely had me fired so that he would be able to control me more and keep a better hold on me. He pushed me into studying Scientology although I told him I was a practicing Catholic and had attended 12 years of Catholic school. I went along with most of his demands because he always held over my head the fact that I had no job, no money, no car, no cell phone, and nowhere else to live. I feel that his actions did more harm to me than the [redacted] I was [redacted] to in the first place. After being stranded in Detroit, I was so traumatized that I got deeper and deeper into [redacted] after I got back to Tucson. After a year of being away from him, I am still trying daily to get my life back on track. A Forever Recovery and Murray Daily should not be able to get away with using and manipulating vulnerable people.

[redacted] Tucson, AZ, 85741 [redacted]

---

[False] Check if this referral is just to give us information and you do not need us to respond to you directly.

[False] Check if you want to send documentation. After you submit this form you will be provided with a postal mail address, and facsimile number, to which you may send documents.

[False] Check if you want to sign up for the Consumer Protection Listserv.

[False] Check if you want to sign up for the AG Press Release Listserv.

[False] Check if you want to sign up for the Attorney General Opinions Listserv.