

Saving Dominique: Others weigh in to help a single addict

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It was mid-January when Harold Warren embraced his 18-year-old, heroin-addicted daughter and let her go.

"It's the hardest thing, to let your baby walk away from you, into the streets," he said on the afternoon of Jan. 14.

The Northern Kentucky father who'd been grasping for the life of a daughter who'd been using heroin since she was 12 didn't really let go. In recent months, as Dominique moved through jails and treatment centers, he enlisted and received assistance from multiple agencies, law enforcement and activist-volunteers in his effort to bring his daughter back from the brink.

But she openly rebelled against all their efforts. (To read the story of Harold's fight to save his daughter, "[In hell: The fight to save one addict](#)" go to cincinnati.com.) And returned to the very corner where she had only recently overdosed.

Both he and Dominique knew then that the police were watching her now. An officer had told her that much. He told her he'd get her "for any little thing," just to lock her up and get her help.

Cincinnati police have made good on that promise.

Within weeks, Dominique was stopped by police, then stopped again and cited for flagging a car and approaching it in an attempt to solicit. She's been jailed, released from jail, fled an assigned shelter that was to help her get treatment, and ended up in jail again. This last time, on a Sunday afternoon, Feb. 12, an officer stopped Dominique for jaywalking on West McMicken Avenue, then found a syringe loaded with heroin in her purse. This was, of course, in legal terms, drug possession and having a drug instrument. A glass crack pipe provided an extra charge.

The race to keep Dominique behind bars has been bolstered to include parents of addicted young adults, anti-heroin activists and support groups that have taken in Harold as one of their own.

"Please ... do not let Dominique go," Tina Garera of Parents of Addicted Loved Ones, Northern Kentucky, wrote to a Hamilton County judge. "You may be releasing her to her death."

It's not that they think she's a criminal. Heroin is an addiction disease they know well. She needs addiction treatment and she doesn't want it.

Dominique remained defiant through the past weeks, telling her father she likes her life on the streets of Cincinnati.



Harold Warren, left, listens to Hamilton County Municipal Judge Tyrone Yates during a hearing for his daughter. At right is assistant prosecutor Zach Kessler. Warren was charged with solicitation. (Photo: *The Enquirer*/Liz Dufour)

Harold knows the routine. He's been chasing his daughter down since she was a 14-year-old runaway and, most recently, since she overdosed in the West End of Cincinnati in September.

When she told a judge in court that her father was "lying" about her, Harold took it in stride. "That's not my daughter," he said. "Her brain has been hijacked by heroin."

Harold's plight – and Dominique's – plays out across the country during the current raging heroin epidemic. Parents in Harold's tightly knit region of Northern Kentucky are just a fraction of those who've battled this crisis. Some of them have seen their children die.



Dominique Warren is arraigned in the Hamilton County Justice Center on Feb. 13 in front of Judge Brad Greenberg. She was picked up the day before for jaywalking on W. McMicken Ave. in Over-The-Rhine. In her purse, police found a crack pipe and a syringe full of heroin. (Photo: *The Enquirer*/ Liz Dufour)

They came out in force on Feb. 13, after a magistrate ordered a \$1,000 bond for Dominique's jaywalking-crack pipe-heroin-syringe charges. That meant all she needed to get out was \$100. They demanded, in phone calls to the Hamilton County Justice Center and in handwritten letters to a judge, that Dominique be given court-ordered treatment directly from jail.

"Please keep her safe, off the streets, until she is ordered into treatment," wrote Mae Corbin of Independence.

"Many of us are praying for her protection and are praying that you make your decision over her with wisdom and compassion," wrote Michelle Denham Swaw of Bellevue.



Hamilton County Municipal Judge Tyrone Yates was the presiding judge for Dominique during her non-jury trial. (Photo: *The Enquirer*/ Liz Dufour)

Judge Tyrone Yates, who allowed Dominique out of jail after she sat there for seven days on the soliciting charge, has seen a lot of the devastation of the opioid and heroin epidemic.

"It is most important to try to get them some help. Most of us strive to do that," Yates said. In the past, he's used a lock-down treatment center followed by probation with continued



Police mug shot of Dominique after she was arrested on Sunday, Feb. 12. (Photo: Hamilton County Justice Center, Hamilton County Justice Center)

Yates has signed off on a probation violation for Dominique. As of Friday morning, she remained in the Hamilton County Justice Center, locked up.

Friday afternoon, Judge Yates held another bond hearing for Dominique's case and increased her bond to \$25,000 at 10 percent. He also ordered electronic monitoring should she post bond.

Dominique was released from the jail at 10:40 a.m. Saturday, according to spokesman Mike Robison. It was unclear as of Monday specifically how that occurred.

Photographer Carrie Cochran contributed to this story.

<http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2017/02/17/saving-dominique-others-weigh-help-single-addict/97937886/>

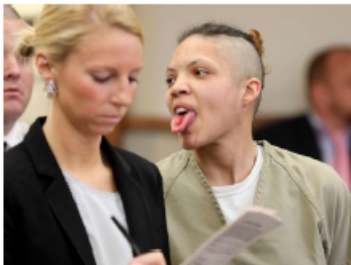
care. Trouble is, the treatment is only available to those who have enough jail time in play that they can meet the terms of the program, and sometimes, there's a waiting list.

"Policymakers have a long road to go before they finally appreciate the extent (of the epidemic) and what resources are necessary to resolve it," Yates said.

Dominique faced Yates for the soliciting charge on Feb. 7 and 8 with a public defender who asked the judge to allow her to stay at a women's shelter and take advantage of community-based programs. A prosecutor argued for a full 60 days in jail, with a chance to take part in a specialized court for victims of human trafficking.

Her father told the judge that Dominique balked at returning to Kentucky, where there's a warrant for her arrest for skipping court-ordered treatment. Harold added, "The life she's living now, she's going to die."

When Yates decided to go with the community control option, telling Dominique that she would have to concur with probation, Dominique had these words: "Thank you, your honor, I won't let you down."



Dominique Warren sticks her tongue out at her dad after realizing she was going to be released from jail. At left is her public defender, Alexandria Thurner. (Photo: *The Enquirer*/ Carre Cochran)

When she learned that she was, in fact, getting out of jail, Dominique turned and stuck out her tongue at her father.

With a mat, food and case management available for her at a shelter, Dominique was ordered to take the shelter spot and receive community services for her addiction.

And within hours of her arrival at the Esther Marie Hatton Center for Women, she left and did not return.