

Date: Sat, 08 Aug 2009 10:31:02 AM EDT

Subject: For Andrew on August 8, 2009

Dear Andrew,

We need to tell you a story --- a sad and troubling story because it is about your mother's wrongful actions during the past two years. It's part of your family history that you need to know about. So we write it now for you and are hopeful that you will be able someday to read and to understand it.

This story begins the morning of Friday, August 3, 2007. Your father dropped you off at your daycare center in Mequon, Wisconsin on his way to work. You had spent the previous two nights with him in his home in Milwaukee. This daycare center was near to where your mother was living and working. She had lived there since February 14, 2007. On that day she left your father and their apartment in Milwaukee, where she had been living with you and your father. She filed for divorce on February 19. The Milwaukee County Court issued an order in March that your parents would share custody of you and set up a placement schedule that both of them were to follow.

On Sunday night, August 5, 2007 your mother sent your father an e-mail message stating she was not going to work and would keep you home from daycare on Monday, August 6, and Tuesday, August 7. On Wednesday, August 8, at 4:00 PM your father went to pick up you up from daycare according to the Milwaukee County Court placement order. Your daycare center staff informed him that you had not been there all day and that no parent had called in telling them you would be absent that day. They had tried calling your mother on her cell phone, but she never answered or called back.

Your father immediately called his attorney, Keith Wessel, to tell him that you were gone and to ask what he should do. Keith Wessel called your mother's attorney, Peter Ramirez. Attorney Ramirez said that he had not heard from your mother in two weeks. He had tried calling her, but he couldn't reach her. He was concerned because her phone at her residence was disconnected and her phone at work was forwarded to another employee.

The Milwaukee County Court was informed that your mother had disappeared with you in violation of the Court's custody orders. Since then your mother has been charged by the State of Wisconsin with two felony crimes: Interference with Child Custody of Other Parent and Interference with Custody beyond Visitation. There is a warrant out for her arrest because of what she did on August 8, 2007.

That same evening (Wednesday, August 8), while your father was on his way back to his home in Milwaukee, he went to your mother's apartment in Mequon to see if she was there. He was told by her landlord that she moved out two days ago. Her landlord would not give him any information about a forwarding address for your mother. Your father had no idea where she had gone and where you were, and he was very upset and worried about you. He was determined to find you and to get you back. After he got home, he contacted the Milwaukee Police Department, who issued a Missing Person Report for you.

On August 15 your father received a phone call from Officer Ortiz from the Sensitive Crimes Division at the Milwaukee Police Department. He told your father that the Police Department in Queretaro has confirmed that you and your mother were at her mother's house in Queretaro, Mexico. By leaving the USA with you and taking you to Mexico in violation of the Milwaukee County Court custody orders, your mother also violated the Hague Agreement. This is an international treaty that both Mexico and the USA have signed which governs child custody issues. According to this agreement, your mother should obey the Milwaukee County Court custody orders and return you to Milwaukee.

However, your mother continued her wrongful actions. After she arrived in Mexico with you in August 2007, she told the Mexican police lies about your father to justify her actions in leaving the USA with you and to stop them from immediately returning you to your father in Milwaukee. In the Fall of 2007 she sought custody of you in the Queretaro Court. By doing this she hoped that this court would overrule the Milwaukee County Court custody orders that required her to return you to Milwaukee and your father. In the Fall of 2008 the Queretaro Court ruled that your mother had violated the Hague Agreement and that you should be returned to your father in Milwaukee. Under the Mexican Constitution a citizen has a right to file an appeal, or "amparo", to a court ruling. Your mother misused this constitutional right and filed such an appeal to stop you from being reunited with your father, in defiance of the Milwaukee County Court and the Queretaro Court. Unfortunately, this case is still bogged down in the Mexican court system. Fortunately, your father is not giving up on you. He

continues to do the right thing to fight on to regain custody of you with the help of the U.S. State Department and the Mexican Central Authority.

Dear grandson, you have lost and continue to lose so much because of your mother's wrongful actions two years ago. She selfishly defied and continues to defy the Milwaukee County Court custody ruling. This court holds that a child has a right to the love and care of both of his parents and therefore the parents must share the custody of the child. During these past two years your father has been with you for only one hour's supervised visit in a Queretaro family court room. Your mother has forced your father to spend thousands of dollars to get her to obey the Milwaukee County Court custody ruling. This money should have been spent on your care and education --- not on lawyers' fees.

Your mother is not an evil woman, but what she has done is evil. Like you and all humankind, she is a child of God. However, she has wronged and continues to wrong many people by her actions: you, your father, herself, our family, and her own family. We forgive her and pray for her.

May the Lord's Peace be with you,
Grandpa and Grandma Richardson