

EXHIBIT LIST

1. Court Order Quashing Du Page County, Illinois Bench Warrant
2. Bank Statements December 2025-January 2026
3. Dr. J. Simone Report
4. Katarzyna Weresz Letter
5. Bhupinder K. Chhabra, Md. Letter
6. Connie DiStefano Letter
7. Dominic DiStefano Letter
8. Ted Anastopoulos Letter
9. Lucia Troiano Letter
10. Pamela Symeonides Letter
11. Francesca Saporito Letter
12. Roseangela Colella Eder Letter
13. Armando Guzman Letter
14. Combined Certificates and Excel Spreadsheet of Classes

STATE OF ILLINOIS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

COUNTY OF DU PAGE

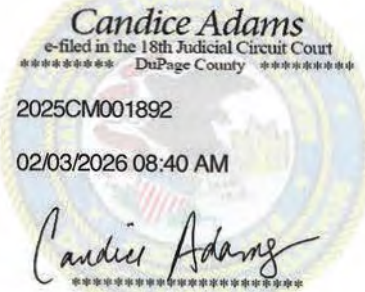
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

VS

2025CM001892
CASE NUMBER

FRANCESCO DISTEFANO



File Stamp Here

ORDER

This cause coming before the Court; the Court being fully advised in the premises, and having jurisdiction of the subject matter:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Bench warrant dated 09/10/2025 with control number 251250000008 is quashed and recalled.

Submitted by: MARIO MUHAJ

DuPage Attorney Number 50252

Attorney for PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

503 N COUNTY FARM RD

WHEATON, IL, 60187

Monique O'Toole
File Date : 02/03/2026

JUDGE MONIQUE N OTOOLE
Validation ID : DP-02032026-0840-54292

DATE: 02/03/2026

CANDICE ADAMS, CLERK OF THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT ©
WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60187-0707

EXHIBIT 1



P.O. Box 800 North Liberty, IA 52317
(319) 339-1000 • (800) 397-3790
www.GreenState.org

MEMBER NO.	DATE	PAGE
XXXXXX0205	12/01/25 - 12/31/25	1 of 2

When reviewing your 2025 statements, if you notice any monetary errors, please report those to:

GreenState Credit Union Internal Audit Department
PO Box 800 North Liberty, IA 52317

FRANCESCO DISTEFANO
733 N 8TH AVE
ADDISON IL 60101 - 2085

www.GreenState.org

SHARE SAVINGS (0001)

POST DATE	EFF. DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
12/01			Balance Forward		5.00
12/31			Ending Balance		5.00

Dividends Paid to You in 2025 on SHARE SAVINGS(0001).....\$0.00

NON-QUALIFIED REWARDS CHECKING (0041)

POST DATE	EFF. DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
12/01			Balance Forward		2,538.89
12/01	12/01	withdrawal	ACH LEADBANKSELFLEND TYPE: PAYMENTS CO: LEADBANKSELFLEND NAME: FRANCESCO DISTEFANO	-25.00	2,513.89
12/19	12/19	withdrawal	Home Banking Transfer To GREENSTATE CU 15777482 Share 0041 26591453 ExternalTransfer	-2,000.00	513.89
12/30	12/30	withdrawal	ACH LEADBANKSELFLEND TYPE: PAYMENTS CO: LEADBANKSELFLEND NAME: FRANCESCO DISTEFANO	-25.00	488.89
12/31	12/31	Deposit	Dividend Split Rate	0.01	488.90
12/31			Ending Balance		488.90

Dividends Paid to You in 2025 on NON-QUALIFIED REWARDS CHECKING(0041).....\$0.12

Annual Percentage Yield Earned..... 0.010% FOR A 31 DAY PERIOD

APYE Average Daily Balance 1,673.57

3 withdrawals = -2,050.00 1 Deposits = 0.01 0 Checks Cleared

Statement Period Low Balance..... \$488.89

Statement Period High Balance.... \$2,538.89

	This Period	Year To Date
Total Overdraft Fees	0.00	58.00
Total Returned Item Fees	0.00	29.00

YTD Share Tax Summary

YEAR-TO-DATE INFORMATION FOR TAX PURPOSES:

Total non-IRA dividends earned	\$	0.12
(May be reported to IRS as dividends for this calendar year)		
Total IRA dividends earned	\$	0.00
TOTAL FEDERAL IRS WITHHOLDING	\$	0.00
TOTAL STATE WITHHOLDING	\$	0.00



P.O. Box 800 North Liberty, IA 52317
(319) 339-1000 • (800) 397-3790
www.GreenState.org

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

MEMBER NO.	DATE	PAGE
XXXXXX6558	12/01/25 - 12/31/25	1 of 3

When reviewing your 2025 statements, if you notice any monetary errors, please report those to:

GreenState Credit Union Internal Audit Department
PO Box 800 North Liberty, IA 52317

DISTEFANO ENTERPRISES LLC
157 N OAK MILL ST
ADDISON IL 60101 - 5240

www.GreenState.org

BUSINESS SAVINGS (0001)

POST DATE	EFF. DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
12/01			Balance Forward		5.00
12/31			Ending Balance		5.00

Dividends Paid to You in 2025 on BUSINESS SAVINGS(0001).....\$0.00

BUSINESS BASIC CHECKING (0041)

POST DATE	EFF. DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
12/01			Balance Forward		5,567.67
12/02	12/02	Withdrawal	ACH ROCKET MORTGAGE TYPE: MTG PYMTS CO: ROCKET MORTGAGE NAME: FRANCESCO DISTEFANO	-2,997.01	2,570.66
12/10	12/10	Withdrawal	ACH VALOR PAYTECH LL TYPE: V 120925 CO: VALOR PAYTECH LL	-36.83	2,533.83
12/12	12/12	Deposit	ACH PAYARC LLC TYPE: PAYMENTS CO: PAYARC LLC	4,150.21	6,684.04
12/16	12/16	Withdrawal	ACH Boomtown Network TYPE: Bill.com CO: Boomtown Network	-99.00	6,585.04
12/19	12/19	Withdrawal	Home Banking Transfer To GREENSTATE CU 15777482 Share 0041 26591089 ExternalTransfer	-5,000.00	1,585.04
12/24	12/24	Deposit	ACH PayBright TYPE: ePay0001 CO: PayBright	259.70	1,844.74
12/31	12/31	Deposit	ACH GATEWAYFEES TYPE: CREDIT CO: GATEWAYFEES	84.29	1,929.03
12/31	12/31	Withdrawal	Paper Stmt Fee	-3.50	1,925.53
12/31			Ending Balance		1,925.53

Dividends Paid to You in 2025 on BUSINESS BASIC CHECKING(0041).....\$0.00

5 Withdrawals = -8,136.34 3 Deposits = 4,494.20 0 Checks Cleared
Statement Period Low Balance.....\$1,585.04
Statement Period High Balance....\$6,684.04

	This Period	Year To Date
Total Overdraft Fees	0.00	29.00
Total Returned Item Fees	0.00	29.00

BUSINESS ELITE MONEY MARKET (0061)

POST DATE	EFF. DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
12/01			Balance Forward		0.00
12/31			Ending Balance		0.00

XXXXXX6558

12/01/25 - 12/31/25

2 of 3

Dividends Paid to You in 2025 on BUSINESS ELITE MONEY MARKET(0061).....\$0.00

YTD Share Tax Summary

YEAR-TO-DATE INFORMATION FOR TAX PURPOSES:

Total non-IRA dividends earned	\$	0.00
---------------------------------------	-----------	-------------

(May be reported to IRS as dividends for this calendar year)

Total IRA dividends earned	\$	0.00
-----------------------------------	-----------	-------------

TOTAL FEDERAL IRS WITHHOLDING	\$	0.00
--------------------------------------	-----------	-------------

TOTAL STATE WITHHOLDING	\$	0.00
--------------------------------	-----------	-------------



P.O. Box 800 North Liberty, IA 52317
(319) 339-1000 • (800) 397-3790
www.GreenState.org

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

MEMBER NO.	DATE	PAGE
XXXXXX0205	01/01/26 - 01/31/26	1 of 2

**Have you checked our deposit rates lately?
We're offering some of the most aggressive
rates in the market.**

**Visit www.greenstate.org/rates, stop by, or
call (800) 397-3790 to learn more.**

FRANCESCO DISTEFANO
733 N 8TH AVE
ADDISON IL 60101 - 2085

www.GreenState.org

SHARE SAVINGS (0001)

POST DATE	EFF. DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
01/01			Balance Forward		5.00
01/31			Ending Balance		5.00

Dividends Paid to You in 2026 on SHARE SAVINGS(0001).....\$0.00

NON-QUALIFIED REWARDS CHECKING (0041)

POST DATE	EFF. DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
01/01			Balance Forward		488.90
01/20	01/20	Deposit	Home Banking Transfer From DISTEFANO ENTER 15596558 Share 0041 Funds Transfer via Mobile	1,300.00	1,788.90
01/30	01/30	Withdrawal	ACH LEADBANKSELFLEND TYPE: PAYMENTS CO: LEADBANKSELFLEND NAME: FRANCESCO DISTEFANO	-25.00	1,763.90
01/31	01/31	Deposit	Dividend Split Rate	0.01	1,763.91
01/31			Ending Balance		1,763.91

Dividends Paid to You in 2026 on NON-QUALIFIED REWARDS CHECKING(0041).....\$0.01

Annual Percentage Yield Earned..... 0.010% FOR A 31 DAY PERIOD
APYE Average Daily Balance 990.51
1 Withdrawals = -25.00 2 Deposits = 1,300.01 0 checks cleared
Statement Period Low Balance..... \$488.90
Statement Period High Balance.... \$1,788.90

	This Period	Year To Date
Total Overdraft Fees	0.00	0.00
Total Returned Item Fees	0.00	0.00

YTD Share Tax Summary**YEAR-TO-DATE INFORMATION FOR TAX PURPOSES:**

Total non-IRA dividends earned	\$	0.01
(May be reported to IRS as dividends for this calendar year)		
Total IRA dividends earned	\$	0.00
TOTAL FEDERAL IRS WITHHOLDING	\$	0.00
TOTAL STATE WITHHOLDING	\$	0.00



P.O. Box 800 North Liberty, IA 52317
(319) 339-1000 • (800) 397-3790
www.GreenState.org

MEMBER NO.	DATE	PAGE
XXXXXX6558	01/01/26 - 01/31/26	1 of 3

**Have you checked our deposit rates lately?
We're offering some of the most aggressive
rates in the market.**

**Visit www.greenstate.org/rates, stop by, or
call (800) 397-3790 to learn more.**

DISTEFANO ENTERPRISES LLC
157 N OAK MILL ST
ADDISON IL 60101 - 5240

www.GreenState.org

BUSINESS SAVINGS (0001)

POST DATE	EFF. DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
01/01			Balance Forward		5.00
01/31			Ending Balance		5.00

Dividends Paid to You in 2026 on BUSINESS SAVINGS(0001).....\$0.00

BUSINESS BASIC CHECKING (0041)

POST DATE	EFF. DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
01/01			Balance Forward		1,925.53
01/12	01/12	withdrawal	ACH VALOR PAYTECH LL TYPE: V 010926 CO: VALOR PAYTECH LL	-36.83	1,888.70
01/16	01/16	withdrawal	ACH Boomtown Network TYPE: Bill.com CO: Boomtown Network	-99.00	1,789.70
01/20	01/20	withdrawal	ACH PAYSAFE OPS TYPE: 202512_RP3 CO: PAYSAFE OPS	-225.90	1,563.80
01/20	01/20	withdrawal	Home Banking Transfer To DISTEFANO,FRANCE 15550205 Share 0041 Funds Transfer via Mobile	-1,300.00	263.80
01/29	01/29	Deposit	ACH GATEWAYFEES TYPE: CREDIT CO: GATEWAYFEES	12.59	276.39
01/31			Ending Balance		276.39

Dividends Paid to You in 2026 on BUSINESS BASIC CHECKING(0041).....\$0.00
4 Withdrawals = -1,661.73 1 Deposits = 12.59 0 Checks Cleared
Statement Period Low Balance.....\$263.80
Statement Period High Balance....\$1,925.53

	This Period	Year To Date
Total Overdraft Fees	0.00	0.00
Total Returned Item Fees	0.00	0.00

BUSINESS ELITE MONEY MARKET (0061)

POST DATE	EFF. DATE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
01/01			Balance Forward		0.00
01/31			Ending Balance		0.00

Dividends Paid to You in 2026 on BUSINESS ELITE MONEY MARKET(0061).....\$0.00

YTD Share Tax Summary

YEAR-TO-DATE INFORMATION FOR TAX PURPOSES:

Total non-IRA dividends earned	\$	0.00
--------------------------------	----	------

(May be reported to IRS as dividends for this calendar year)

Total IRA dividends earned	\$	0.00
----------------------------	----	------

TOTAL FEDERAL IRS WITHHOLDING	\$	0.00
-------------------------------	----	------

TOTAL STATE WITHHOLDING	\$	0.00
-------------------------	----	------

**Dr. J. Simone and Associates LLC
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
1 Dearborn Sq. Ste. 530
Kankakee Illinois 60901
815-258-6685**

Client Name: Francesco DiStefano
Case: # 24-CR-424
Date of Birth: 03/24/1996
Date of Report: 03/06/2025
Date of Evaluation: 02/04, 02/05, 02/06, 02/07, 02/11, 02/14, 02/15, 2/16, 2/17, 02/20, 02/26,
02/27, 03/01, 03/03, 03/04, 03/05, 03/06/2025

Evaluator: J. Simone Psy.D., CRADC
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Reason For Referral

Francesco was referred by his Attorney for an evaluation to determine his current cognitive and psychological functioning.

Evaluation Procedure
Mental Status Examination
Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence-II (WASI-II)
Bender Visual-Motor Gestalt Motor Test
Rorschach Inkblot Test
Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory-IV (MCMI-IV)
Personality Assessment Inventory for Correctional Settings (PAI-CS)
Review of Court Reports
Interview with the Client's Mother
Clinical Interview with Client
Review of Court Records

At the beginning of the interview, Francesco was informed that any information given during the interview or as a result of the testing would be used in a report and that a copy of that report would be made available to his Attorney. In addition, it was possible that a copy of the report would be made available to the Assistant United States Attorney and the Judge. In addition, it may result in court testimony. As a result, there was limited expectation of confidentiality.

Identifying Information/Relevant Background Information

Francesco is currently housed at the Jerome Combs Detention Center in Kankakee, Ill. All interviews and testing occurred at that location. His grooming and hygiene were appropriate for the situation. He denied any current homicidal or suicidal ideation. He appeared to cooperate to the best of his ability during testing and interviews.

He reports that he was born in Addison, Illinois, and raised by his parents, who are both still alive and married. He has no siblings.

During my interview with his mother, she reported that she and her husband were older when Francesco was born. As a result, it was a very difficult birth. She reported that at some point, her husband had to decide which of them, his wife or his son, would live. She reports that even though they both survived the delivery- which was performed by C-section, Francesco remained in the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit after he was born and developed an e-coli infection.

E: coli infections, especially in newborns, when severe, can lead to long-term physical and mental problems throughout the individual's life. Some of the symptoms can include kidney problems, high blood pressure, and heart disease. In addition, it can result in neurological and cognitive impairments. Also, there is the possibility of impacts on mental health, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or depression.

He reports that he graduated from high school and attended 1 year of college in Network Engineering. He denies ever receiving special education services.

He reports that prior to his arrest, he ran his own business, maintaining point-of-sale and credit card systems for restaurants and other companies. He started this business when he was in his teens and has owned and operated it continuously since. He reports that the business has suffered since his arrest because he is not there to address issues or meet with clients. His mother confirmed that he has run this business since he was a teen and that it is suffering because of his absence.

He reports that he is currently divorced. He was married in 2021, and they divorced soon after. He reports that he met his ex-wife when she was working as a hostess at a bar/restaurant/club. He reports that a childhood friend, Alfredo, introduced him to her. He reports that they lived together for approximately a year before they got married. He reports that at some point, she told him that she was a DACA child but that her immigration status was in jeopardy and that if they got married, she would get a green card. He reports that he agreed to marry her, but she left a couple of months after they were married, and he has not heard from her since.

His mother reported that the woman he married was 10 years older than him, that she was in the country illegally, and that she used him to get her green card. His mother also reported that quite often, Francesco would be used or tricked by women and men who would use him for some personal gain and then abandon him after they got what they wanted.

Francesco reports a moderate history of alcohol use. He reports that he started drinking alcohol at age 16 and that his last drink was about 2 weeks before his arrest. He reported that while he mostly drinks socially, after he learned he was under investigation, he started to drink more regularly but stopped soon after.

He reports that he attended counseling 1x. His parents made him go to see a counselor when they learned about his marriage and the circumstances. He said he only attended 1 session and never went back. He denies any other counseling or psychiatric hospitalizations. He denies ever being

prescribed psychotropic medication prior to his arrest. However, since his incarceration, he has been prescribed Wellbutrin, and records indicate he is taking it as prescribed.

Francesco reports one previous arrest and conviction. He was arrested when he was 26 for posting a self-made short video of a former girlfriend on the internet. He reports that he pled guilty and was sentenced to 18 months of probation.

When I asked about the circumstances leading to his current court case, he reported applying for and receiving PPP government loans by providing false information to qualify for the loans. He reports that his childhood friend, Alfredo, and an older guy, Sargis, told him everyone was applying for these loans. Francesco takes full responsibility for his actions. He said that, in retrospect, he made a horrible mistake while admitting to the conduct. When asked, he said that with all that he has learned, he would make different decisions if he had it to do over again.

As part of this evaluation, I interviewed his mother on the phone. She reported that he was raised by his parents, who were both older when he was born. His grandmother also lived in the house with them.

She reported that at some point when he was still very young, his grandmother became ill and was homebound. As a result, much of the family time was spent caring for her. As a result, he usually spent much of his time at home after school and had no real friends. She reports that when he was in the 4th or 5th grade, he started having crying bouts at school. The school's way of handling this was to remove him from the classroom and have him stay in the principal's office. This was a parochial school, and they didn't tell his parents about it. In addition, he was not very good at math, and sometimes, the teachers would separate him from the rest of the class during math time. As a result of all this, he was often bullied at school, and other students made fun of him.

Eventually, his parents found out about the bullying. They removed him from that school and placed him in a different one. He was so far behind in math that they hired a tutor to help him catch up. She reports that through junior high and high school, he was very much a loner and only had 1 friend, Alfredo, who lived down the street. She also found out later that he was bullied again while in the new school. She reports that he was never really into sports or other school activities, which may be why other kids teased and bullied him.

She said that as he got older, he continued to be somewhat of a loner. She said he often needs reassurance, asking multiple times if she loves him or if someone will leave or abandon him. She reports behaviors that are consistent with mild obsessive-compulsive disorder. For example, she reports that any small spot or stain on his clothes, shoes, or even kitchen countertops is upsetting, and he stops whatever he is doing to clean it. Perfectionistic, obsessive behavior can also be a symptom of anxiety.

She also reported that he can be emotionally needy and somewhat naive about others. This often makes him vulnerable and makes it easy for others to take advantage of him. She referenced his marriage as an example of someone using him for their purposes. She described him as a people-pleaser and said this has caused him considerable trouble throughout his life.

Later, his mother contacted me to report some history of losses he suffered as a child and later as a teen. His grandmother, who lived with them since before he was born, was disabled due to an accident. She reports he was very close to her and would spend daily time with her. She died just prior to his 8th. grade graduation, and he was who discovered she had died when he went to see her that morning before going to school.

He had a favorite aunt, Sandy, who died unexpectedly due to a medical procedure accident during surgery just prior to his high school graduation. A few years later, his uncle Vince, a Vietnam veteran with PTSD and other symptoms from Agent Orange, suffered a major stroke just before Thanksgiving. She reports that Francesco visited the hospital until the time he was taken off life support. She also reports that his father suffered from major depression and has not worked since Francesco was 8 y/o. He also suffered 2 major strokes approximately 4 yrs. ago.

Undoubtedly, these significant losses contributed to Francesco's impaired sense of self. Especially significant was the loss of his grandmother, who was a significant caretaker for him. To find her deceased at such a young age undoubtedly had an impact and contributed to some of his adjustment disorder and depression.

Depression and Anxiety

Throughout the interviews, as well as indicated by his history, he demonstrates symptoms that indicate moderate depression and a general anxiety disorder.

When this family history is combined with his experiences at school and lack of a peer social group, it is not surprising that Francesco would exhibit symptoms that are consistent with both depression and anxiety. In addition, it is also likely that he would be socially naïve and have intense feelings of low self-esteem.

School and teen years are very important in developing social skills and learning how to set boundaries with others. Having missed those experiences, he could likely become a target for others to take advantage of, especially if they pretended to care or offered social connections.

Reactive depression, also referred to as adjustment disorder and also sometimes as an acute stress-related disorder, is a normal response to a significant life event and does not usually last for more than about two weeks.

However, if the stressor is chronic, it may become a more significant depressive disorder, for example, those where symptoms of depressed mood and anhedonia (loss of joy in things that usually give you a kick-along) last for at least two weeks and affect daily functioning.

His depression most likely began as reactive and stemmed, at least in part, as a result of the loss of significant others at an early age, both physically, as with his grandmother and others, as well as the emotional loss of his father due to his severe depression. This laid the groundwork for him to be especially susceptible to depression in later life. As his stressors continued to pile on one

another, combined with his past and current legal entanglements, this developed into a persistent depressive disorder.

Impact of Untreated Depression and Anxiety

His anxiety also appears to be a long-standing problem. His history, especially where social relationships are concerned, shows strong signs of anxiety. This may account for his impulsive judgments and his social naivete.

When his history of loss and humiliation at a very young age is combined with anxiety and continued depression, the result is a young man who feels the need to overcompensate for others and to seek social approval by exhibiting an exaggerated sense of accomplishment. This may express a need to exaggerate his achievements and purchase overly extravagant items.

The boost in his self-esteem he received by showing off likely became a way of overcoming his feelings of worthlessness and loss. While the immediate gratification obtained by this action was positive, he soon discovered it to be short-lived as well. This led him to continue to chase those feelings by ever-increasing extravagant excesses.

This then became an escalating spiral in which he continued to engage in illegal behaviors to satisfy that fleeting feeling of importance.

Records indicate that he is currently prescribed Wellbutrin 150 mg—1x daily. This may have a good short-term effect on his symptoms.

However, in the long run, especially if his stressors continue for an extended period, he will need to combine talk therapy with the medication to maximize the effect of treatment. The combination of medication and effective talk therapy has been proven to be the most effective treatment regime for depression and anxiety and to help minimize the risk that continued confinement may have on his mental health.

Without proper treatment, while incarcerated, he is at an elevated risk for severe depression and/or anxiety attacks that may eventually constitute a threat of a severe emotional and mental collapse.

Personality Functioning

TEST RESULTS

His profile indicates an overcontrolled internal cohesion, wherein basic intentions and interactions with others are framed within a constricted and defended mindset. A pronounced distrust typifies his behaviors and relationships, creating cognitive-affective immobilization and a distorted sense that others and their circumstances are, for the most part, malevolent in nature.

Francesco appears to be in a state of chronic and substantial stimulus overload resulting from persistent difficulty in mustering adequate psychological resources to cope with the demands imposed on him by internal and external events. Additionally, he reported a high level of depressive symptoms.

Francesco's personality profile suggests an inflated yet insecure sense of self-worth, an edgy defensiveness against anticipated criticism, a provocative interpersonal disposition, and a seductive or baiting social manner. Actions that raise questions of his personal integrity, such as cleverly circumventing social conventions, may be present and indicate a relatively pervasively deficient social naivete.

Fearing dependency, he resists external influence and carefully protects his right to self-determination and autonomy. Failures and social irresponsibility may often be justified with expansive fantasies and prevarications. Maintaining an image of strength, arrogance, and fearlessness is likely to be important to him. More significantly, he may exhibit a rash willingness to risk harm and may appear to be fearless in the face of threats and punitive action.

Also salient are his broad-based social anxiety and fearful guardedness. These characteristics stem from a desire to be accepted by others, which is countered by a deep fear of humiliation and rejection, resulting in withdrawal and feelings of personal exclusion. He may be characteristically shy and apprehensive, display awkwardness and discomfort in social situations, and actively recoil from the give-and-take of interpersonal relations.

He also appears, at times, capable of attending to his experience reasonably, openly, and flexibly, which is a personality asset. He is able to demonstrate an adaptive balance between dealing with situations in a detached and uninvolved manner sometimes and, at other times, in a concerned and engaged manner.

However, he can demonstrate an impairment of his reality-testing capacity, whereby he tends to misperceive events and form mistaken impressions of people and the significance of their actions. This adaptive liability is likely to result, at times, in instances of poor judgment in which he fails to anticipate the consequences of his actions and misconstrues what constitutes appropriate behavior.

He appears more introspective than most people and will likely engage in excessive self-inspection. Given his history of failed social interactions, personnel loss, and isolation, this is most likely a negative experience.

Additionally, Francesco appears to be less capable than most of effectively dealing with everyday experience, especially with respect to social situations. His limited social skills are likely to contribute to awkward, inept, or inappropriate management of interpersonal relationships.

As a result, he shows limited capacity to form close attachments to other people. Although he may not necessarily avoid interpersonal relationships, these relationships tend to be psychologically at arm's length rather than close and intimate. He also tends to ruminate about issues and may have one or more behavioral rituals.

The co-occurring patterns of instability and hostility characterize this character pathology. The instability is evident across multiple life domains, but especially in emotional and interpersonal functioning.

Francesco also acknowledged increased levels of impulsivity and recklessness, particularly regarding self-damaging actions. He described himself as unempathetic, tough-minded, and unsympathetic. Others may find him to be self-centered and selfish.

PAI-CS

Unless otherwise noted, the PAI assesses respondents' psychological and emotional functioning in comparison to community norms.

Francesco's performance on the PAI suggests the presence of significant levels of anxiety. This high level of anxiety is not typical in offender samples. The anxiety accompanies physiological symptoms such as difficulty breathing, increased heart rate, sweating, and dizziness. It also seems that he tends to have negative affect related to his anxiety. He is frequently tense and apprehensive and may have difficulty relaxing. His experience of anxiety includes excessive worry, rumination, and a cognitive style that overestimates threats and the potential for adverse events. While his current legal status has undoubtedly exacerbated his anxiety, most likely, this is a long-standing problem that may have contributed to his behavior.

Consequently, he is at risk for recurrent episodes of overt anxiety, tension, nervousness, and irritability. People with this pattern of stimulus overload tend to have limited tolerance for frustration and a less-than-average ability to persevere in the face of obstacles. They may consequently show a tendency toward impulsive outbursts of unwarranted affect and/or ill-advised actions.

In addition, he is likely socially anxious in many situations. Given his history of traumatic events, in his past, he experiences anxiety symptoms and distress related to these events. The distress may be manifested in avoidance behavior, re-experiencing of the event (e.g., nightmares, flashbacks), and increased physiological arousal and distress. A controlled correctional environment may be highly stressful for him.

He reported a high level of depressive symptoms. On the Depression scale, his score of 82 is significantly higher than that of the community (70) or correction (71) norms. He reported feeling sad, distressed, apathetic, and anhedonic. He is also likely to believe he is inadequate and worthless and has little or no control over life events. Francesco further reported vegetative depressive symptoms, including loss of appetite, sleep disturbance, and decreased energy.

He further reported a moderately elevated level of manic symptomatology. On the manic scale, he scored 72, which is significantly higher than the norm scores for community (65) or correctional (65) settings. His *MAN* scores elevated to this degree, pointing to increased energy and activity levels. Still, it is possible that these features are not likely to be reflective of a severe manic episode. A notable aspect of this mood disturbance is affective instability, which may reflect a rapid-cycling mood disturbance.

Additionally, he reported a number of personality and emotional features, such as impulsiveness, sadness, and excitement-seeking, which are likely to exacerbate any substance use problems that he may have. He also acknowledged involvement in criminal or antisocial actions.

Regarding treatment amenability, he acknowledged significant difficulties in his current functioning and reports a desire to make lifestyle changes. Offenders, as a group, typically self-report a greater willingness to change than the general population, and profiles such as his are relatively common in correctional settings.

Most or all clients in correctional settings are likely to endorse antisocial attitudes, values, and beliefs to some extent. Interventions aimed at reducing these criminogenic beliefs and cognitive distortions should be central components of rehabilitative efforts when working with Francesco, both in terms of reducing his likelihood of acting out while incarcerated and his likelihood of recidivating post-release.

Treatment efforts should focus on increasing his network of prosocial associates and peers in the appropriate context. Also, important would be addressing the numerous losses he has endured as a child, a teen, and an adult. It is likely that these early experiences, as well as a family history of depression, have contributed to feelings of low self-worth and the belief that he is unlikable to others.

With respect to anger control issues, he described himself as impatient and easily irritated. He may also be somewhat quick-tempered and overly reactive to provocation. However, there are no indications that he expresses his anger through violence. Interventions focused on anger management strategies may be beneficial, allowing him to learn more prosocial means of conflict resolution and adapt more effectively to a controlled institutional environment.

Francesco reported a relative lack of social support at this time. People who report low social support typically have few close personal relationships or are generally dissatisfied with the quality of those interpersonal relationships.

It is likely that involvement in treatment, focusing on substance abuse, anger management, and social skills, can have a positive effect on reducing his chances of recidivism.

Cognitive Functioning

WASI-II

The WASI is a general intelligence (IQ) test designed to assess specific and overall cognitive capabilities. It is individually administered to children, adolescents, and adults (ages 6-89).

Our general intelligence abilities enable us to learn and recall. General intelligence is comprised of our fluid intelligence and crystallized intelligence.

Fluid intelligence involves comprehension, reasoning, and problem-solving. Crystallized intelligence involves recalling stored knowledge and past experiences.

Scale	Score	Percentile Rank	Descriptive Category
Full Scale-(FSIQ4)	95	37	Average

Block Design	41	N/A	
Vocabulary	57	N/A	
Matrix Reasoning	44	N/A	
Similarities	48	N/A	
Verbal Comprehension Index	104	61	Average
Perceptual Reasoning Index	87	19	Low Average

Francesco achieved a Full-Scale IQ Score (FSIQ-4) of 95, which falls within the Average Range. His overall cognitive abilities are average compared to those of his typical peers.

His most substantial areas were Similarities and Vocabulary. These should be considered relative strengths for Francesco.

The Vocabulary subtest reflects word knowledge and verbal concept formation. It is a good measure of overall crystallized intelligence, learning ability, long-term memory, and language development. Francesco's score on this subtest should be considered a relative strength.

The Similarities subtest is designed to measure verbal concept formation and reasoning. It also involves crystallized knowledge, categorical thinking, and verbal expression.

The results of these subtests indicate that Francesco is above average overall when presented with problems involving language and verbal perception. His most substantial areas indicate that crystalized intelligence, i.e., learned and remembered knowledge recall and verbal information, are his most effective methods of learning and expressing ideas or knowledge. He is most comfortable when information is presented verbally.

Block Design subtest measures the ability to analyze and synthesize abstract visual stimuli. It involves nonverbal concept formation and reasoning, broad visual intelligence, fluid intelligence, visual perception and organization, visual-motor coordination, and visual learning ability.

The Matrix Reasoning subtest measures fluid intelligence, visual intelligence, classification of spatial abilities, and perceptual organization.

The results of these subtests indicate that Francesco is below average in terms of visual perception. This would include his ability to organize separate puzzle pieces and identify the

whole. As a result, he may show impairment in understanding abstract ideas that he may encounter in daily life. The more complex or abstract an idea or situation, the greater he would fail to understand all the ramifications.

Bender Motor Gestalt Test

The Bender is a brief neurological test that determines signs of neurological or organic deficiencies and indicates whether further, more extensive testing may be required.

Francesco completed this task without difficulty. There are no indications of cognitive or neurological impairment, and he demonstrated good short-term memory.

Diagnosis: F41.1: Generalized Anxiety Disorder

F34.1: Persistent Depressive Disorder-with anxious distress- moderate symptoms

Treatment Recommendations

Despite long-standing issues with depression and severe anxiety, Francesco never received any mental health treatment until recently. Records indicate that he is currently prescribed Wellbutrin 150 mg—1x daily. This may have a good short-term effect on his symptoms.

However, in the long run, especially if his stressors continue for an extended period, he will need to combine talk therapy with the medication to maximize the effect of treatment. The combination of medication and effective talk therapy has been proven to be the most effective treatment regime for depression and anxiety and to help minimize the risk that continued confinement may have on his mental health.

Without proper treatment, while incarcerated, he is at an elevated risk for more severe depression and/or anxiety attacks that may eventually constitute a threat of severe emotional and mental collapse.

Regarding treatment amenability, Francesco takes his medication and reports a desire to make lifestyle changes. He acknowledged significant difficulties in his current functioning and involvement in criminal and antisocial actions.

Most or all clients in correctional settings are likely to endorse antisocial attitudes, values, and beliefs to some extent. Interventions aimed at reducing these criminogenic beliefs and cognitive distortions should be central components of rehabilitative efforts when working with Francesco, both in terms of reducing his likelihood of acting out while incarcerated and his likelihood of recidivating post-release.

Treatment efforts should focus on increasing his network of prosocial associates and peers in the appropriate context. Also important would be addressing the numerous losses he has endured as a child, a teen, and an adult. It is likely that these early experiences, as well as a family history of depression, have contributed to feelings of low self-worth and the belief that he is unlikable to others. Additionally, interventions focused on anger management strategies may be beneficial,

allowing him to learn more prosocial means of conflict resolution and adapt more effectively to a controlled institutional environment.

Francesco reported a relative lack of social support at this time. People who report low social support typically have few close personal relationships or are generally dissatisfied with the quality of those interpersonal relationships.

It is likely that involvement in treatment, focusing on anger management and social skills, can have a positive effect on reducing his chances of recidivism.

Summary

Throughout the interviews, as well as indicated by his history, Francesco demonstrated symptoms that indicate long-term depression and a general anxiety disorder.

When his family history (non-working father and significant losses are combined with his experiences at school and lack of a peer social group, it is not surprising that Francesco would exhibit symptoms that are consistent with both depression and anxiety. In addition, it is also likely that he would be socially naïve. As a result, he could become a target for others to take advantage of or for him to try to impress, especially if they pretended to care or offered social connections.

His depression most likely began as reactive and stemmed, at least in part, as a result of the loss of significant others at an early age, both physically, as with his grandmother and others, as well as the emotional loss of his father due to his severe depression. This laid the groundwork for him to be especially susceptible to depression in later life. As his stressors continued to pile on one another and later combined with his past and current legal entanglements, this developed into persistent depressive disorder.

His anxiety appears to be a long-standing problem as well. His history, especially where social relationships are concerned, shows strong signs of anxiety. This may account for his impulsive judgments and his social naivete.

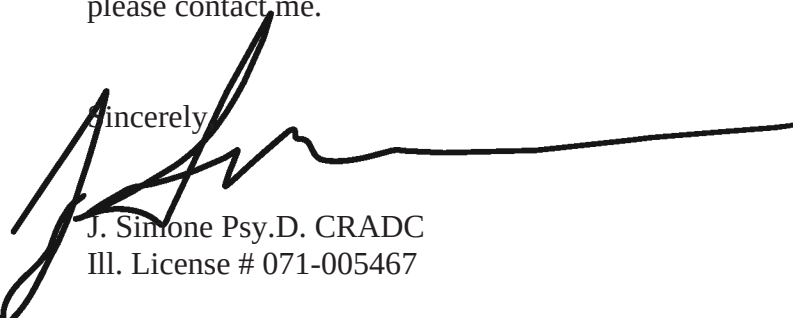
As discussed above, Francesco is amenable to treatment and would respond best to talk therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, focusing on social skill building and boundary setting. It is likely that involvement in treatment, focusing on anger management and social skills, will have a positive effect on reducing his chances of recidivism.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to take his medication as prescribed and receive regularly scheduled medication reviews.
2. Receive a psychiatric evaluation to review his current medication and make changes as needed.
3. Become involved in individual therapy to address the many losses and trauma he has experienced.
4. Become involved in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) with a specific focus on Social Skills Training (SST).

Thank you for this interesting case. If you need further explanation or have any other questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



J. Simone Psy.D. CRADC
Ill. License # 071-005467



Counseling Speaks, PLLC

117 S Cook St No 192
Barrington, Illinois 60010
office@counselingspeaks.com

Date: 01/27/2026

Honorable Judge,

My name is Katarzyna (Kasia) Weresz. I am a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor with over 18 years of experience in the mental health field. I am trained in crisis intervention, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and positive psychology, which enables me to provide evidence-based, trauma-informed care to individuals navigating complex emotional and behavioral challenges. My clinical experience spans diverse populations and high-acuity settings, including hospital emergency departments, community mental health agencies, inpatient and outpatient psychiatric facilities, schools, and the mental health court system. While serving in mental health court, I collaborated closely with Judge Fox, the Cook County Jail, and the TASC team to support individuals involved in the justice system, providing therapeutic guidance and risk assessment in high-stakes contexts.

I am writing in my professional capacity to provide clinical context regarding Mr. Francesco DiStefano, whom I began treating in April 2025 after he sought counseling while facing his current legal matters. This letter is submitted with respect for the Court and is intended to provide insight into Mr. DiStefano's psychological functioning, contributing factors, treatment needs, and rehabilitative potential.

At intake, Mr. DiStefano presented with significant emotional distress, including symptoms consistent with depression, anxiety, and acute shame, accompanied by apprehension about his legal and personal future. He demonstrated remorse for his actions and a sincere motivation to understand the underlying psychological factors that contributed to his decision-making. He consistently expressed a desire to break patterns of impulsivity, dishonesty, and self-destructive behavior, taking responsibility for his conduct while articulating a commitment to change.

Mr. DiStefano's presentation is best understood within the context of a childhood marked by cumulative psychosocial stressors and limited consistent emotional support. Beginning in early childhood, he experienced significant family disruption, including his grandmother's sudden disability requiring caregiving, his father's depression and job loss, and the deaths of multiple close relatives during formative years. As an only child of older parents, he had limited peer and extended family support, and the family system experienced chronic stress related to caregiving, financial strain, and emotional instability. While his parents met practical needs, emotional attunement was inconsistent, and he was exposed to harsh disciplinary practices during periods of parental distress. These early experiences appear to have contributed to

unresolved attachment vulnerabilities, including heightened sensitivity to rejection, reliance on external validation, and beliefs that self-worth is contingent on pleasing others.

Throughout childhood and adolescence, Mr. DiStefano exhibited social withdrawal, shyness, and difficulties forming age-appropriate peer relationships. Academically, he experienced uneven performance, with challenges in specific subjects, such as mathematics, despite evident intellectual strengths in technical and problem-solving domains. Emotional dysregulation emerged in response to stress and perceived inadequacy, leading to withdrawal or overt distress rather than adaptive help-seeking. These patterns contributed to enduring self-esteem deficits, despite clear cognitive capacity.

In response to these vulnerabilities, Mr. DiStefano developed maladaptive coping strategies, including compulsive dishonesty, initially as a mechanism to mitigate shame and avoid rejection. In adulthood, these behaviors manifested as exaggeration of accomplishments and excessive financial generosity to secure relational connection and approval. Clinically, these patterns reflect unresolved attachment trauma, depressive and anxious symptomatology, low self-esteem, and potential underlying attention-regulation or impulse-control challenges. Importantly, these behaviors are not indicative of an absence of conscience or moral reasoning, but rather represent ineffective strategies for emotional regulation and interpersonal engagement.

His relational history reflects recurring cycles of intense attachment, overextension, and difficulty disengaging from maladaptive dynamics. Notably, his 2020 marriage occurred amid elevated stress and compromised judgment, during which he also engaged in the behaviors underlying his current legal matters. Mr. DiStefano has consistently expressed profound remorse and recognition of the impact of his actions on himself and his family, particularly his parents. Historically, he has been hesitant to engage in mental health care due to discomfort with emotional disclosure and concerns regarding stigma. He has since engaged consistently in psychotherapy and has been prescribed Sertraline during incarceration. He possesses strong insight into the psychological mechanisms underlying his behavior and demonstrates a commitment to developing healthier coping strategies, enhancing self-regulation, and building relationships grounded in authenticity rather than financial provision.

Through ongoing clinical work, it has become evident that Mr. DiStefano struggles with longstanding, unaddressed mental health concerns, including symptoms of depression and anxiety, as well as unresolved childhood attachment-related issues. These early relational disruptions have significantly influenced his current patterns of behavior, particularly a pronounced tendency toward people-pleasing, fear of rejection, and difficulty tolerating interpersonal conflict. Additionally, he presents features consistent with underlying attention-regulation and impulse-control difficulties. When combined with low self-esteem and emotional dysregulation, these factors have contributed to maladaptive coping strategies, including compulsive dishonesty and poor decision-making. These behaviors appear to be

rooted not in malicious intent, but in ineffective attempts to manage internal distress and perceived external pressures.

Importantly, Mr. DiStefano has demonstrated insight into these patterns and expressed a genuine willingness to engage in treatment. With continued individual counseling, appropriate psychiatric medication management, and potential participation in structured group therapy, there is strong clinical reason to believe he can interrupt these maladaptive behaviors. Evidence-based treatment can help him develop healthier coping skills, improve emotional regulation, strengthen self-esteem, and take accountability for his actions in a more constructive manner. From a clinical standpoint, Mr. DiStefano is an appropriate candidate for continued individual psychotherapy, psychiatric medication management, and structured group interventions. Evidence-based treatment offers a meaningful pathway to address compulsive dishonesty, strengthen impulse control, bolster self-esteem, and support responsible decision-making.

In summary, Mr. DiStefano's behaviors are best conceptualized as arising from untreated psychological vulnerabilities and maladaptive coping patterns. With sustained therapeutic intervention, there is strong reason to anticipate meaningful rehabilitation, reduced recidivism risk, and improved emotional and relational functioning. His prognosis is favorable given ongoing clinical support.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me should the Court require any additional information.

Respectfully,
Katarzyna (Kasia) Weresz, MA, LCPC, RYT

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katarzyna Weresz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

B. K. CHHABRA, M.D.

Internal Medicine/ Geriatrics

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am a physician, internist and geriatrician currently licensed in the state of Illinois and the attending physician for Mr. Sam DiStefano. I am writing this letter on behalf of Mr. Distefano, whom I have been treating since 2018 and has provided me with written consent to share his medical information.

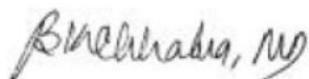
Mr DiStefano is a elderly gentleman with multiple medical problems, including diabetes, depression, hypertension as well as sequela following two major strokes requiring hospitalization and rehabilitation.

He has limited driving ability and is unable to safely manage transportation, medical appointments, daily tasks as well as management of his finances. He has complex needs which could place him at serious risk of deterioration without additional support.

Given his complex medical and social needs, it would be beneficial to have a family member, such as his son Francesco DiStefano assist in providing the much needed caregiving role which is essential for maintaining his father's safety, health, and quality of life.

Please feel free to contact my office for any additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,



12/1/25

Bhupinder K Chhabra, MD

Alexian Brothers Medical Center
800 W. Biesterfield Road
Brock Building Suite #3007
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Phone 847 290 6513
Fax 847 290 8505

B. K. Chhabra, LLC

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Jeremy Daniel
United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois

Re: Character Letter for Francesco DiStefano

Dear Judge Daniel,

I write to you as the mother of Francesco DiStefano who is my only child. This experience has been heartbreaking for our family, but I am grateful for the opportunity to share who my son truly is beyond the mistakes he made.

Growing up, he was a shy, gentle boy and only had a very small circle of friends. He grew up in a home with loving parents and his beloved grandmother. He has always been kind, compassionate, respectful, and willing to help others; oftentimes to his detriment. As a young man, he made poor decisions and associated with the wrong people, came in and out of bad personal relationships, ultimately leading him down a path that resulted in serious mistakes. These actions were wrong, and he fully acknowledges that. But they are not a reflection of the values he was raised with, the person he truly is, nor are they a reflection of the true representation of his character.

Francesco accepted responsibility early on, has cooperated fully with the prosecution, has made restitution and he has already spent fifteen months incarcerated. In that time, I have seen a sincere transformation in him. He talks often about accountability, remorse and the shame he brought to himself and his family. He is not happy with his past actions and the past choices he made. He truly wants to build a better future for himself and form a family of his own and prove to be the man he was raised to be. His mistakes do not define him—but I know they will make him stronger, wiser, and more determined to build a life that honors his true self.

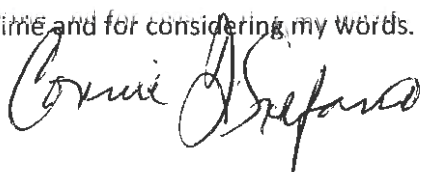
Our family has been deeply affected by his absence. His father and I are elderly, and his father's health is fragile. He is a stroke survivor and struggles with diabetes and depression. He often requires assistance with doctor appointments and daily needs. My son has always been the one who supported us and helped care for his father, and his absence has been felt not just emotionally, but practically.

Despite the challenges we have all has faced, Francesco continues to have a strong family support system waiting for him. He comes from a family of honest, hardworking people—teachers, retired military, attorneys, and other professionals—who are prepared to guide him, help him stay on the right path, and ensure that he has the structure and resources he needs when he returns home. He is not made from the fabric of "immoral, dishonest or unlawful people" and although he made bad mistakes....he is not a "bad person". He was raised in a home where integrity, hard work, and responsibility are of utmost importance in life, but unfortunately strayed from the right path. But I know that he carries three deeply inherent values within him, just as I know he will demonstrate that he is not a product of his past, but a product of the good upbringing he received from honest, hardworking parents and relatives.

Your Honor, I respectfully ask that you consider his acceptance of responsibility, the time he has already served, the growth he has demonstrated, and the strong support system he has behind him. I truly believe that once this is behind him, he will return to being the best version of himself—the intelligent, hardworking, compassionate son I raised and the man I know he can be.

Thank you for your time and for considering my words.

Connie DiStefano

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie DiStefano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dominic DiStefano
27904 E Savannah Trail
Barrington Hills, IL

January 15, 2026

The Honorable Jeremy Daniel
United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Re: Character Letter for Francesco DiStefano

Dear Judge Daniel:

My name is Dominic DiStefano, and I am Francesco DiStefano's uncle. I understand how serious this situation is, and I write with respect for the Court and for the responsibility it carries. I want to share my honest perspective on who Francesco is, how he has grown, and what I have personally seen over the years.

Francesco has taken responsibility for what he did and has pled guilty. He knows his actions were wrong and that they caused real harm—not just to the government, but to the integrity of the system and to the people who love him. He has spoken openly with me about his remorse and the shame he feels, and I believe those feelings are sincere. He understands that his choices affected far more than just himself.

When this happened, Francesco was 23 years old. At that age, he lacked the maturity and emotional control he has today. He struggled with impulsivity and attention-related challenges that made it harder for him to think through long-term consequences. I am not offering this as an excuse for his behavior, but as context. What he did does not reflect the person he truly is or the values he was raised with.

Francesco is now almost 30, and I can say with confidence that he is not the same person he was back then. This entire experience—the weight of the charges, the court process, and the 15 months he has already spent in custody—has changed him deeply. I have seen real growth in his maturity, humility, and self-awareness. He does not downplay what he did. Instead, he talks openly about the harm he caused and about his determination to live differently going forward.

I have always known Francesco to be kind and thoughtful, especially when it comes to helping others. Recently, when I broke my foot and was unable to walk or take care of myself, he stepped in without hesitation. Before I was even released from the hospital, he made sure my home was set up so I could move around safely, stocked it with food, stayed with me until I was settled, and arranged full-time nursing care for my first week at home. He continued to check on me and bring meals afterward. He did all of this without being asked, simply because he cared. That is who he is at his core.

This process has been incredibly painful for our family, but it has also been a turning point for Francesco. He understands that this experience has already had a strong deterrent effect, and that rebuilding trust will take time, honesty, and consistent lawful behavior. Based on what I have seen, I truly believe he poses a low risk of reoffending and has the ability to move forward as a responsible and productive member of society.

I respectfully ask the Court to consider Francesco's age and personal struggles at the time of the offense, the responsibility he has taken, the remorse he has shown, the growth he has demonstrated, and the significant time he has already spent in custody when deciding on a sentence that is fair and not greater than necessary.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for the work you do.

Respectfully,
Dominic DiStefano



Ted Anastopoulos
Owner, Teddy's Diner
1065 Rowling Road
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847-534-0511

December 18, 2025

The Honorable Judge Daniel
United States District Court, Northern District Illinois

Re: Character Letter for Francesco DiStefano

Dear Judge Daniel:

My name is Ted Anastopoulos, and I am the owner of Teddy's Diner in Illinois. I have known Francesco DiStefano since he was a teenager. We were introduced through mutual friends who, like me, work in the food-service industry. I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective on his character as you consider an appropriate sentence.

Over the years, Francesco has been a tremendous help not only to me but also to our colleagues in the restaurant community. Whenever we had technical issues with our POS systems, he was always the first to step in—patient, knowledgeable, and willing to troubleshoot problems at any hour. He also assisted with menu formatting, pricing updates, and many other day-to-day issues that he handled with professionalism and generosity. His willingness to help was never about compensation; it was simply who he was.

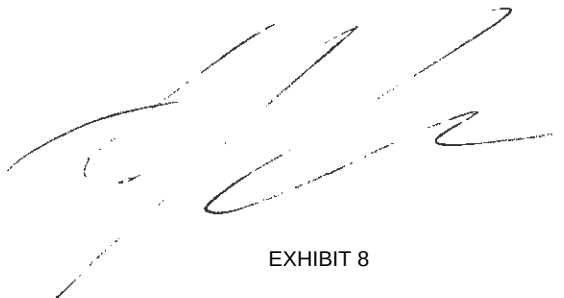
As our friendship grew, I took Francesco under my wing as a mentor, and he became very close with my family. We even traveled together to my hometown in Greece—a reflection of the trust and respect we developed over the years. The Francesco I have known is kind, gentle, respectful, intelligent, and well-mannered. He has always shown deep respect for friends and family, and I have witnessed how devoted he has been to helping his elderly parents.

I understand that Francesco has made serious mistakes. He has spoken to me openly about his shame and regret, and I can say with confidence that he fully recognizes the harm caused by his past decisions. Our conversations have been heartfelt, and I truly believe his remorse is genuine. His time in custody has placed a heavy emotional burden on his family, and he feels that deeply. He knows this is not the life he wants, nor is it how he was raised. He is determined to take responsibility, repair the hurt he has caused, and move forward as a better man.

Your Honor, I respectfully ask that you consider the person I have known for many years—a young man with a good heart, strong values, and the potential to become a productive and responsible member of society. I believe Francesco is capable of meaningful change, and I stand ready to support him as he works to rebuild his life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Ted Anastopoulos
Owner, Teddy's Diner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Anastopoulos', is written over a horizontal line.

Dear Honorable Judge Daniel,

My name is Lucia Troiano. I am a retired 65 year old women. Nothing to interesting to say about me.

This is about a character reference for Francesco DiStefano. I have known his mother since 1989. We met when I joined Alitalia Airlines. I went to her wedding and vividly recall all she and her husband did to have a child. That is why I feel I have known Francesco from before he was born.

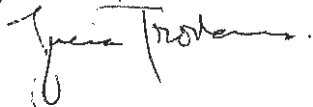
Francesco grew up as an only child, surrounded by love. He grew up in a multigenerational home. His mother took care of her mother in the home he grew up in. He has always been a sensitive child. Maybe a bit inexperienced, maybe too sheltered. Always a polite child. He loved to eat. I remember a time that I had worked the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. He and his mother came to Turin and we met for dinner. He ate a whole plate of mussels. He ate like a man.

Francesco is very generous with his time. I understand that he has been helping others study for their GED while in the Metropolitan Correctional Center. I myself have been communicating with him thru the CorrLinks System. My computer died and I asked for his recommendation. He told me that when you get certain messages it is time to get a new computer. I could not afford a new computer and he gave me a few suggestions. Long story short, I ended up getting a new computer. When thinking about writing this letter I went to my phone to refresh my memories about our past communications. Being a boomer I tend not to cancel my messages, in this case it came in handy. He is my go to guy for any computer related issues. My family has a business that uses a POS and my brother was advised of a recent law that was about to go into effect. The whole system had to be reset that night. I texted Francesco. He said no problem. It had to be done at midnight and I am not going to lie, I thought what if he falls asleep and forgets to do it. Well, he did not fall asleep, he did it! Another time we had another issue with a sequel data base program. He fixed it! I offered to pay for his time. He has never taken money for his help.

I am sadden that someone that knows better has found himself in this predicament and the whole situation has overwhelmed both he and his family. It has thrusted everyone into a world that was previously unfamiliar. This is not who they are. I know they had no visitation opportunities at the Kankakee County Detention Center. I have spoken to Francesco a few times while he was at that Detention Center because I happened to be at his mother's house when the calls came in. I know he is sorry with his whole heart and regrets everything. This has shaken his world. I have no doubt that this situation is life changing for him.

Thank you for your time,

Lucia Troiano



Pamela Symeonides
Addison, Illinois
[REDACTED]

January 24, 2026

The Honorable Jeremy Daniel
United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois

Re: Character Letter for Francesco DiStefano

Dear Honorable Judge Daniel:

I have known Francesco DiStefano and his family for over 30 years, having watched him grow up from birth as next-door neighbors. From the beginning, he was a bright, curious, and kind-hearted child. Like all children, he made mistakes, and in his late teens and early twenties, I observed the effects of his emotional immaturity and impulsiveness. As a nurse, I have also recognized traits in Francesco consistent with ADHD, OCD, tendencies I would describe as neurodivergent. These traits can affect judgment, impulsivity, and decision-making, particularly in young adults. While they contributed to some poor choices in his past, they do not define the person he is today. Over the years, and in particular in the past few years, I have seen him reflect on those mistakes, take responsibility, and grow into a thoughtful, responsible, and caring adult.

Francesco grew up in a close-knit family and community. He attended Catholic school with my children, participated regularly in church, and received all of his Holy Sacraments. From a young age, he was known as the "geek" in our circle because of his natural aptitude for technology and computers. I have countless memories of him quietly helping others with his skills. He has assisted me with all of my technology and computer problems, helped my husband with technology issues at our restaurant, and even designed a take-out labeling system that we still use today—something that continues to make daily operations smoother for our family business. These small, practical acts of kindness demonstrate his thoughtfulness, reliability, and desire to contribute meaningfully to those around him. This is the Francesco that we all know and love and the true person that he is.

Even in his younger years, despite struggles with impulsivity, Francesco showed a desire to give back. I remember him volunteering alongside his parents at school events, book fairs, and spaghetti dinners, many Italian-American events at Our Lady of Pompeii Church and Casa Italia—always quietly pitching in, never seeking attention. These experiences helped shape his sense of responsibility, and I have seen him carry that into adulthood.

I have also seen Francesco express a sincere desire to rebuild trust with his community and make positive contributions moving forward. With the guidance and support of his family and neighbors, I am confident he has the ability to lead a law-abiding, productive, and meaningful life.

I respectfully ask the Court to consider Francesco's youth, emotional immaturity, and neurodivergent traits at the time of the offense, the substantial time he has already served, his genuine remorse, and the personal growth I have witnessed over three decades when determining a sentence sufficient—but not greater than necessary—to achieve the goals of justice.

Sincerely,
Pamela Symeonides



Francesca M. Saporito
[REDACTED]
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
[REDACTED]
cesca.saporito090@gmail.com

January 9, 2026

The Honorable Jeremy C Daniel
United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Re: Character Letter for Francesco DiStefano

Dear Judge Daniel,

I have known Francesco DiStefano since birth as we grew up together. Our parents have been close for decades long before that. We didn't just grow up together — Francesco is more than family to me, he is the brother I never had, and writing this is deeply personal.

From a young age, Francesco was surrounded by older family members and spent much of his childhood living with his grandmother, who passed away when he was still very young. He grew up learning loyalty, respect, and responsibility, but he was also sheltered. At 23, while intelligent and capable, he was still emotionally immature and didn't always have the judgment or awareness to recognize bad situations or negative influences. We have often discussed his legal issues, and I know that what happened does not define who he is, and it breaks my heart knowing that one terrible chapter could overshadow the person he has always tried to be.

The Francesco I know is kind, gentle, thoughtful and dependable. He is someone who cares deeply about the people around him and always wants others to feel included. He's the type of person who shows up when people need help and who genuinely enjoys bringing others together. He has been active in our Italian-American social club and community events, whether it's dressing up as Santa for the children's Christmas party, helping with the St. Joseph Table, or volunteering at the annual picnic. He does these things because he truly enjoys giving his time, especially when it brings happiness to families and kids.

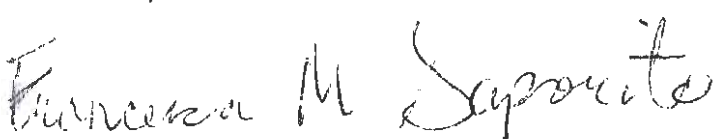
Family has always been extremely important to him. Over the years, we've shared many family vacations together, both in the U.S. and in Italy — trips filled with simple moments like horseback riding, visiting Disney, and sledding in the winter. Francesco also hosts our traditional Italian Christmas Eve dinner every year. He doesn't just invite immediate family; he makes sure to include family friends who would otherwise be alone during the holidays. That thoughtfulness says a lot about who he is and how much he values connection and tradition.

Francesco has lived his entire life in Addison. This is his home. His parents, friends, and neighbors are his foundation, and they are the people who give him purpose and strength. What he has been through has changed him. I speak with him and text him often while he has been incarcerated. He has expressed his wrong-doing and has shown real remorse, and I have seen firsthand how much this experience has humbled him and made him reflect on the consequences of his actions. He wants nothing more than the chance to move forward and live his life the right way.

I respectfully ask the Court to consider Francesco's youth, his lack of emotional maturity at the time, the time he has already served, and the sincere remorse he feels. I truly believe he has learned from this and grown in ways that no one would ever wish to learn. He is not a bad person — he is a good person who made a serious mistake. I believe, with all my heart that he deserves the opportunity to continue his life as a caring, responsible, and law-abiding member of his family and community.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Francesca M. Saporito



Rosangela Colella Eder
[REDACTED]
South Elgin IL 60177

January 15, 2026

The Honorable Jeremy Daniel
United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois

Re: Character Letter for Francesco DiStefano

To the Honorable Judge Daniel,

I am writing this letter in support of Francesco DiStefano. I have known Francesco for over ten years, having met him through mutual friends, and throughout that time I have come to know him as a genuinely caring, dependable, and supportive person.

Throughout the many challenges and struggles I have faced in my own life, Francesco has always been there for me—offering support, encouragement, and kindness without hesitation. He is the type of person who shows up when you need him most, not for recognition, but because he genuinely cares about the people in his life. He has always treated me, and those around him, with respect and compassion. His friendly nature and willingness to help others have made him a valued and trusted friend to many.

I have long known about Francesco's legal situation. Since Francesco has been incarcerated, I have remained in constant communication with him. During this time, we have spoken often and at length about his situation and the circumstances that led him here. Through these conversations, I have seen him reflect honestly on his actions and fully acknowledge the mistakes he has made.

Francesco has expressed deep remorse not only for what he has done, but also for the pain and hardship his actions have caused his family. He is truly sorry, has taken responsibility for his behavior, and has shown a sincere desire to learn from this experience so that he can move forward and rebuild his life in a positive and meaningful way.

I truly believe that Francesco has the capacity for reflection, growth, and positive change. He possesses the personal character and support system necessary to take accountability and move forward in a productive and responsible manner.

While I understand the seriousness of the matter before the Court, I respectfully ask that you consider the character of Francesco as I and many others have known him over the years. He is more than the circumstances that have brought him before the Court, and he has been a positive and meaningful presence in the lives of those around him.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective.

Respectfully,

Rosangela Colella Eder



January 10, 2026

Honorable Judge Jeremy C. Daniel
United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois

Dear Judge Daniel,

My name is Armando Guzman, and I respectfully submit this letter as a character reference on behalf of Francesco DiStefano for the Court's consideration at sentencing.

I am currently employed by UPS, where I was hired in the spring/summer of 2025. As a newly hired employee, I understood that any serious mistake could result in the loss of my job and my ability to support myself.

In June of 2025, during my first interaction with Mr. DiStefano—and without any prior relationship or familiarity with him—I delivered a Cash on Delivery (COD) package to his residence at 733 North 8th Avenue in Addison. Upon delivery, Mr. DiStefano provided a certified check in the amount of \$2,230.00, as required. At the end of my workday, I realized that I had lost the check. Despite searching everywhere, I was unable to locate it. Because I was required to turn the check in to my employer and had no financial ability to repay such a loss, I became overwhelmed with fear and anxiety, believing I would lose my job.

Out of embarrassment and desperation, I returned to Mr. DiStefano's home to explain what had happened and to ask for his assistance. He was understandably cautious and concerned that I might be attempting to deceive him. However, after listening to me and observing how distressed I was, he recognized that I was being truthful and genuinely afraid of losing my employment.

Despite having no obligation to do so, and despite the inconvenience and potential risk to himself, Mr. DiStefano chose to help me. He arranged for the certified check to be reissued and provided it to me so that I could turn it in to UPS. His actions directly saved my job and my future employment. I believe that few people would have shown such understanding, patience, and kindness in that situation.

This experience left a lasting impression on me. Mr. DiStefano's willingness to assist someone who made an honest mistake, without any benefit to himself, speaks strongly to his character. I respectfully ask the Court to consider this example of his compassion, integrity, and humanity when determining an appropriate sentence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Armando Guzman
N053 IL Route 59
Elgin, IL 60120
Phone: (815) 693-7139
UPS Employee Number: 8297043

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Armando Guzman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Date of Completion	Hours	Name of Entity
enrolled		500 began 1/12/26 MCC
enrolled		begins 2/11/26 MCC
in progress		10 Level
12/30/2025	40	Reentry Lifeskills
1/23/2026	40	Reentry Lifeskills
1/9/2025	40	Reentry Lifeskills
1/3/2026	25	MCC/FSA credit
1/6/2026	10	Level
12/3/2025	10	Level
1/31/2025	10	Level
10/6/2025	10	Level
10/2/2025	10	Level
5/9/2025	10	Level
3/31/2025	10	Level
3/7/2025	10	Level
1/21/2025	10	Level
1/9/2025		Edovo
1/9/2025		Edovo
1/9/2025		Edovo
1/9/2025		Edovo
1/9/2025		Edovo
1/9/2025		Edovo
1/24/2025		Edovo
1/24/2025		Edovo
1/24/2025		Edovo
1/24/2025		Edovo
1/24/2025		Edovo
1/24/2025		Edovo
1/24/2025		Edovo
1/24/2025		Edovo
1/24/2025		Edovo
1/25/2025		Edovo
1/25/2025		Edovo
1/25/2025		Edovo
1/25/2025		Edovo
1/25/2025		Edovo
1/31/2025		Edovo
1/25/2025		Edovo
1/25/2025		Edovo
1/25/2025		Edovo
1/25/2025		Edovo

Name of Class

Crossroads Prison Ministries

Enneagram Prison Project

Line Art for Self Expression

Offender Corrections Course

Anger Management

Cognitive Awareness

Embracing Interfaith Cooperation

Become a Licensed Food Handler

Natural Meditation for Everyone

How the Internet Works

Build Your Financial Future: Set Up for Success

How to Start Your Own Business: Thrive in the First Year

How to Start Your Own Business: Thrive in the First Year

How to Start Your Own Business: Prepare to Launch Guide

Computer Science Without a Computer Volume 1

How the Internet Works: fundamental concepts

Beyond Prison, Probation and Parole

Equipment Identification Tools and Equipment

Equipment Identification: Grinding, Slicing, Mixing & Pureeing

Equipment Identification: Fryers, Grills & Griddles

Equipment Identification: Ranges and Ovens

Equipment Identification: Refrigeration

Culinary Knife Skills

Stocks

Creaming Method

Thickening Agents

Sauces Overview

Mother Sauces

Emulsions

Tempering Techniques

Foaming Method

Rubbed Dough Method

Pasta

Potato Cookery

Vegetable Cookery

Cooking Methods

Plating

Egg Cookery

Coffee and Tea

Steps of Service



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS03 - Equipment Identification Tools and Equipment

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion.

January 09, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Lear



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS04 - Equipment Identification - Grinding, Slicing, Mixing and Pureeing

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 09, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS05 - Equipment Identification - Fryers, Grills & Griddles Section

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a 'Passed' Certificate of Completion

January 09, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS06 - Equipment Identification - Ranges and Ovens

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 09, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS07 - Equipment Identification - Refrigeration

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 09, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS09 - Culinary Knife Skills

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 24, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS10 - Stocks

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 24, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Lear



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS16 - The Creaming Method

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 24, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS11 - Thickening Agents

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion.

January 24, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS12A - Sauces Overview

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion.

January 24, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Lear



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS12B - Mother Sauces

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 24, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS13 - Emulsions

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 24, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Lear



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS15 - Tempering Techniques

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 24, 2025

Date

President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS17 - The Foaming Method

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 25, 2025

Date

President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS18 - Rubbed-Dough Method

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion.

January 25, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS20 - Pasta

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 25, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS21 - Potato Cookery

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 25, 2025

Date

President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS22 - Vegetable Cookery

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 25, 2025

Date

President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Lear



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS23 - Cooking Methods

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a Passed Certificate of Completion.

January 31, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS24 - Plating

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 25, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS25 - Egg Cookery

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a "Passed" Certificate of Completion

January 25, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Learner.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS31 - Coffee and Tea

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a 'Passed' Certificate of Completion.

January 25, 2025

Date



President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Lear



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

PRESENTED TO

Francesco Distefano

FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF

ECS32 - Steps of Service

SCORE: Passed

All course requirements were successfully met in order to earn a 'Passed' Certificate of Completion

January 25, 2025

Date

President of Edovo

EXHIBIT 14

This certificate is not equivalent to course credit, milestone, earned time credit, certification, or a degree. We also do not verify the identity of the Learner.



CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

January 6, 2026

Francesco Di Stefano

Has completed the Become A Licensed Food Handler guide, a 10-hour

preparation to take a food handling safety test.



Kate Mullan
Director of Content Development



Alex Wright
Executive Director

Certificate Number **44pa68wv**

To verify this certificate, scan the QR code,
visit learnlevel.org/certificates/44pa68wv
or text Certificate to (877) 285-3835





CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

December 3, 2025

Francesco Di Stefano

Has completed Natural Meditation For Everyone, a 10-hour course that teaches

strategies to reduce stress and improve relationships through meditation.



Kate Mullan
Director of Content Development



Alex Wright
Executive Director

Certificate Number **52dh69zq**

To verify this certificate, scan the QR code,
visit learnlevel.org/certificates/52dh69zq
or text Certificate to (877) 285-3835





CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

October 6, 2025

Francesco Di Stefano

Has completed Build Your Financial Future: Set Up For Success, a 10-hour course to learn the fundamentals of financial literacy including practical steps to prepare for reentry and find employment after release.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Mullan".

Kate Mullan
Director of Content Development

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Wright".

Alex Wright
Executive Director

Certificate Number **89vr26fx**

To verify this certificate, scan the QR code,
visit learnlevel.org/certificates/89vr26fx
or text Certificate to (877) 285-3835





CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

January 21, 2025

Francesco Di Stefano

Has completed How The Internet Works, a 10-hour study course that teaches the fundamental concepts that power the internet and best practices for developing career skills for internet jobs.



Kate Mullan
Director of Content Development



Alex Wright
Executive Director

Certificate Number **84ba29vu**

To verify this certificate, scan the QR code,
visit learnlevel.org/certificates/84ba29vu
or text Certificate to (877) 285-3835





CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

October 2, 2025

Francesco Di Stefano

Has completed the How To Start Your Own Business: Thrive In The First Year guide, a 10-hour course to learn the fundamentals of starting and running a successful small business through the first year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Mullan".

Kate Mullan
Director of Content Development

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Wright".

Alex Wright
Executive Director

Certificate Number **67uv57vb**

To verify this certificate, scan the QR code,
visit learnlevel.org/certificates/67uv57vb
or text Certificate to (877) 285-3835





CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

May 9, 2025

Francesco Di Stefano

Has completed the How To Start Your Own Business: Thrive In The First Year guide, a 10-hour course to learn the fundamentals of starting and running a successful small business through the first year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kate Mullan".

Kate Mullan
Director of Content Development

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alex Wright".

Alex Wright
Executive Director

Certificate Number **xt28rb68**

To verify this certificate, scan the QR code,
visit learnlevel.org/certificates/xt28rb68
or text Certificate to (877) 285-3835





CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

March 31, 2025

Francesco Di Stefano

Has completed the How To Start Your Own Business: Prepare To Launch guide,
a 10-hour course to develop strategies for starting a successful small business.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kate Mullan".

Kate Mullan
Director of Content Development

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alex Wright".

Alex Wright
Executive Director

Certificate Number **97mm95er**

To verify this certificate, scan the QR code,
visit learnlevel.org/certificates/97mm95er
or text Certificate to (877) 285-3835





CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

March 7, 2025

Francesco Di Stefano

Has completed Computer Science Without A Computer Volume 1, a 10-hour course that teaches three foundations of computational thinking and computer science.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kate Mullan".

Kate Mullan
Director of Content Development

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alex Wright".

Alex Wright
Executive Director

Certificate Number **68sp69bm**

To verify this certificate, scan the QR code,
visit learnlevel.org/certificates/68sp69bm
or text Certificate to (877) 285-3835





CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

January 21, 2025

Francesco Di Stefano

Has completed How The Internet Works, a 10-hour study course that teaches the fundamental concepts that power the internet and best practices for developing career skills for internet jobs.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Mullan".

Kate Mullan
Director of Content Development

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Wright".

Alex Wright
Executive Director

Certificate Number **84ba29vu**

To verify this certificate, scan the QR code,
visit learnlevel.org/certificates/84ba29vu
or text Certificate to (877) 285-3835



Print this page

Reentry Lifeskills

Certifies that

FRANCESCO DI STEFANO

has successfully completed the

ANGER MANAGEMENT COURSE

Agency: MCC Chicago

Completion Date: Jan 23, 2026

Case Number: 35385511

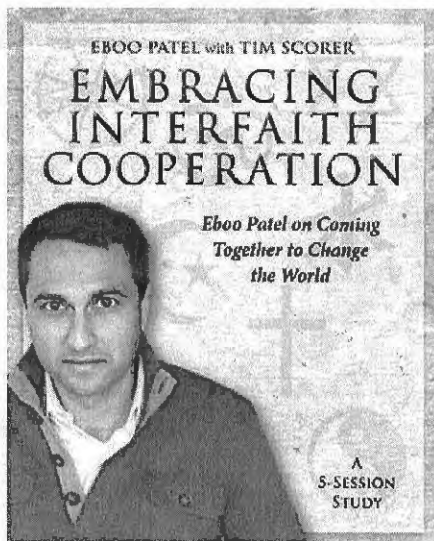


Kyli Richins

Authorized Signature



Certificate Key: cd49e32a-4f0d-4501-8381-23fa37305da3-1167722



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Awarded to: Distefano, Francesco Reg# 35385-511

**Successful Completion of the First Step Act Chapel
Productive Activity: Embracing Interfaith Cooperation**

5 Sessions of Materials to Read and Respond
Learning Handout

By: MCC Chicago Religious Services

Date: January 3rd, 2026

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "D. Kim", written over a horizontal line.

Chaplain D. Kim

Print this page

Reentry Lifeskills

Certifies that

FRANCESCO DI STEFANO

has successfully completed the

COGNITIVE AWARENESS COURSE

Agency: MCC Chicago

Completion Date: Jan 09, 2026

Case Number: 35385511



Kyli Richins

Authorized Signature



Certificate Key: cd49e32a-4f0d-4501-8381-23fa37305da3-1167724

Reentry Lifeskills

Certifies that

FRANCESCO DI STEFANO

has successfully completed the

OFFENDER CORRECTIONS COURSE

Agency: MCC Chicago

Completion Date: Dec 30, 2025

Case Number: 35385511



Kyli Richins

Authorized Signature



Certificate Key: cd49e32a-4f0d-4501-8381-23fa37305da3-1167723