

Jan. 6, 2007
11378 Laffite PL
Port Charlotte FL
33981

Dear Dr. Weinstein,

It has been several years since you came to Florida on behalf of my grandchildren Katelynn and Alexis Pelletier. I have been meaning to write for some time to let you know how the girls are doing. (Reminder : Their mother was severely mentally ill and having multiple relationships. She had falsely accused my son David of spousal abuse and later admitted in court that she had made the whole story up as retaliation. Several area women's groups such as SPARKS were protecting and enabling her. Her lawyer was Mary Ann Floyd.) You came down twice in the late 90's and David was miraculously given primary custody. We were dismayed that she was given some unsupervised visitation but that situation took care of itself.

Melissa (the mother) combined drugs and alcohol, ended up institutionalized on several occasions and basically turned her back on the children. (She also has two older children from a previous marriage.) After three years of not seeing the children she got court ordered visitation. The children were 5 and 6 by this time and not overly receptive to her. Finally at Christmas four years ago she told them she was "done with them" and that if they wanted a relationship they would later have to initiate it. Several months later she gave David sole parental custody in exchange for him forgiving her the thousands of dollars she never paid for in child support. We always maintained that the children were more important than money to us and also knew she'd never pay it. Since then the mom has only seen the girls twice when I invited her to watch them dance in parades in her area. She never calls or sends cards or

letters, even at birthdays or Christmas. I do call her and send her photos from time to time to let her know that the girls are doing fine.

Katelynn is now 9 and in the third grade. She has ADD and scoliosis but is functioning very well in school. Alexis is 10 and in the fifth grade. She plays xylophone in her school band. Both girls also play the fiddle and sing and are champion Irish dancers. They have won trophies in many competitions and had the privilege of dancing in front of the DC Capitol building for the past two years. They have danced at Disney and EPCOT and will again this winter perform dance duets with Irish entertainer and singer Cahal Dunne during his three months of shows in this area.

Both girls are also very active in our church and enjoy using their spare time to entertain patients in veteran and nursing homes. They have danced for Relay for Life, Shamrocks for Cancer, Right to Life and other area fund raisers. They each were presented a plaque from our local Elks club which named them Junior Volunteer of the Year for 2006 for Sarasota County. We are so proud of them both.

I wanted to write to you not to brag, but to let you know that you did the right thing when you represented these two little girls in court. I imagine you might have wondered over the years how things turned out since at the time I was in a floundering marriage and David was so young. I want to thank you again so much for taking the time to care.

Sincerely,
Brenda Pelletier (New# 941-473-0569)
Brenda Pelletier

PS Please feel free to publish or share this letter and photos.

** The older photo was taken right around the time you came to their aid.*