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RE: Amanda and Ryan Lawrence

I am writing because Amanda and Ryan have experienced intense emotional abuse over many years in Joanne's second marriage to Dewey.

This past Monday, October 9, 2017 I called Joanne to obtain Ryan's address as I wanted to send a birthday note for his fortieth. Joanne and Dewey have sealed communications. Dewey answered the phone and I said, "Can I talk to your bride?", he passed the phone to Joanne and I said, "this is the father of your children and I would appreciate Ryan's address as I want to send him a birthday note". Joanne muffled the phone to talk to Dewey and then hung up. Ryan is required to maintain his address with the government and if he loses his job, it will be his mother and stepfather that caused the problem.

In general, Dewey has always been a reckless and narcissistic personality who never considered the emotional needs of Amanda and Ryan. The impact of his behavior on the children has always been negative. Dewey is the "General" and Joanne is his "private". Joanne has given him authority over decisions regarding the children. It appears she is afraid of him or simply feels incompetent.

In 1985, when Joanne was teaching kindergarten in Prairie Elementary School, Dewey was a 5th grade divorced teacher in the same school. Amanda and Ryan were enrolled in the first and second grade. Dewey kept stalking Joanne until she gave in and started an affair with this deranged man who negotiated his way into my home during our marriage. Amanda and Ryan played on the street and everyone knew me. Despite this situation, Joanne brought this stranger into our house before the divorce. Throughout their marriage they lacked common sense and common decency toward the children.

I tried to talk to her and when asked why she wanted a divorce, she told me on two occasions "Just Because". Considering a divorce meant significant changes to the well-being of the children, I took her to a well-known psychologist and she simply sat in a disinterested way never saying a word (as Dewey commanded). The psychologist said he could not establish respect between us and threw us out of his office. After several years I realized that your family lived in a rural area and many men were hunters. I was a city boy and a golfer. She was attracted to a lifestyle similar to her childhood and walked away from our two beautiful children giving me custody every day school was legally closed. She walked away from two homes to a life in an apartment that represented a perceived "comfort zone" of living with guns and the monthly NRA magazine.

They maintained an extended affair before marriage and Joanne was told by Dewey never to talk to me. She was told NEVER to talk to the father of her children and she **LISTENED**. Joanne's behavior toward the children was and is stupid!! Because of this dramatic change, the children were unable to properly cope with the cruel emotional environment that evolved when Joanne was not allowed to communicate with me – the children were scared. When they bought a house, the children were not allowed to eat at the dinner table as a blended family. They had to sit in their rooms until Joanne and Dewey finished. They were terrified of living with a man they did not know.

We decided that as a single man, Dewey's forceful determination to break up our marriage was reason for his termination from the school district. The superintendent, Dr. Willard wanted to keep him in the same school. As a compromise, he was moved to the middle school. I was surprised that the principal, Alice Gruenberg did not have the managerial skills to fire him. I bought the marital home to give the children access to their friends. The superintendent was angry and mailed me an invoice for \$7,000. When calling his office, I was informed that property taxes include educational expenses only if the owner of the house is a woman. We went to court and the judge agreed with me and the \$7,000 was rescinded for me and every other man in the state who owned a home where the school district attempted to impose an additional tax.

She signed the divorce decree, however, when I took Ryan to a Little League game, she showed up, a violation of the decree as it was my custody time. If she would have established a normal secondary family unit with me and the children, Joanne could have called and asked if she could attend the game with me. She shows up and following Dewey's law of not talking, says nothing. I got hot and said, "You wanted this agreement, it is my legal custody time, so get out of here". Ryan was on the ballfield and he became upset and it left a scar for life. All because Dewey told her not to talk to me and she obeyed like a "dog".

When they retired to a community of 2,300 in Colorado, Dewey had an affair with a waitress. Joanne did not know what to do so she told Ryan. Ryan was living in Florida and told me. I explained, sexual problems in a marriage should not be discussed with children. These issues should be worked out with a therapist.

Ryan had many emotional problems from the way they managed their relationships in divorce and Amanda had many marriages and live-in relationships (I do not know the father(s) of her children. Amanda is raising two children without a husband and this is a result of the decision's the Menters made in their marriage toward the children. In my opinion, Joanne should have called someone in your family and explained she was too impulsive in her second marriage and asked for advice as to what to do. Clearly, she should have divorced him. Instead, she dragged the children through a very bad second marriage.

More important than his affair, I mailed a letter to Joanne asking her to meet me at Ft. Hood so we could spend time as an extended family before Ryan's third tour of Iraq. **Dewey said Joanne could not meet me**. I believe Ryan is still hurt by that situation and many others. Somehow, they lied and lied to sever the parental bond from me.

Regarding the children, Joanne has been IRRESPONSIBLE in letting this mentally deprived stepfather make decisions that benefited him and not Amanda and Ryan. Joanne has a college degree in elementary education and has acted consistently in a thoughtless manner. With her college degree she is unable to raise her children.

I have money that I would like to leave in my will for the children, however, they do not talk to me, (Amanda eleven years and Ryan six years). So, I took them out of my will. I believe the money would be meaningful to their lifestyle. I believe Dewey may have listed Ryan as his child on a web site. This was the crowning blow to my life in living with this situation; I called the attorney and had Ryan taken out of my will. Amanda never wanted any money. Like her mother, Joanne's motto has always been "Money is not important".

Over many years, Joanne and Dewey said horrific things about me to separate me from the children. I had warm, loving, fun relationships with Amanda and Ryan. Maybe they were trying to cover their own quilt by separating me? Amanda

and Ryan never called to discuss why they were upset with me. They simply stopped contacting me. It is true that I do not like Joanne. They can still have a relationship with their mother. They told the children to block my emails and to not allow me, my sister and her son to view their life on Facebook.

Dewey did **NOT** want me involved in their marriage from the beginning. He wanted to be the surrogate parent and Joanne gave him permission to fill that role. For example, Ryan was in an SUV rollover accident and Joanne did not call to let me know. Joanne has **not** called in thirty-two years regarding the children. Dewey and Joanne fabricated that I should never meet my grandchildren and convinced Amanda that was appropriate. They wanted Dewey to be the male role model in the grandchildren's life. Amanda let me know that I would **never** meet my grandchildren. However, she did not let me know why. Attached find Ryan's "mug shot" from a DUI I found on the web. I was never notified. How long will Ryan stay on "mother's milk?"

The children cried profusely in the beginning because of the slanderous comments conveyed to Joanne and ordered by Dewey to tell the children. This was his effort to alienate me. He never cared about the feelings of the children, he only cared about his narcissist need to separate me from the children and form a separate family unit where the children would not remember me. I told Amanda not to be close to her mother because she was a bad role model. So, Joanne cons her way to live close to Amanda. A psychiatrist would likely find sociopathic* behavioral traits in Dewey and my children have spent much time in their house. Dewey is a man of negligible character and likely low self-esteem. He displayed little ethical and moral behavior throughout my association. He lives a life of power over his wife and Amanda and Ryan. (*Medically, sociopathy is termed as an antisocial personality disorder. It is defined as "a mental health condition in which a person has a long-term pattern of manipulating, exploiting, or violating the rights of others.").

Dewey is a surrogate parent and anything related to the children should have been handled by Joanne or in conversation with me. I would have talked with her objectively for the benefit of the children. Dewey should have separated himself from Amanda and Ryan and they should undo the contrived falsehoods and work toward bringing me in contact with my children. It is in the best interest of the children!

Regarding Dewey and Joanne, it is best to believe little, if anything they say regarding Amanda and Ryan.

Amanda and Ryan are living with emotional trauma/distress due to Dewey's long-term control and Joanne's compliant behavior to his commands.

When your female children were pregnant, did any of them tell you that you would **NEVER** meet or see your grandchildren?

I will give Ryan a \$5,000 birthday gift if he will visit me in Florida, arriving on a Saturday and leaving the following Saturday.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,

