

This summer has been very tumultuous for our family. We were devastated to learn that the child we took in 5 years ago because his father asked us to from a prison cell had stopped him from coming back home from what was supposed to be a quick visit before school started. His mother doesn't have much and has only been to visit him here in Oregon twice since he's been in our care. She was gracious enough to allow her son to be in our care so he can attain a better lifestyle, attain a better education and sustain family stability.

In early August Woodrow Newton went to San Bernardino County, the county that Massen's mother Dianna White lives in and filed an injunction to stop Massen from returning to Oregon and from returning to my custody. He wanted to rescind my Power of Attorney. The issues were personal but in the end all he did was hurt Massen from finishing what he started here in Oregon and from returning to the home he knew for the past 5 years. His father had just been released last fall from prison and Massen hadn't seen him since he was entering the 4th grade. His father is unemployed and has no permanent address. I don't know how he thought he had a fighting chance but since he is listed on the Massen's birth certificate and Massen was in California visiting his mother Woodrow had that right to do what he did. Massen's mother had never had the intention of keeping Massen and preventing him from coming back to my custody. She knows Massen will thrive in our home and he has been a great student and has grown into a great young man under our care. Most of all by living with us, Massen will break the cycle of poverty within his own family. He will be the first one to attend a 4 year university or college. He will be a great example of overcoming obstacles and not becoming a product of his environment.

Mr. John Parke will tell you when Woodrow was first released from prison last Fall one of the first things he had tried to do was come up to Lakeridge High School without giving me any notice or the boys and tell the school officials that he had shared joint custody with me and he was there to take Massen and his brother Malik out of school that day. Thankfully Mr. Parke called me and told me what was going on and I gave specific instructions that the boys were not to be released in his care. The reason being I knew their dad should not have crossed state lines at that time due to his probation and I was concerned that he might take the boys back to California illegally.

Woodrow Newton hasn't been very cooperative in the upbringing of Massen. We don't ask anything of him but to stay out of the way. Massen is thriving. Massen didn't have any intention of leaving our home until the day he would leave for college. Lakeridge High School is the best place for Massen. He is on track to graduate with a 3.0 GPA or better. He is college bound and he receives the help he needs as an IEP student and flourishes in and out of the classroom. Massen didn't belong in California. Massen's mother received full custody and has now given me back Power of Attorney so Massen can finish his journey that he started 5 years ago. My hope is that you do not punish this innocent teenager for the selfish actions his father made. I don't know why his father would do something so detrimental to his child and I still have not received an answer from him. Dianna, Massen's mother and I have worked very hard together to bring Massen back home. This is all part of Massen's journey and through it all Massen will just look and smile because he knows he can depend on me. I made a promise to a little boy 5 years ago and it will take an act of God to keep me from fulfilling that promise. Massen May not be my biological son but no one and nothing was going to keep me from my son.

- Annalise Royster