

8489 S. County Farm Rd. Claypool, IN 46510
09/20/2018

Honorable Judge Cates,

Thank you for allowing me to speak in your court room. I'd like to start off by addressing a few statements that were made on behalf of my character that I believe need to be pointed out.

My wife and I are not having a baby nor are we trying to have a baby at this time or in the recent past. Also I was never in a fight in my entire school career; meaning no one was injured or took their life because of a fight with me. Those are the things spoken about me that I wanted to address during this time.

Unfortunately we are here today because of my actions, and my actions alone. No one else can take blame for the things that I have done. I would like to talk to you about the man that I am today compared to the person I was then.

Back then I was selfish, immature, manipulative, cold hearted, weak, and confused. I hurt a lot of the people I love most. I lost a shot at a career that I was passionate about, my home, friends, family, finances and almost lost my marriage. I lost these things because of my choices. I want to own up to my faults, actions and pain that I have caused. I knowingly violating the perimeters of the law and would like to thoroughly communicate this is not a "woe-is-me" statement. It is an acknowledgement of wrong doing and lose due to my actions.

To the Howard family, I would like to say from the deepest part of my heart that I am sorry. I abused your trust, manipulated and deceived you.

To Jim and Amy specifically, I would like to say that again I am sorry, I can't imagine being the parent of not just one but two children walking through this situation. It grieves me to know I am the one that caused this pain and I would like to ask for your forgiveness.

To Aliyah I would like to say that I am sorry as well. I was the adult. I should have never crossed the line let alone come anywhere near it. It hurts me to know that this has caused you so much pain and lose. I never intended to hurt anyone. I would like to ask for your forgiveness.

Today I am a completely different man. Deciding to accept my wife's plea to stay married and work to have a healthy relationship is the best decision I have ever made. Since then our lives have transformed. Both individually and together we have seen Jesus Christ do miracles in our lives. Through counseling, lots of prayer and support; our marriage has never been healthier. Also through counseling my personal mindset and lifestyle has never been healthier.

I have had relationships mended and restored. I have an amazing job where I have been able to gain more responsibility and influence. My wife and I have tithed at least 10% of our income every week for a year without missing once. This is all do to the radical transformation that I received through Christ. This is not to say that my life has been easy. I still have struggles,

and I do not believe I am perfect and without flaw. I work hard everyday to be a good man. As humans we all have the ability to make bad, harmful decisions but we also have within us the power to change and remedy things to the best of our ability. I believe that I am doing that everyday.

With the utmost respect for your position and ability to evaluate someones character. With the understanding that my choices effect the rest of my life I am asking for grace and leniency. I have a deep desire to serve my family and protect them. I value my freedoms as an American citizen. I don't want this mistake to consume the rest of my life keeping me captive and unable to have constitutional rights and build a life with my wife. I make the promise today that you will never see me again on this side of the court room.

Thank you again for allowing me to speak. I don't take this opportunity for granted.

Dylan James Houser