

Aaron,

It was my intention to get up today and talk myself; however, my first priority has always been protecting my daughter's identity as much as possible. For this reason I have asked that Mr. Marquis read this on my behalf due to the likelihood that the media is present here today. As my daughter's coach, I trusted that you would be there to teach my daughter, to encourage her, and to act as a role model for her. Never did I imagine that 3 months later I would be left having to pick up the pieces of a child I hardly recognized. During the season I became concerned after seeing the amount of texting you were doing with my daughter and I shared my concerns with you on two separate occasions. Each time you assured me that you were just trying to be a role model to her. I monitored the texting and saw that it had stopped, so I was left with a false sense of security. Little did I know that this level of communication was continuing to occur behind my back, despite my requests as her parent, through her Ipad. Not only did the communication continue outside of your role as her coach, but you continued to develop a relationship with her far beyond the parameters that any coach, let alone any adult man, should have with a young teenage girl.

Aaron, your actions have caused incredible heartache and stress for not only our daughter, but our entire family. The amount of guilt I have experienced as a mom who did not realize the level of harm that was occurring right before my eyes creates an indescribable hurt. Still after 10 months, a day doesn't go by that I don't replay this whole nightmare in my head and worry about her well-being. From the beginning of this experience I shared a quote with my daughter – "When something bad happens you have three choices: you can either let it define you, you can let it destroy you, or you can let it strengthen you." As a family and through some key staff members and friends at her school, we have wrapped our arms around her and worked diligently to not allow your actions to destroy nor define this child.

Despite a few comments to the contrary, our daughter was not a troubled girl from a troubled home. She has been raised in a home with high values, lots of love, and with family that has always been actively involved in all aspects of her life. This child is loved and cherished by her family more than words could ever express. I am the mom you see sitting in the stands at every home game, driving my kids to youth group, entertaining their friends, and being actively involved in my kids' educational lives on a consistent basis. Just because she doesn't visit her biological father, this does not make her a troubled teen from a troubled home. While I understand that "blame the victim" comments are likely to occur during investigations, they have deeply hurt me as a mother for I have always put my kids first in my life.

From the beginning our family has vowed to hold our heads up, surround ourselves with positive people, and to allow the justice system to do its job. We did not respond to the media's attempts to contact us for comments, nor did we use social media to share our views about this experience with others. It has been difficult to know that you have allowed a Facebook page to be used as a format to portray you as a man of honesty and integrity who is being falsely accused by your "enemies". I am not your enemy, my daughter is not your enemy..... you are your own enemy, Aaron. Believe me, we would never wish this experience on anyone and would prefer to not be going through it ourselves.

After becoming aware of hard evidence in this case and my daughter's consistent reporting, my support of this plea bargain in no way reflects a change in my belief that the original charges

were appropriate. My support of this plea bargain is my gift to my daughter, so that she may move forward without having further pain that a trial will likely cause and the negative impact it may have on all of the progress she has made. I feel that strict probation, evaluations, and any indicated treatment should be in place as a part of this plea bargain. I want to be clear that even after any probation you may receive is over, I do not want any contact to be made with my daughter. You have already done enough damage to her and our family in the short amount of time we have known you. My ultimate hope is that you can find it in yourself to be honest about your actions toward my daughter, so that both of our families can move forward and you can get the help you need.

From – victim's mother