

Dear Judge,

My name is Diane Brown. I am George Thacker's ex-wife. It is my understanding that you will be sentencing him, and I hope that my letter is of assistance to you. Please know my intention for writing this letter is not to ask for mercy as you decide on what his punishment should be but to provide you some insight into his character and how he has come to be standing before you in your courtroom.

I have known George for 38 years. He is very helpful to anybody in need and is a people person who has never met a stranger. He goes out of his way to help people. He is extremely caring and will always make you smile even in the hardest of times. He has always had an honest work ethic, which is why I cannot believe he ended up in trouble with the law.

When George called and told me that he was being investigated by federal authorities I did not believe it at first. I was confused because it was completely out of character for him. After I found out all the details, I was disappointed and upset that he ruined his county executive position after all he has done for the county.

Our family has been devastated by George's unlawful actions. It causes me stress and I am upset every day because, even though he is my ex-husband, we are still really great friends and he continues to help me, even now. We also have a daughter together and I can not imagine how our lives will change if he is incarcerated.

Since this all started, George has held himself accountable and taken responsibility for everything that has happened. He suffers from anxiety and cannot get a good night's rest because his future is unknown. He talks about how he has let everyone down and he wishes he could turn back the hands of time. He has rectified or has attempted to at every chance he has had.

I believe George is sincerely remorseful for breaking the law. He has stated to me over and over again that his poor choices were not worth the consequences he is now facing. He has demonstrated regret and a desire to be a better person and is making an effort to correct his wrongdoing. He is always looking for ways to contribute to the community. He has continued to provide services for the citizens of Rhea county, just as he did when he was county executive, despite having to resign due to this situation. He continues to provide the community with assistance such as room and board for displaced families at his hotel.

The combination of all these factors has helped heal his spirit. I see his determination and strength, and I am very proud of him. He is doing his best to overcome this chapter

of his life, so he never ends up in this situation again. I know he will do great things once this is over.

Your Honor, I hope that as you determine George's sentence you will consider his efforts to change for the better, his dedication to being an honest man, and the support he has from all of us. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Brown