

Justin Dyer:

My name's Justin Dyer. I work in Kennebec County. I'm 44 years old and I've been a DSP and in the health field for over 20 years.

When I was growing up with my uncle, AC, who had a genetic disorder that affected him so he couldn't walk, couldn't move his legs, confined to a wheelchair, with an eighth grade education, he taught himself. And just the desire to succeed over his barriers was amazing as a role model in inspiration.

I have always been brought up with disabilities in my family. So after high school graduation, I decided to go into the field that I've always known and I went to one of our local agencies, applied for a job and got hired after the process, and they provided my training. And it's been that way ever since. The right personality and character traits, in my opinion, to be a DSP is kind, caring, outgoing, and understanding.

One personal triumph at Christmas that comes to mind, is when one of my clients with a brain injury walked 75 feet on his own motivation. We helped him get to that point, but it was him driving the bus and when his mother saw that for like her Christmas gift was remarkable. There's no words that can describe it. One thing I always tell my clients is it doesn't matter what your disability is, as long as you have your mind and you know who you are and you can do anything because the mind is the best powerful tool you have.

Make sure you're compatible because if you're going to be a DSP, you want to do it because you want to and enjoy it, not for a job.

Speaker 2:

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