

Steven Bankler, CPA

Client Spotlight

Wodkins & Reed Counseling Services

Mike Wodkins served twenty three years as a police officer, first with the military and then with the Alamo Heights Police Department. Debra Reed worked sixteen years in the prison system as a Correctional Administrator. Mike completed his Bachelor's Degree in Forensic Psychology and his Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology during his time with the police force. Debra Reed holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Counseling and in Public Administration. A husband and wife team, these two brought their talents and experience and long-time interest in the criminal justice system together and in 1999 opened their own counseling practice, Wodkins & Reed Counseling.

Mike and Debra practice as clinically certified forensic counselors and both continue to work for and with the criminal justice system, particularly with Bexar County Adult Probation, Texas Department of Criminal Justice Parole Division, and the Office of Violent Sex Offenders Management, as well as numerous private attorneys. These agencies refer clients to Wodkins & Reed through the court system. The most common clients of Wodkins & Reed are sex offenders, with drug addicts also accounting for a large part of their practice. When an offender is processed through the criminal justice system with one of the above agencies, oftentimes probation or parole requires the offender to attend treatment/counseling. Wodkins & Reed provides this service for which the client (the offender) is monetarily responsible – not the taxpayer.

When a client submits to mandatory treatment, Wodkins & Reed first performs an extensive forensic assessment and from this assessment develops a treatment plan. For clients on probation or parole, their attendance to counseling is not optional and not

attending results in jail time. Their clients meet individually as well as in group sessions and the average treatment plan runs on average from three to five years but can run as long as ten years.

Mike and Debra believe that their clients must first and foremost learn to be responsible and accountable for their own actions and choices. Mike and Debra do not tolerate their clients seeing themselves as victims, regardless of their background. They work diligently in counseling their clients in self-control and how to make good choices in their behavior. They are quick to admit

that no 'cure' exists for sex offenders or drug addicts but that their clients can learn to control their behavior and choices – one day at a time. Mike often tells clients that "the toughest battle you (the client) have to win is that against yourself".

On Mondays and Fridays, Mike and Debra serve clients in their Houston office which is dedicated to offenders that have been civilly committed. These sex offenders have served their court-ordered sentence and then, in a civil case, a jury has determined that these offenders need continuing treatment – in some cases, for

a lifetime. Counseling is the part of the treatment which Mike and Debra provide. They also spend time in court as expert witnesses in forensic psychology and provide mandatory reassessment reports of clients. The state requires that their clients be reassessed every two years.

Just after setting up their practice in 1999, Mike and Debra became clients of Steve. By entrusting the organization of their business, tax management, effective management strategies, and retirement plans to Steve, Mike and Debra can more efficiently spend their time and energy on clients. Steve has been able to save them significant taxes through smart and effective business decisions.

The main office of Wodkins & Reed is located in San Antonio at 11230 West Ave., Suite 1105. Find out more by calling (210) 344-4475.

