

To whom it may concern,

Recently it has been hard for me to concentrate in and out of school for a number of reasons. About two years ago on July 23rd, 2014 my mother committed suicide and since then my life has been extremely stressful and difficult due to the sudden change of it all. I have moved multiple times in the past two years and in this most recent years I have been living with my father, step-mother, step-brother, and step-sister. Before, they all lived in Saint Louis, Missouri but moved to McMinnville after my mom died. I thought it would be a good idea for me to move in with them since they were my next closest family but after a short time living with them I realized that it was a big mistake. Since I have moved in with them I have been having troubles concentrating at home. This is because while I am home I am asked to do my normal household and outside chores while trying to balance school and a part time job. This would be manageable if I was not also surrounded by my brother and sister doing many drugs such as weed, mushrooms, whip its, and also taking many pills that my step mother has given them such as tramadol, oxycodone, mobic, and lyrical. My step mother is also unstable considering she is both mentally and physically disabled because of nerve damage all over her body while also having brain lesions, this is how she obtains the pain medication and other drugs. My brother and sister have asked me multiple times and have also tried peer pressuring me into do these drugs with them while telling me that, "It will help you destress." This is the same reason that drove my blood sister away and is also one of the reasons she won't come to my house to see me or my dad. I have also caught my brother stealing from me on multiple occasions such as siphoning gas out of my car, money being stolen from my wallet, and valuables being taken and sold for money and drugs. In the past couple months things have been getting even worse because of money problems. During these times blame was being put on me for not pitching in enough. When I was being accused my blood sister tried sticking up for me and in return her and her boyfriend's lives were threatened by my step mother's oldest son who did not live with us. He then went on to threatening me also. I try my hardest to avoid being home because I do not feel safe whenever I am there and I have even attempted to move out but my parents did not approve and told me if I tried leaving they would call me in as a runaway. With this going on it has been hard for me to concentrate at home and do my homework. I would try to stay after school and get help but my parents would make me come home instead so that they knew exactly where I was. I want to do track because it gives me a way to stay away from my house. Track does a number of things for me including, making me feel safe and wanted, it gives me a way to destress, and it gives me goals to accomplish. After I graduate I will be moving to Eugene, Oregon to continue schooling at Lane Community College while also enrolling in their track and field program. After I finish all required classes I will transfer to The University of Oregon to complete my college training with the best track and field program in Oregon. I also want to be able to make my coaches and teammates proud by contributing everything I have to the team and help our team go to state.

Thank you

-Skyler Godwin

