

# Marchman Act Gets Results

By Joseph M. Considine, P.A.

In helping families with loved ones who are substance impaired, I have found that in many instances, the impaired individual who is ordered to treatment via the Marchman Act hears the message they need to hear and gets and stays clean and sober. This is such a relief to the family. It is worth the time, aggravation, expense and effort to use this law (Marchman Act) to “motivate” an active alcoholic or drug addict to stop. There are respected, peer reviewed studies which confirm the efficacy of court ordered treatment as a means of dealing with the addiction. The Marchman Act is an effective tool for families to use.

Many times families are afraid of going into court because they are unfamiliar with the terrain. That certainly makes sense. However, there are a couple things worth noting.

First, many times the impaired individual, literally outside the hearing room waiting for his or her case to be called, will simply agree to go to treatment. They see the family, the witnesses, and they know the deal. They are faced with either agreeing to go to treatment or listening to their family tell the Court how badly they have behaved under the control of their addiction. Many, many times the impaired individual throws in the towel and tells the Court he or she accept treatment usually followed with acceptance and a sigh of relief. Not always, but often this happens.

Secondly, your lawyer will prepare you for what to expect. You will go over your testimony well before the hearing. More importantly, this is your story. You have lived it. No one knows it as well as you do. Relax and tell the Court the truth of your experience.

This entry was posted in [Divorce](#), [Substance Abuse](#) on [May 23, 2014](#) by [Joe Considine](#).