

1 To the Honorable Judge Marcia Cooke,

2 I am writing this letter on behalf of my son
3 David Tyler Hines. I want to first and foremost express
4 my gratitude for your time and attention in allowing me to
5 share with you some things about my son that paint a more
6 accurate picture of who my son is aside from what you will
7 hear from the prosecution or read in arrest records.

8 I would like to start by saying that David, who
9 his family refers to as Tyler, is extremely loved. He's
10 not only my son, he's a husband to his wife, a step father
11 to his step son, a grandson to my mother, a nephew to my
12 sister and brother, a cousin to my nieces and nephew, and
13 he is a friend to many. His father and I were so excited
14 to bring him into this world and loved him beyond measure,
15 but we were just children ourselves. I was 18 and had
16 just graduated high school a month before giving birth to
17 him. His father and I were married and tried to make
18 things work for as long as possible, but unfortunately
19 split up when Tyler was around 3 years old.

20 About a year later, I made the decision to move
21 to Miami to be closer to my sister and to start fresh. In
22 hindsight, I realize what a selfish choice it was to move
23 so far away from his father, but we made the best of it
24 and he spent every summer and every holiday with his
25 father. He was also blessed with having my brother-in-law

1 as a role model along with my brother who we later moved
2 closer to as well.

3 Tyler was born with a big heart and from an early
4 age was a care taker of people around him. When he was 2
5 and a half years old, he used to walk his great-great
6 grandmother to her bedroom because she was scared to go by
7 herself. He never let me drive by a stray dog without
8 stopping and trying to find the owner which we did on
9 several occasions. In March of 2017, we found out that
10 his father had been diagnosed with stage 4 stomach cancer.
11 This came at a time when Tyler's business was at its peak
12 and his company had just been rated one of the top 10
13 moving companies in the country. Regardless of the fact
14 that he was busy and working non-stop trying to run his
15 business, he flew to North Florida every weekend for the
16 next three months straight to be there with his father
17 until his passing on Father's Day of 2017.

18 Tyler immediately focused all of his attention on
19 trying to figure out a way to help his younger siblings
20 that were living with his father before his passing. All
21 he wanted to do was to help them even though he was
22 hurting himself and grieving the loss of his father. He
23 felt a sense of responsibility for them and even attempted
24 to get custody of them even though he was only in his
25 early 20's and still a young man himself.

1 After his father's passing, my relationship with
2 my son slowly began to change and he did as well. I
3 wasn't sure what was going on with him, but I knew he
4 wasn't himself. He behavior was different and distant and
5 out of character for him. At one point, I even had him
6 Marchman Acted because I was so concerned for his safety
7 and well being. In conjunction with my awareness of this
8 dramatic change in his personality, he also began getting
9 in trouble and getting arrested which was clearly because
10 of his drinking and use of Adderral. I was beginning to
11 feel like my son was passed the point of no return because
12 of how dramatic the change was with him. We went from
13 having dinner together once a week, talking a couple of
14 times a week, and taking family vacations together to
15 almost no contact at all. And when we did speak, he was a
16 totally different person from the son I had always known.

17 Fast forward to July of 2020 which is what brings
18 us here today, he and his wife and their son moved in with
19 me. I didn't know what to expect because it had been a
20 couple of years that the relationship between he and I had
21 been so different, but I am happy to report that our
22 relationship is getting back to where it was before. He
23 has been off of Adderral and also not drinking and there
24 is a clear difference in him. We are getting back to the
25 relationship we've always had and he's back to being the

1 loving and gentle man that I've always known.

2 Tyler did not have it easy growing up. Although
3 he had two parents who loved him dearly and did the best
4 they could, we fell short a lot. He lived with me the
5 majority of his childhood as a single mom working full-
6 time and going to school full-time as well. I was also
7 dealing with a lot of emotional baggage and was developing
8 unhealthy habits and coping skills so it's no surprise
9 that he would travel down the same path. By the grace of
10 God and also the love and support of my family and mostly
11 my sister who is a psychologist and my greatest support
12 system, in 2009, I decided to get some help and started
13 seeing a therapist and also attending AA meetings. As a
14 result, I have been sober now since July of 2009.

15 I grew up in a Christian home with Christian
16 values and church was a regular part of that. I tried to
17 do the same for Tyler and we've been attending University
18 Baptist since the year 2000. Tyler always expressed a
19 desire to know God and has gone to great lengths to get
20 close to Him and strengthen his faith and trust in him.
21 He was very close to my grandmother, his great-grandmother
22 who was very involved in her church and had a strong faith
23 which she shared with David as he was growing up.

24 David befriended a man named Michel Domit who is
25 very well known in Mexico and around the country for being

1 a spiritual leader and guide. David has traveled to
2 Mexico a couple of times to attend spiritual retreats that
3 Michel was leading and became close to Michel over the
4 years speaking to him many times a week.

5 Tyler is a self made entrepreneur and began his
6 first moving company when he was just 20 years old. His
7 first attempt was successful, but he was still learning
8 and ran into a couple of obstacles which led him to close
9 that company and later start another one with some
10 partners. His second attempt was also successful, but yet
11 again a few obstacles led him to close that one which is
12 when he went out on his own and began operating one of the
13 most successful moving companies in the country. He never
14 gave up and he never saw an obstacle too big for him to
15 try and overcome. His resilience and tenacity and drive
16 were and are unstoppable.

17 I would like to emphasize that I am not making
18 excuses for any of Tyler's mistakes, I am simply
19 explaining some of the causes that were contributing
20 factors. I have no doubt in my mind that Tyler had no
21 idea that the decision and mistake he made which brings us
22 here today would ever end up in him being sent to prison
23 or committing a federal crime. He thought that he would
24 have to pay it back worse case scenario, but never did he
25 see this as a possible outcome.

1 Tyler was raised in a family that provided love
2 and support and were law abiding citizens and he has also
3 been that for the better part of his life. He has
4 expressed to me his remorse and shame for the decisions
5 and behavior that he's had for the past couple of years
6 and has also expressed a desire to stay sober and receive
7 support and help for that.

8 I have no doubt in my mind that when my son has
9 completed the sentence that he is facing that he will come
10 out a better and stronger man. He will resume taking care
11 of his wife and son and that he will find his way to
12 success in his personal life as well as his business life
13 and will make all efforts necessary to being a law-abiding
14 productive member of society.

15 I thank you again for your time. I have the
16 utmost respect for your position and I pray that this
17 letter has given you some further guidance on what is
18 appropriate for my son's future.

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