

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN TRAINING AND ADVOCACY CENTER

Biography of Ron L. Belser, Police Officer

When Ron Belser began working at his father's gas station at the age of fourteen, there was no doubt that his work in life would be focused around helping families affected by narcotics and alcohol. Ron learned an early lesson in life working at the gas station, which bordered one of the toughest neighborhoods in Oroville. Daily, Ron would see young disheveled children follow their parent(s) into the store and watch as the parent(s) would spend money on alcohol and meet with their drug dealers in the parking lot. By the age of fifteen, Ron began compiling information through conversations with other customers on drug dealers who infested areas like south Oroville. Ron would relay detailed information to local law enforcement, which included the true names of drug dealers who hid behind street names. On one occasion, Ron provided the name and ruined the alibi of a person who committed a gruesome double homicide over a "drug debt" in south Oroville. This person would later be convicted of murder and pass in prison due to medical complications.

In the late eighties through the early nineties, Ron completed all of the Administration of Justice classes offered by Butte College and would later go on to earn his Bachelors of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice Management from Union Institute and University.

In the late nineties, Ron and his wife Toni fostered children who were detained during narcotic raids and social services investigations. Ron was always moved emotionally by the smell, dirty clothing, and medical issues of the children placed in his home. One image that will always remain with Ron is the black bath water left in the tub after the children's first bath.

Ron left the family business in 2001 and was hired by the City of Oroville as a Community Services Officer. Ron enjoyed the position because it enabled him time to speak at elementary schools about the dangers of drugs. While working one day, Ron sat in on a Drug Endangered Training Course taught by Sue Webber-Brown. Ron enjoyed the training and found that he related to this training because of his experience with fostering drug endangered children. Ron would only hold this position for a short time before entering and graduating at the Butte College Police Academy.

In 2002, Ron would accept a position as police officer with the Town of Paradise. As a patrolman, Ron continued to speak at elementary schools regarding the dangers of drugs. Ron began to work closely with Children Services and would assist them during referral checks to assure children's safety and would investigate criminal activity related to these calls.

As Ron gained experience, he would investigate narcotic related cases and use his Drug Endangered Children training to arrest and successfully prosecute parents and detain drug endangered children.

In 2006, Ron was assigned to the Paradise Police Field Training Program. Ron continues to train new officers on how to investigate and properly document Drug Endangered Children cases.

In November, 2007, Ron was assigned to the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force. He would continue to work closely with Children Services to investigate narcotic related and non-narcotic related referrals which would lead to search warrants, probation searches and parole searches. These cases were focused on saving children who live in drug homes and environments which cause injury and/or death. To date, Ron has investigated and participated in over thirty drug endangered children investigations.

Ron continued to receive training for Drug Endangered Children and in 2009 was able to organize a Drug Endangered Children training course for the Paradise Police Department. Ron continues to focus his work on saving Drug Endangered Children.