

It's time to talk. Things are about to change and I need you to be straight with me. I know that you were convicted of perjury and that the courts were able to prove your citizenship. I know that you were sentenced to 24 months, and I'm pretty sure that you were done serving that a while ago. I know that you are trying to sue everyone under the sun for your treatment. I know that if they send you back to Canada, there is nothing to say you can't just cross the border again in the middle of the night. Maybe you're just biding your time, waiting for one of these lawsuits to be ruled in your favor. Maybe you are trying to get the system to compensate you for the additional time you've been in. Maybe you are expecting that you will be able to get out, stay in the country, and have a settlement that will set you up nice. No doubt this is what your lawyer is telling you that you are entitled to. Regardless, I refuse to believe that you haven't given any thought to what's going to happen if this ideal ending doesn't pan out the way you want. I'm not exactly sure what you thought would happen when you contacted me and maybe I wasn't as aggressive about stating it, but I've told you from the very first letter that I want G [REDACTED] with me. Seeing him only strengthened that resolve. Now...The custody paperwork is going to have to change regardless. Primarily because he is in school and 2 weeks with each parent won't work. Question is - whether to go for sole custody or not. Here are my thoughts on why sole custody might work better;

1. Potential situation: I shell out the money to begin modifying the custody agreement for joint time but something more reasonable and you are deported. Now I have to spend additional money to modify the paperwork that has already been submitted. I don't have the resources to keep paying a lawyer to change paperwork halfway through the process.

2. Sole custody gives you an equal say into a couple of points that I'm not sure we agree on - primarily schooling. I understand that you want to just kind of ignore any issues with G [REDACTED]'s eyesight and pretend nothing is wrong. This is a fine approach for now, but it will cause problems for him later on. There are certain ways that schools are willing to assist to make things a little easier for him (an example is requesting the school to allow G [REDACTED] to turn in his homework typed instead of hand-written. If he can learn how to type, he can complete his homework without even having to look at the paper.) There are also certain exercises he needs to be doing to strengthen the eye that still has sight. With the right balance of strengthening exercises and rest, there's no reason he shouldn't be able to retain sight forever. I'm not prepared to ask your permission or approval to give him what he needs.

3. Of the two of us, I have the better track record for remaining fair to both parents. There is some miscommunication somewhere as Liz has implied (more than once) that if G [REDACTED] came to live with me that he would not be allowed to see you. I have no idea where this idea came from, but it couldn't be further from the truth. After being separated from my child for so long, why in the world would I be responsible for doing that to someone else - I know how much it hurts. Not only would I be fair as far as

time spent with each parent (provided you can stay in the country), I have no problem bringing him down to see you at the detention facility if it's something you and he are comfortable with. I honestly don't trust that if you do get out and you are allowed to stay, that you won't up and take off with him again...I can't handle that. Not again.

Now here is where I'm at a cross-roads and I'm not sure which decision to go. G [REDACTED] would like to finish and graduate 5th grade with his class and friends. I understand how important that is and I would like to be able to give that to him. It would afford me time to get situated into a new place, get things in order and set up for him and it would give us lots of visiting time before he comes out. He will have to change schools at that point anyway so the timing would be good. However, I will not chance that you get out, get something else into your head and make it hell for me to be with him. Unfortunately you can tell me your intentions as many times as you want, but I know the pain that comes from trusting you. So, do I make a move now or do I wait. I'm sure you've spoke with Liz and G [REDACTED] and they've told you that I'm a big bad monster that's going to come snatch him up and tear him away regardless of his feelings. This again couldn't be further from the truth. I am going out the weekend following this one to spend some one on one time with him, where I'm hoping he and I can figure something out that makes both of us happy - but please keep in mind, it is not his decision. It is not fair to make a child decide between staying with the only life he's ever known and going out and living with a stranger he barely knows in a place he is uncertain about. No child would make the decision to leave. It's too scary with too many unknowns and that is far too heavy of a burden to place on the shoulders of a 10 year old kid. So although his desire is most certainly taken into account, I will not leave the decision up to him. As a parent, I will make that call on my own...unless you care to provide some input from your side. I make no promises to you or to Liz - G [REDACTED] is the only one I will be making any promises too.

I'm sure this letter probably pisses you off. My direction now is different from the conversations we've previously had regarding G [REDACTED]. I'm not going to explain to you why there is a difference now as I'm sure you could probably figure it out given a little bit of thought and I'm not going to apologize. You had the first 10 years...it's my time now. The intent of writing this to you is so that you know where I'm at mentally and why. I would rather not rip him out of California abruptly, but I will take that route over the possibility of losing him or having someone else dictate the terms of our relationship ever again.