

Altering a Medical Certificate and Submitting in Support of Accommodation Request

I am writing this true story to plead with any student of the University to seriously contemplate when faced with making any kind of unethical decision and to realize how severe the ultimate consequences affect your life as a student, your career, your own personal anguish and embarrassment, your future.

I am a second year student at the University of Windsor and have a visual disability. I went to the Disabilities office seeking help my first year in the fall. The counselor there had given me a medical document to be filled out by my optometrist, whom the doctor did indeed fill out, but I took it upon myself to fill in some ideas on her behalf. I have no idea where my mind was at the time, this was totally out of character for me, I have always worked hard and have been honest throughout my life, something came over me to “just write this down, and I’ll get the assistance that I needed” for some strange reason not realizing or even thinking about consequences down the road. I consider myself a smart person but had gone ahead and wrote some things down on my doctor’s behalf. This was the stupidest thing I have ever done in my adult life. I then wasted the director of disabilities time by having her proceed to my doctor’s office to find out the truth and to go over every other document I had handed in to be sure it was my writing. I have never felt more ashamed and embarrassed in my lifetime. Charges were brought against me and had to go through the Universities judicial process, lost so much sleep and endured a great amount of stress. My whole academic life is on hold now, and will be for an entire year for making such a horrible decision. Our lives at the University as well as our personal lives are built positively on Integrity. Without this, who are we really? I had the privilege to be part of such a great University which is built upon great values and I screwed it up, really screwed it up, I will never be the same person because of this incident. I am pleading with any student reading this to just be honest, no matter what, do not think by doing anything unethical won’t ever “catch up to you” academically or personally because it will. I have learned a great life lesson about honesty and integrity that I will never forget for my lifetime.

Second Year Student, summer of 2009
“Sociology and Women’s Studies”