

# ONE FINAL LETTER TO ALL BERGEN COUNTY PARENTS ABOUT THE DRUG EPIDEMIC -- *WITH A PROMISE*

*from the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office*



For the past few days, we have told you about how our current heroin epidemic does not just exist beyond our borders and how New Jersey's **STRICT LIABILITY FOR DRUG INDUCED DEATHS** law can be applied here in Bergen County. It is a statute being used more aggressively in the county by all law enforcement. The stories told may have been upsetting to you. That was not our intention. Maybe you did not like them. We didn't ask you to like them, only to understand what is happening here in our County. The drug epidemic does not exist just in other areas of our state. It is here and it is having devastating consequences to many Bergen County families.

We hope that our past letters have given you a better understanding of how the heroin epidemic can touch upon any family. Good families. People that we know. All of us.

Today's letter goes out to the parents who have a family member found with opiates or heroin and that are facing addiction in the family. You are not alone. I know that treatment resources are hard to come by. I know that treatment is expensive, and often not covered by insurance. That may stop you from doing something. More likely, you don't want to do anything because it is your son, or your daughter, or husband or wife. You don't want to cause them trouble. Understandable.

Many of us have a picture of heroin. We see a needle and a spoon. That is the vision that all of us came to know, many years ago. But that is not the only face of heroin. You may see this:



**YOU MAY HAVE SEEN WHAT IS PICTURED ABOVE IN YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM. YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT, TODAY, KNOWS THAT MAKING ARRESTS IS NOT ALWAYS THE ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEM.**

**SO I WILL MAKE YOU THIS PROMISE:**

**IF YOU ARE A PARENT OR SIBLING, OR SPOUSE OF SOMEONE THAT NEEDS HELP. IF YOU HAVE SEEN WHAT WE HAVE SHOWN YOU ABOVE, CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT OR CALL US AT 201-226-5758.**

**WE WILL TALK TO YOU. WE WILL TALK TO YOU AND YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER AND TRY TO DIRECT YOU TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES THAT ARE OUT THERE, BEFORE THE TERRIBLE THINGS THAT WE HAVE SHOWN YOU OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS OCCUR .**

**WE WILL NOT ARREST ANYONE IN YOUR FAMILY IF YOU MAKE THAT CALL. NOT YOU. NOT YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER. WE CANNOT ARREST OUR WAY OUT OF THIS, BUT CAN BE A PART OF GETTING THE RIGHT HELP TO THOSE THAT NEED IT.**

**THAT IS MY PROMISE.**

Bergen County Prosecutor