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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

BRENT RICHARD JOHNSON,
Defendant.

POSITION OF DEFENDANT WITH
RESPECT TO SENTENCING FACTORS

Cases: 2:24-cr-00383

Magistrate Judge: Howard C. Nielson Jr.

Craig R. Johnson, Federal Defense Attorney, hereby submits this “Position of Defendant with Respect to Sentencing Factors” to the Court on behalf of BRENT RICHARD JOHNSON, the Defendant. The Defendant has no objections to any material information, sentencing classification, sentencing guideline ranges, and policy statements contained in or omitted from the presentence report. Defense counsel has conferred in good faith with the United States prosecutors and with probation officer Conrad Kaufman in an attempt to resolve any disputed matters, which do not exist.

The Defendant would respectfully ask the Court to take into account that:

1. On December 2, 2025, Utah Fourth District Court Judge Roger Griffin sentenced the Defendant to three consecutive “15-to-life” prison sentences in case 241100537,

which represents the “hands-on” offense underlying the videotaped evidence in this case. Based on the Utah State Adult Sentencing, Release, & Supervision Guidelines, the Defendant is anticipated to serve at least 345.6 months in the Utah State Prison before his first chance at State parole.

2. Other than this criminal episode, he has no felony criminal history,
3. His psychosexual evaluation notes some important findings:
 - a. *“Mr. Johnson was scored in the Moderate density range of criminogenic needs on the STABLE-2007 and was preliminarily placed in Level II on the Static-99R. When these measures were combined, his composite assessment places him in the Level II category of risk for sexually reoffending.”*
 - b. *“Individuals placed in Level II are considered Below Average Risk using the standardized risk level framework. Most individuals have few identifiable criminogenic needs and have clearly identifiable prosocial resources and strengths. When moderate levels of criminogenic needs are observed, these needs are expected to be transitory, rather than ingrained, problems. The risk of new criminal behavior for individuals in Level II is lower than the average individual convicted of sexually motivated offenses...”*
 - c. *“The combined Static-99R and STABLE-2007 risk assessments placed Mr. Johnson in the Below Average category of risk to reoffend sexually. Individuals at this risk level are typically placed in community settings...”*
4. His character letters show he has been a contributing member of society (see EXHIBIT A).

Dated this 4th day of December, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted:
BRENT RICHARD JOHNSON

By: /s/ Craig R. Johnson
Craig R. Johnson
Federal Defense Attorney

EXHIBIT A

jameswadsworth@me.com

to me, krista 

To Whom It May Concern

I have known Brent Johnson for the past five or six years, and I have been asked by his wife, Julie Smith Johnson, to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of Brent.

Brent has been a neighbor and friend ever since we met. I also have met and had some interaction with his four biological children, but mostly with his two daughters, both of whom attended the same church as me during their high school years.

I maintain an extremely busy schedule, and so I have not taken the time to look up the charges and/or court proceedings related to Brent. In fact, I would prefer to remain neutral about such things. Consequently, I have communicated as a friend with Brent on a fairly regular basis (once or twice a month) until late summer when the demands in my own life have left me little or no time to continue our communication.

I have found Brent to be a good friend. Most importantly, I have found him eager to learn. He has commented to me since his incarceration that he is amazed at my own family relationships, as I have reported to him on several occasions that I have gathered my family together for meals and reunions. I know that Brent has not had many of the advantages that I have had in life. He has had a strained relationship with his father and brother. He tragically lost his first wife, leaving him with four little children to raise. Along the way, it is understandable that Brent may have succumbed to the pressures of life. If so, he is like so many of us.

This I do know. There is a range of punishments that the State can assign to Brent. On the one hand, the State can be heavy-handed and doom the rest of his life for misdeeds that he might have done. On the other hand, as we all know, there are times when the State can be lenient -- sometimes too lenient for those who wish to quarterback from the sidelines.

In this case, I hope the State can find a pathway for Brent that will allow him to make any necessary changes in his life. I hope such a path will enable him to patch up relationships that might have been damaged. In my written communications with him, I see a Brent who is humble and willing to face the terrible conditions of his incarceration with a strange sense of appreciation, despite the unimaginable living conditions of jail.

So it is my sincere recommendation that the State map out a pathway to a new Brent who can, not only mend fences that need mending, but who is willing to learn how to bless others through his experience and be a net positive contributor to his family and society.

James Wadsworth

801-368-9630

jameswadsworth@me.com

Your Honor,

I have known Brent Johnson since July 1993. Since that time, Brent has been loyal, supportive, and compassionate towards me, and my family. I pray you will consider this in your decisions regarding his future.

My first meeting Brent is a great first example of this. I first met Brent when we were both young men at age 19. We had both recently moved to England, trying to figure out our new life in a foreign land amongst strangers. He had arrived in England just one month prior to me. We were playing basketball one Monday, and he saw me, brand new to the area, and clearly unsure of myself and my surroundings, and my outward display of discomfort in my new situation. Brent immediately came over, extended a solid and warm handshake, and befriended me. He had compassion on me. He immediately sought to reassure me, and to give me my very first 'friend' with a friendly face, a friendly smile, and friendly conversation. He encourage me to hang tough and that things would get better. And he was right. He was truly a 'light' to me at that time, when I needed it a lot. I will never that first meeting, and what became a lifetime of friendship.

We have remained friends since that day, some 32 years later. His love and friendship, support, and compassion towards me has remained constant. We all have our challenges, we all have our faults. But, Brent's willingness to serve and give to others, and show love to others, has shown itself to me several times. I have always known Brent to be a man that I rely on to help me if I needed help. He is that kind of a person.

Let me give another example to illustrate. When I was in law school, I took a job in Las Vegas, Nevada at a law firm to be a "summer clerk" during my 2nd year of law school. I had no place to live, and my wife and son were living in California at an apartment there, because that is where I was going to school. We couldn't afford to have two different apartments, and we were locked into the California apartment. I was unsure as to what we were going to do. At that time of my life, Brent happened to be living in Las Vegas with his wife and children (prior to his wife's sudden and tragic passing away due to a surgery complication). Brent learned of my need, and willingly and graciously offered up his home as a place I could stay and live while working at that law firm. He opened up his home, and he and his wife and family treated me so well. They didn't have an abundance, they were striving to make every day count, just like the rest of us. But during that time, he made me feel like family. We ate together, played games together, and shared spiritual experiences together. He was kind, loving, compassionate and supportive of me, and was there for me in my time of need at that point in my life.

Brent has continued to be that in the years that followed. I recognize that each person has their mistakes, and sins, none of us escape that. And we all must account for that. But, I pray and ask for mercy to be extended upon Brent, my dear friend who has extended his hand of mercy to me many times, and was a friend throughout.

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Mon, Nov 17, 2025 at 5:38 PM

To the honorable Judge Griffin

My name is Patrick Pierson, and I have known Brent Johnson for approximately fifteen years. During that time, I have seen Brent through both difficult and successful seasons of life, and he has consistently been a positive and grounding influence in mine.

There were times when I struggled to find employment, and Brent stepped in without hesitation. Most notably, in August of 2021, I went through a divorce and lost my job as an adult probation officer after being unable to complete the police academy. I was facing serious depression and financial hardship. When I reached out to Brent for help, he didn't make me wait or wonder—he told me, "Give me thirty minutes and I'll get you a job." Less than thirty minutes later, he did exactly that.

Brent has always been a man of character, compassion, and integrity. His willingness to serve and support the people around him is not something he does for recognition—it is simply who he is.

One example that stands out is when my niece, Payton, was attacked by her grandmother's dog and nearly lost her eye. Payton required major facial surgeries, and my sister and brother-in-law were overwhelmed by medical bills. Brent, without even knowing my sister personally, offered to help pay some of the expenses. That is the kind of heart he has.

I have also watched Brent interact with my son, and he has always treated him with kindness, encouragement, and genuine care.

From my fifteen years of knowing him, I can confidently say Brent is a good man, a loyal friend, and someone who has consistently lifted others when they were at their lowest. His character has never wavered.

In closing, I respectfully ask the Court to take into consideration the man Brent has consistently proven himself to be—someone who lifts others, takes responsibility, and genuinely cares for the people in his life. Based on my own experiences and the many times Brent has shown up for me, his friends, acquaintances and my family, I can say with confidence that he is a good man at heart. I truly believe he is capable of learning, growing, and continuing to be a positive influence in our community. I respectfully ask the Court to take his character, compassion, and lifelong pattern of helping others into account.

Respectfully,
Patrick Pierson

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Brent Johnson. My name is Julie Johnson and I am the wife of Brent. We have been married for five years. We met in the spring of 2017 and dated until 2020 when we were married.

Brent is a good man. A man that cares deeply about those in his life. He raised his four children on his own for 14 years after his first wife passed away unexpectedly. He raised them to know what's right. He raised them to be hard workers. He raised them to be kind to others.

When I came into his life and he was introduced to my two children, he encircled them with love and tried to teach them the things he had taught his own children. When my children's father stepped away and didn't speak to my children for years, Brent was there to fill that gap. He helped shape my son into the man he has become. He helped me in getting my son on his mission by teaching him gospel principles and guiding him.

I have never been in danger with Brent. My children have never been in danger. His children have never been in danger.

There will be many that write hateful words about Brent, but I know Brent is a loving, caring husband, father and friend. He loves God and he loves his family.

I ask that you consider all of these facts.

Sincerely,

Julie Johnson