

BLAIR FAMILY STATEMENT

Our family is heartbroken by the judgement in Alex's case. He is being sent to a place that will not help society and definitely not Alex, who has suffered pain throughout his life. This has been a nightmare that has no end. Please pray for our family, especially Alex, who in no way deserves what is coming. He is not a threat to society. In fact, placing him in prison will expose him to a life that could seriously harm him, take away his loving, empathetic nature and good heart that he now possesses. He now knows the severity of his charges where before his mindset was just obtaining a lasting friendship that has turned into a lasting nightmare.

To give some history, Alex was adopted as a baby. He has Williams Syndrome, which was confirmed by a FISH test performed at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. This syndrome involves missing chromosome 7, which affects approximately 17 genes. This, of course, in turn, affects many aspects of physical health, mental health and decision making.

He was born with ventricular septal defect and went into congestive heart failure at about 3 weeks old and was immediately placed in the hospital. He struggled with developmental delays--delayed walking and talking, which were addressed early on. Medically, he has had to deal with his VSD, strabismus which was operated, scoliosis which has been addressed but is still very bothersome. He has severe gastric issues and quite acute hearing making noise very bothersome. Alex has ADHD and anxiety. He suffers from depression from what he has had to deal with, but he bravely trudges on. Also, because of his Williams Syndrome his life expectancy is shortened.

We would also like to point out a side issue involved with Alex's disability. We have tried 3 times to obtain disability for Alex and have been denied each time. I believe the denials are partly because of the rarity of Williams Syndrome, and if anything good comes from Alex's plight, maybe more focus on this genetic syndrome will prove helpful. This is a rare syndrome, affecting about 1 in 20,000 people, and bringing it to the public's attention may help those who suffer from it. He has no health insurance but has multiple health issues from a syndrome that we think should be classified as a disability. (There are many articles out there that explain this syndrome and research regarding it.)

Another aspect of this syndrome involves being empathetic, loving, wanting to please, and sometimes making poor decisions, especially in making friends and keeping them. Those with Williams are very social, but are different, so this causes difficulty in making friends.

It is sad that Alex, by chance, met Mr. Booker, who befriended him about a month or so before the incident at Ft. Riley. Mr. Booker, who apparently suffers from mental illness, was involved in a sting by the FBI, which I believe had been going on for over a year. Alex was at our home on April 10th at the time of the incident at Ft. Riley involving Mr. Booker and had been home the days before. Alex disagreed with Mr. Booker. He did not participate in the incident with Mr. Booker. Alex is guilty of wanting a friend, using bad judgement in associating with Mr. Booker, and in lending him \$100 when he knew it was for no good. Alex is loving and does not have a mean bone in his body and certainly wishes that no harm comes to anyone. Mr. Booker manipulated Alex throughout their short relationship. Mr. Booker called the shots and Alex followed like a puppy. Alex has had no criminal charges whatsoever before these charges. His poor judgement goes along with the characteristics of Williams Syndrome,

being very loving, empathetic, not recognizing the danger, and above all wanting friendship, as we all do. This is a rare syndrome which only affects about 1 in 20,000 people.

Alex has sought and lost 3 jobs during his 1&1/2 years probation because of his situation. He has put out a lot of effort throughout his life to overcome his disability and has made considerable progress. To see his progress and then see him regress and most likely harmed in this situation is beyond comprehension in light of his loving and trusting nature.

We want to thank Attorney Christopher Joseph and his staff for their great understanding of Alex's situation and their superb expertise in handling his case. They made a great effort in Alex's behalf and kept us well informed.

This has been a nightmare, but having a loving family, neighbors and associates has kept us strong.

THE BLAIR FAMILY