

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Dianna White. I am Massen's mother. I sent Massen on a visit to Oregon to stay with Annalisa and Marcus Royster the summer going into his 8th grade. Marcus and Woodrow Newton are family. At the time I was in transition from an abusive marriage (not Massen's father, I was never married to Massen's father) with really no place permanent to stay and barely getting on my feet with a permanent job. I received a call a week before Massen was to come home and Massen asked me if he could stay with them and live. Of course I was shocked and sad and a little hurt. I told Massen I had to think about it and I would get back to him later in the week. The more I thought about it I realized as a mother this is one of the gifts I could give my son. He was going to be in a 2 parent home, he was going to live in a nice suburb, not a city that was ridden with murder and robbery and he was going to be in a great school district.

I agreed and as I spoke periodically to Massen I could hear the joy in his voice. He was playing sports, he was going to school dances, and he was traveling with his team. He was blossoming. This is when I knew I did the right thing. Annalisa and Marcus had given Massen the home he needed. They had his diagnosis of ADD treated and his new school helped put his IEP plan in place. I would never take Massen out of this environment. He belongs with Annalisa and Marcus. This is his home. I see Massen now and I am so happy I didn't lose him to the streets of gang life in California or the penal system.

When Massen came to visit me this August it was supposed to be a quick visit because my father had just passed away. His father knew he was going here and had tried to get a hold of Massen but Massen and his father hadn't seen eye to eye over a few things this past year. Massen stood up to his father when his father tried to speak badly of me, Annalisa or Marcus. Massen told him he was happy in Oregon and didn't have any intention of living in California. If you ask me the problem started when Massen asked his dad to sign papers to hyphenate his last name to Newton-Royster. His dad was livid. I was more than happy to sign them but his dad was furious. I believe that is what set his dad off and made him file the injunction to make him stay in California. The thing is, he didn't want full custody or even shared custody he just didn't want Massen to live in Oregon with Annalisa and Marcus.

The day I got served with the injunction Massen was devastated. How do I console a boy in a man's body? By law I could not send Massen back to Oregon until this was settled. Massen got anxious, he became depressed and introverted. He was expected to start his senior year at a school where he didn't know anyone and didn't have his IEP in place. I made him a promise that I would make this right and I would do everything that I possibly do to get him back home. I called Annalisa right away. Needless to say she was angry, hurt and most of all sad. We both have worked diligently with family court in San Bernardino County to get this resolved in the most fastest way possible. It took longer than I thought do to being a self-advocate because I can't afford a family lawyer. But I got it done.

As a mother, I haven't been the best and I haven't provided the most but one of the best things I did was let Massen live with the Royster's in Lake Oswego Oregon. Most people don't get to know them personally but they are loving, protective people. They want the best for their children and they

treat mine just as they do theirs. In fact I even sent both my sons with them when I thought I was losing my other one to the streets. They are fair, strict and loving. I love them for taking in my boys when no one else would and I would never take Massen away from them. I am a law abiding citizen though and I wanted to do this the right way so that Massen could come back without fear of ever being ripped away from the only stable family he's known. My hope is to come see Massen finish his goals on and off the field. I apologize for what his father has done. If you knew how many times I have said that you'd be amazed. His father is my cross to bear please don't let it be Massen's. Thank you very much in advance.

Sincerely,

Dianna White