

September 16, 2018

To the Honorable Judge Lee Ann Hill:

Please consider the following as my pre-sentencing statement to this honorable Court. It is my hope that my statement will help you to understand my plight and rationale.

If I had to narrow my reasons down to one key word it would be “fear”:

- Fear for Mikey’s physical and emotional health, and for his future;
- Fear for my life and job, for our home and our family; and
- Above all else, fear that Mikey will be revictimized.

FEAR FOR MIKEY

When Mikey came into this world my life was changed forever. This was my first experience caring for a beloved baby. I grew up in a family whose matriarch, my great grandmother, preached and modeled unconditional love and the importance of the child. I worked to form a secure attachment by providing not only the basic needs of food and home, but also love, security, support, and guidance.

Since Mikey’s birth, I have been not only a loving parent, but his strongest advocate. I did not realize how significant it would be when Mikey began to view me as his protector, the one person who could try to keep him safe from the horrors of his first two years.

Mikey continues to perceive me as his protector in our daily lives, and fears separation from me. Mikey checks our locks, and worries about our safety.

From Mikey's psychologist, I have learned that his actions are reactions to trauma. They are Mikey's attempts to reduce the impact of trauma on him. I am trying to remain in Massachusetts with Mikey in order to help this little boy put the fractured pieces of the first two years of his life back together, in order to allow him to feel whole and healthy moving forward.

For me to discuss my fear for Mikey, I must take a moment to explain the connection between his parents and how he came to be. My relationship with Amber Buck was flawed. Before Mikey was born we had separated and reconciled on several occasions. One reason I continued to try repeatedly was the bond I had formed with Amber's elder child.

Amber's substance use worried me. When my job allowed me to work from home, which was often, Mikey spent his time with me. Eventually, I took a pay cut and changed my position to work from home full time.

Amber and the children moved out when Mikey was a few months old, but they returned and left a few times, the last being in December 2015. I let Amber return repeatedly, as it was the only way I could be sure the children were safe.

I began pursuing custody of Mikey when he was just a few months old because I was concerned for his safety. There were multiple times when Mikey was exposed to and a victim of violence while with Amber. Things became so bad that my mother took a leave of

absence from work and came out to spend approximately four months with us at the end of 2015 – beginning of 2016.

When Mikey came to me for my parenting time, he was filthy with dry patches of skin, rashes, and possible chemical burns. His nose was red and sore, filled with dried mucous, and his body showed extreme bruising and even wounds. His emotional state declined to the point that I could not even put him down for a moment. When it was time to return to his mother, Mikey fought it by clinging to me and screaming. When I finally got him into his seat, his face would lose all expression, appearing to enter what psychologists have told me is called a “dissociative state.”

I brought my concerns to the attention of Amber, her family, and the authorities, but my pleas for help went unanswered until March 28, 2016. The police called, asking me to help locate the children, because they had found a meth lab in Amber’s home, where she lived with Colin Dameron and the kids. Amber abandoned the children, and went on the run for approximately one month. DCFS took Mikey and his sister into custody. Finally, February 16, 2017, Judge Fitzgerald awarded me legal and physical custody of Mikey.

FEARS FOR MYSELF

When I lived in Illinois after Mikey was born, one of Amber’s former paramours threatened me with a gun. Another smashed me head off the cement. I caught people trying to break in my home.

Amber threatened to take Mikey away from me, and to ruin me in every way possible. When Amber lost custody of Mikey and I was working with DCFS and BabyFold, Amber falsely accused me of being child molester.

When I had her and her mother over for Thanksgiving so the children could spend the holiday together, Amber and her mother planted drugs and alcohol around my house and took photos. That accusation prompted an investigation. I was eventually cleared of any wrongdoing, but it made plain to me that it is not possible to coexist with Amber safely.

Amber's family has tried repeatedly to get me into trouble. Amber's father, Richard Buck, threatened to involve Amber's maternal uncle (a federal judge) against me, if I didn't protect Amber from DCFS and keep her out of trouble.

In February 2017, I learned from my attorney that Richard Buck had send an 8-page letter to the State's Attorney. In the letter, Richard said I was a murderer, fabricated a connection with Whitey Bulger, and called my mother a whore. Richard asked the State's Attorney to work together. Richard stated that he would pretend to write a book about my life, and get me to divulge information to him.

Previously, DCFS had received an anonymous letter containing some of the same false stories about me. Since Richard signed the letter to the State's Attorney, it was clear that he had written the anonymous letter to DCFS.

I am very fearful of being in Illinois. It would be impossible to make my home there. I relocated to Massachusetts in good faith, not knowing that I needed to give Amber notice before doing so.

When I relocated, Amber was facing likely imprisonment. Subsequently, the court dropped Amber's child endangerment charge, downgraded her five Class X felony charges, disregarded her

violation of a previous plea deal, and offered Amber another plea deal. Amber has been on probation since 2007, with charges that include prior domestic violence and drug offenses.

FEAR OF MIKEY'S REVICTIMIZATION

My greatest fear is that Mikey will be revictimized and retraumatized by having to return to Illinois. What my son had to endure for the first two years of his life is horrifying.

In describing the difference between the moral and lawful, a philosopher, Rick Garlikov, wrote: "Morality does not have loopholes. It is probably impossible to make a complete set of laws that anticipate, enumerate, fully describe, and forbid every possible specific wrong behavior."

I have had to make a choice between obeying the court's order, or trying to protect this child. I regret that my actions appear disrespectful to the court. For me, this is about respecting Mikey and his right to live, grow, and develop in a safe and nurturing home, to move forward and, ultimately, to heal.

For your consideration, I am attaching an Affidavit that was previously prepared to explain the situation to the courts in Massachusetts. Thank you for your consideration.

Michael B. Cadena Sr.