

August 11, 2015

To whom it may concern:

RE: Michael Anderson (myself)

I'm currently 17 years old. I had a pretty good childhood. When I was 8, my parents were having some issues so we moved to Austin, TX to try and start over. We lived there for about a year before moving to Kansas City, MO. Again, we lived there for about a year. My mom moved back to the Portland, Oregon area to begin a new job. My dad, sister and I moved back a couple of months later after the school year was over. Life was pretty good for a couple of months, but my parents started having issues again. Around Christmas time, they decided to divorce. My sister and I decided to stay with my mom in Portland while my dad moved back to Bend. I went through a lot without my dad around and started getting into trouble. After about a year, I decided I wanted to live with my dad as life at home with mom wasn't working out.

I began living with my dad in October of 2011. I attended Sky View Middle School in Bend and was doing okay, but not great. Unfortunately, I started hanging out with the wrong crowd and began to get into deeper trouble. I started Redmond Proficiency Academy as a freshman, but by then, I was really starting to get into a lot of trouble. I ended up going to juvenile detention for about 4 and ½ months. I was placed into hands of the Oregon Youth Authority, staying in Hood River and The Dalles and attending the Klahre House program. My school work began to change and I was actively involved in my studies.

In November of 2014, I was released 2 months early for progressing rapidly through the program and showing an interest in going home and resuming a normal life. I re-entered Redmond Proficiency Academy during the January term and then the following spring term. I completed 3 classes with an A and 2 B's. One of the classes I withdrew from was a college level class that I wasn't able to complete. The other one, a math class, I got too far behind so I withdrew. I did attend June (summer) term and completed the required assignments to make that class up. Although as of now, the records have not been updated to reflect that. In addition, I was removed completely from the Oregon Youth Authority's probation and guardianship in April after completing additional family counselling and 80+ hours of community service.

I've become very interested in sports, football in particular. And while my past school work wasn't the best, I have made significant strides to turn my life around, being more involved in my schoolwork and starting to be the person I'd like to be.

I understand that if granted a waiver, I will be under extra rules as far as attendance and schoolwork and I completely accept that.

Thank you for your time,

Michael Anderson

August 11, 2015

To whom it may concern at OSAA;

I'm writing this letter today to implore you to let my son Michael Edward Anderson play football this year despite that fact that he is deficient on his credits. You see, Michael is a special kid who deserves a break. I know that all mothers think that their child is special but I want to share with you why my son is unique and deserves a chance.

Michael has had a long struggle with anxiety and depression for many years. His father and I split up about 6 years ago now and this event triggered a downward spiral for Michael. I tried everything to help him including family counseling, visits to a child psychologist, etc. but Michael got progressively worse. He was frequently suspended, got in trouble with the law and was almost unmanageable at home. When I could no longer parent him, Michael went to live with his dad in the hopes that a 2 parent household would give him more stability. Michael's behavior continued to become worse until eventually he got in enough trouble that he was sentenced to the Oregon Youth Authority.

It was heartbreaking to let our child be locked up but it turned out to be serendipitous. Michael was placed in a youth treatment facility in Hood River and little by little, those amazing people broke down the walls Michael had built around himself. Michael began to laugh again and dream of his future again. On his bucket list were simple things that most of us take for granted like going to a regular school, getting their driver's license, finding a girlfriend, getting a job and playing sports. This short list of goals was what helped Michael get through his time and helped him to focus on a positive future.

Michael was released last November and I'm proud to say that that negative, anxious brooding stranger that my son had become has disappeared from his life forever. His transformation has been remarkable and with each passing day he grows and matures into the man I knew he could be. He emerged a fine young man and I'm proud to say Michael has crossed off all but one of the items on his list which is to play sports.

Michael started football practice this summer and it has been a pleasure to see what a positive effect that the sport has had on him. Not only is he in the best physical shape of his life but he is enjoying the camaraderie with the other boys. That may sound uncomplicated to you but my son has never had the chance to even be on a team because of all the problems in his past and it's like a miracle to me!

This year, Michael will be a senior at Redmond Proficiency Academy. This is his last year to compress what remains of his childhood into a single year. One of the things he has been looking forward to most is playing football with his friends while his family and his girlfriend cheer him on from the stands.

I'm begging you to please make an exception for Michael. I can tell you with a mother's objectivity that my son is far from perfect but he has come so far in such a short amount of time that he has proven he is worthy of this chance. Please let him enjoy this last year of his youth by simply letting him play his favorite sport.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

With gratitude,

Denise Martinez

08-11-15

I am writing this letter to give you some background of Michael E. Anderson. Michael got into trouble and doing things he should not have done. It's now in his past and he wants to move forward in the correct direction. He has learned his lesson and he needs football. Michael went through a lot of therapy and did his time. I have seen a tremendous turnaround of Michael since he got back home. He is trying very hard. I had two sons, one being Michael's Father. When we were raising our Sons we kept them busy with every sport we knew they would enjoy. Sports really helps kids to stay on the straight and narrow. Our theory was, if you keep their minds focused on the right things and keep them busy, they won't get into trouble. Well, it worked! Neither one of my sons ever got into any trouble, as they were too busy with their sports. Michael has been through a lot of tough times and if we let him play football, that's what he'll keep focused on. I know Michael will get his credits done and he'll get caught up so he can graduate. Michael is a great kid and he knows his mistakes he made and he now is trying very hard to keep his mind focused on the things that will help him to achieve his successes. Michael got his first job this summer and from what I understand, he's doing very well at his job. Please allow Michael to play football in his senior year. I know it will help him.

Thank You,

Sharon L. Anderson

August 11, 2015

To Whom It May Concern;

Re: Michael Anderson

I am Michael's maternal grandmother. Seeing Michael today as a young man warms my heart. He has come a long way.

Michael has been through some pretty rough times in his 17 years. Michael's family moved several times. He started school in Bend, moved to Texas for 1 school year, then to Missouri for 1 year. Back to Portland (changing schools more than once, in Portland).

The family was torn apart by divorce when Michael was about 12 years old, for 2 years he lived with his mother and sister. Being away from his father at such a crucial time caused Michael so many problems. Michael is living in Redmond now with his father and step mother. (He is very happy there)

I have witnessed such a change in Michael in the last year. He is a caring, positive, goal oriented young man. He is very responsible and willing to work. I am of course a proud grandparent.

Michael has always loved sports, it was something he and his father always shared. I feel he will put whatever effort and time is required to participate in a team sport. He's a great kid.

Sincerely,

Glenda Beckman