

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter on behalf of our nephew, Justin Perkins, requesting he be considered for eligibility to play football due to hardship. Justin recently moved to Oregon from Southern California to live with us.

Unfortunately, Justin experienced some very difficult experiences during the past year and a half, leading him to make some very poor choices, which then, landed him in trouble. There was a lot of strife in Justin's home between the kids and their father. Child Protective Services visited the house multiple times. Eventually, Justin and his younger sister went to live with their grandparents. In June of last year Justin's grandfather died. Justin was extremely close to his grandfather, who was a very stabilizing force in his life, always encouraging him to keep his grades up, choose good friends and to play football. This was a very difficult time for Justin and when he went back to live with his parents life became increasingly more difficult. He wasn't getting along at all with his dad and they were arguing a lot. Justin then started hanging out with the wrong crowd. His friends started encouraging him to go to parties, drink and smoke pot. He also quit caring about school and his grades suffered tremendously. During this time Justin's younger sister also got into trouble and was placed in a juvenile detention center. After some time, his sister ran away from the detention center and got caught up in a Human Trafficking. The stress of home and his sister's situation caused Justin to act out even more. The family was receiving threats from his sister's pimp and Justin was getting threats from the pimp's girlfriend via social media. He and his dad continued to argue, and he started smoking pot and drinking more. Eventually left home for a little while. During this time he had an adverse reaction to alcohol and/or drugs which caused him to have a seizure. He ended up at the hospital, but from there he went back to his home.

Fortunately, this did help serve as somewhat of a "wake up" call for Justin. He started realizing that he needed to start changing some things about his life. He asked if he could come live with us in Oregon. He felt moving would provide a good opportunity to get away from his friends and get a fresh start. He also thought living here would give him the opportunity to concentrate on school, improve his grades and even possibly play football. He loves the sport and would benefit tremendously from the discipline, structure and character building that being a part of the team would afford him. When Justin was getting into trouble we had told his mom that if there was anything we could do to help, to let us know. This was not the Justin we knew him to be and we knew he was not living up to his potential. When asked, we agreed to let Justin come live with us and our kids because we wanted to help do what we could to get him out of his environment and help provide a safe and stable living situation. Justin needs direction and purpose and we feel given the opportunity to have a second chance to be the young man his grandfather always encouraged him to be could change his life forever.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Mike & Natalie Blankenship