

I am writing this letter to tell you about my daughter, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a very intelligent, creative, curious, and loving child. She loves school and craves any opportunity to learn something new. She looks for the good in all and is very trusting. She believes in God and enjoys going to church with her father. She is your average child, who loves to laugh, draw, dance, and sing. [REDACTED] didn't differ from many children her age.

[REDACTED] still has all of these qualities; however, she has changed in many ways, which aren't in the ways that a parent hopes for or looks forward to. While most children change, most to be expected due to normal changes in growth, my daughter's changes have been due to a very unfortunate event that was not her fault, and one that is not to be expected or anticipated throughout a child's life.

Before this event, [REDACTED] fell asleep with no problems and slept through the night, she was very trusting, any complaints of feeling sick were far and few between and were due to true illnesses, and she was only emotional/angry when the time was "right" which was determined by your typical 7-year-old child. She now has nightmares and does not fall asleep without complaining of her stomach hurting. She also complains of being "sick" when I have to leave her. She does not sleep through the night and most nights she finds her way into my room, even though she has her own room and bed. She worries about the doors being locked and asks over and over if they have been secured. [REDACTED] is extremely emotional, with extreme sensitivity and crying occurring frequently at home and at school; now, she is extremely angry at home and at school. She screams at others and is now hitting or attempting to hit. [REDACTED] never raised her hand to me in anger; however, this is a common occurrence when she is upset. She no longer thinks before she acts; she is having behavior problems at school and home.

[REDACTED] has anxiety and panic attacks with differing symptoms all the time. This makes it difficult as I have trouble understanding how to help her. A trip to Disneyland for Thanksgiving last year was plagued with panic attacks to where [REDACTED] felt she couldn't breathe. Standing in line for rides that were to be fun, became terrifying for her. She was unable to take the elevator or be in a car with the window rolled up. The only way for us to make the 5 hour drive home was to get her a portable fan so that she could feel air on her face.

I realize that nightmares and separation anxiety may be typical of a young child's behavior and that many children will exhibit periods of emotional sensitivity and anger; these behaviors were never existent in [REDACTED] prior to this happening to her.

Her father and I continually do our best to help [REDACTED] through all of this by providing her with comfort, consistency, and other avenues that encourage her to work through this in a positive manner to where her daily life isn't effected. Allowing Mr. Simcox the ability to address my daughter, I fear, will only set [REDACTED] back in her healing and quite possibly exacerbate her symptoms and anxiety/panic attacks.

Over the past, close to 2 years, [REDACTED] has made progress, and while it is not as much as we would like, its progress and it is our hope that she will continue to receive the support that she needs to become the strong child that persevered through one of the most difficult events that someone could endure.

I understand that within the justice system, all accused have specific rights that officials do their best to uphold so to be fair and maintain the integrity of the Constitution, but it is my hope that my daughters rights are also taken into consideration and is given the opportunity to progress and not regress due to the ensuring of one individuals rights over another.

Thank you,

  
Michelle A. [REDACTED]