

The Honorable Marcia Gail Cooke,

My name is David Tyler Hines. On May 12th you will impose a sentence against me for the crime I committed. I am guilty and deeply remorseful for my actions. I illegally applied for PPP funds well in excess to what my business was entitled. I fraudulently completed the paperwork and deserve to be punished. I have deeply embarrassed my wife, family and friends, set an awful example for my son, and wronged American taxpayers and other struggling business owners who could have benefitted from the use of those funds.

While it is no excuse, I panicked in the face of desperation. My business was completely decimated by the onset of the Covid pandemic, and I feared for the worst, afraid I wouldn't be able to support my family. I offer this up not as a justification but so that your Honor may better understand my mindset when I committed my crime.

I otherwise saw businesses in the news receiving PPP funds based upon larger requests. I shamefully applied for a much larger amount than to which my business was entitled and then greedily applied for even more once I saw how quickly and easily the money arrived. I also illegally used funds for personal use and other purposes not permitted by Congress under the PPP program.

I am deeply ashamed by what I have done and readily accept the consequences. However, your Honor, this unlawful act represents but a part of my life and I hope that you may take additional factors into consideration.

From May 2015 through April 2020, I owned and operated several businesses providing interstate transportation of household goods. All of my companies have been featured by consumeraffairs.com and consumersadvocate.org as among the "Top 10 Best Moving companies in the Country" based on consumer reviews and independent editorial reviews.

I attribute the success my businesses achieved in the moving industry to the honorable values I instilled in my employees, setting us apart from the competition. The moving industry is filled with irresponsible and opportunistic operators. My companies built a reputation and trustworthiness in helping the thousands of customers who used our services throughout the years.

My companies, moreover, retained an exemplary status with the Department of Transportation as we logged millions of miles in consumer moves. I personally assisted the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in multiple investigations, throughout the years, helping them to locate and take action against companies engaging in moving fraud, helping to maintain integrity in the marketplace.

Separately, I have struggled with drug and alcohol addiction throughout my adult life. My recent illicit and excessive use of Adderall and Xanax over the past few years have deeply impacted my ability to function and make good decisions. My addiction, in no way excuses my behavior. I chose to take drugs and elected to commit my crime. It is, however, something I intend to tackle head on during my time in prison. It may be difficult to believe, but part of me is thankful for getting arrested and being forced to come to terms with my addiction. The alternative of letting it run its course could have landed me in even more dire trouble.

I have been on home confinement for the past ten months since my arrest. During this time, I have thought a lot about my past decisions. I find myself wondering who I had become, wondering how I could commit such a grievous crime. I see just how deeply my selfish and careless decisions impact the ones I love. I also understand how my fraud plays a much larger role in negatively impacting society.

I also realize that part of this process requires me to make amends. For that reason, I quickly accepted guilt and signed a plea agreement. Beginning to tackle my addiction has been the next step in the process. With this letter, I follow through on this ongoing commitment which I will continue during my sentence and beyond. I plan on using my time in prison to improve myself through education and training programs in order to return to my family as a productive member of society.

I have faith that this experience is a part of God's master plan and that it will only yield positive results in my life going forward. I pray that you can feel my sincerity expressed in this letter.
Respectfully,

David Tyler Hines