

Maranda's Impact Statement:

"Okay Now We Need to Hurry." These were the first words I've ever heard come out of your mouth. These words haunt me in my dreams and to taunt me to no end.

I've been sitting here more days than I should crying over your lies. Let us go back to the first interview you've done.... Did you not tell investigators that it was possible for your sons to have caused the accident? Now that you are facing prison time, is that why your story is changing? Is that why you are trying to back pedal to mess with my head?

For the past 3 years I've seen you in court giving me God awful looks, when I've done nothing to deserve any of it. I've done nothing to your family for them to treat me the way they do. Now remember, your boys RAN US OVER!!!! It would be understandable if I was the one giving you these looks! Not the other way around!

But now that the boys are locked up. I am relieved that the men that have caused this huge tragedy are now behind bars. And behind bars is exactly where they deserve to be.

Now it is your turn. You are the one who tries to cover it up. The one who starts the lies. It is your turn!!!! I believe that the boys caused the accident, but they left. Why did you have to come back? You said in a few interviews that you were going to QuikTrip to get cigarettes. But why would you go to get them at 6am? Why would you be up that early after you have had a bonfire party? Why were cigarettes that important at 6am? Why would you take the boys to get cigarettes in the first place?

Any-who, so you're driving to QuikTrip. And you make a call reporting to dispatch saying you found a girl laying in the ditch with grass in her hair.... Now this is where the story gets twisted.... Because where I was laying in the FIELD, you could not see me from the road, unless you were really looking. Especially at 6 in the morning!

Now don't you find it ironic that you told Dakota to move me to the ditch so that your story adds up?

But why did you tell dispatch that I had been drinking? I could hardly even tell first responders my name.... So how on Earth was I able to tell you that I was drinking??

I waited through trial to get justice that Noelle and I deserve for the Brothers that have done the worst! I waited for 2 ½ years, but all the wait was worth the pain. But that moment that those hand cuffs slapped those wrists, I knew I was free. I cannot describe how much stress lifted from my shoulders. Finally, I could sleep in peace. It took 2 ½ years, but I accomplished the unimaginable.

The day after trial, I had enough courage to walk out to the grounds where the brothers left me to die alongside my lifeless best friend. I was able to show my mom exactly where I was, where the last place I've seen Noelle. Now I admit it that the map that I have created was a little off. But how do you expect me to have it perfect, if I refused to be in the car that went down that road? How do you expect me to know the exact Landscape of the field, when the last time I was in the field, I was hit by a truck!

I apologize that I was a little off about one small detail. But that does not give you and your mom the right to go ranting on Facebook calling me the liar. I am not a liar I was just off by the direction we all were facing...

The court date after trial, when you were to put in your plea... That court date was determined how you spend your future in prison. I heard you say that you were GUILTY!!! And DAMN RIGHT YOU WERE!!!!!! I felt GOD speaking! I thought all my prayers have been answered! But the devil had to take my happiness right back from me!

You had to do a news interview saying you were innocent! At that point, I was completely beside myself, because what are you innocent of?

I saw that interview blasted all over my Facebook. All that interview was, was lies! You've been lying since the first encounter we've had. I'm not sure why all this affected me so badly. All I could do is sit in the bathroom and cry. I had to remove myself from the company in my own house to cry over lies.... Because I thought - people would start believing them.

I honestly think you going to the news is ridiculous. No one will believe your lies. Maybe the 50 followers that you guys have on our Facebook page. And yes, I would say the right amount, but those people are my friend that follow to see what all has been said.

But now about that Facebook page, why would you and your mom talk about Judge Steidley or our District Attorneys? Was It because you think you are receiving un-fair treatment. What about us? What about the actual victims of this case? What about me?

I was in the same accident as my best friend. I was the one that had to suffer for the 3 hours waiting for someone to help me. With all the pain I was in, I am so glad Noelle did not have to go through that! It was your boy who did this, it was your boys who left us. I had to wait 3 hours for you to come back with them.

You could have made things right, BUT YOU DIDN'T!!!! You were the one who chose to start the lying with the dispatch call!!!!

How dare you think for a second that you are the one getting un-fair treatment. How dare you think you are the victims of this case!

The current lie that is going around is that the State has no proof that your boys caused this accident. That there is no DNA on the truck! That the boys wrecked their truck in that field, but someone else hit us in the same exact spot????

Now don't you think it's crazy that I saw Gage and Dakota standing there, that I heard their panicking voices?

I am sure that everyone has their own theory as to what happened that night. I still don't believe that I have received the truth from that night. I believe the truth lies with you, Gage and Dakota. But none of us will ever know because your family lies so much until you guys believe your own lies.

No, I don't care if the Face book page is you or your mothers. But it is full of disrespect and is full of lies.

I don't care what you tell people... But you guys are not the victims in this case. Noelle and I are. Our friends and family included! All you guys are, are MONSTERS!!!! That's all you family will be!!!!

You deserve whatever punishment Judge Steidley gives you. If it was up to me, you would receive the same punishment as the brothers, if not, even more time.

In the end, I will not receive the full justice I deserve. Your boys took my best friend away from this world. Your family has destroyed my peace of mind. I will never be the same again. Noelle will never have the life that she deserves. It took 3 years and 1 week to get all 3 of you locked up. You guys being locked up won't give me my life back, but it will be justice for what you have put me through. It would be justice for the lies.

IT WOULD BE JUSTICE FOR NOELLE AND MARANDA!!!

Victim impact statement of Brandy Whitmire, Noelle's mother

I too am a Momma Bear. We have that in common. I would have stood in front of your son's truck for Noelle. This, I will repeat throughout my statement. I would gladly have given my life to save hers. I would have suffered the broken bones, the torn aorta, the severed spinal cord...have you read her autopsy? Was that included in the transcript? I would have suffered all of those injuries, if it meant Noelle had a chance at life.

I love my daughter as much as you proclaim to love your sons. What we don't have in common is I love my children so much that I would never lie for them. I love them too much to encourage them to lie. I love them enough to not enable them. I love them enough to make them accountable when they are wrong.

As mothers, we are given a very important role in our children's lives. To train them how to be productive members of society and successful in life. The task of raising children is hard because we DO want to protect our kids. Often times, we have to protect them from themselves. You put on your Facebook that you would do ANYTHING for your kids. I will do ANYTHING for my kids to help them grow up to be the best adults they can. Not to shield them from their mistakes, not to coddle them, not to make excuses for them or cover for them. I would not be fulfilling my responsibilities as a parent if I didn't instill solid morals in my children.

You have failed in your duties as a mother.

You did not raise your boys to be honest; you encouraged them to lie if they were caught in the wrong. You were "concerned" about Gage's "drinking problem", yet you allowed him to consume alcohol.

We heard how you treated Dakota. The verbal abuse, the fear he had of you. According to him, when you found out that he had hit Gage, you suggested that you take a baseball bat to him...he hid in the "shed" waiting for his girlfriend to pick him up. That was not healthy fear. He was more afraid of you than the dead girl lying in the field...and the consequences from that. He walked around that truck trying to get it out of the field...he might have even stepped on my daughter

or Maranda as he was trying to push the truck out of the ditch. Do you ever think about that? I do.

Dakota and Gage saw your interaction with others. They learned every deceitful, dishonest, immoral thing from you, Annette. This is how you raised your children. You did not protect your children. You and your character as a mother destroyed your children. Your children are doing time for 25 years because of the people you taught them to be. Your vile character that was more than likely passed down from your mother has taken my daughter's life, devastated mine and my children's lives, and destroyed your son's future. I pray that I will find forgiveness toward your sons one day. I pray that while they are away from your influence they will grow and actually become good men when they leave prison in their 40's. Men that can make a positive influence; like my daughter would have. Dakota already mentioned that he doesn't know what he would have done if his mom wasn't involved, so hopefully his eyes have started to open.

When it comes down to it...Annette...how much do you really love your children? Enough to sentence them to 25 years in prison?

You went to the media because you want everyone to know you are a "loving mother". You don't know what love is.

The fact that you could lie so easily to police officers and 911 is shocking. I can't fathom you standing over Maranda and blatantly lying about her saying she had been drinking. It is apparent you and your children have been co-conspirators before. Dakota told us he knew to continue to lie to Officer Shropshire just by watching you through the window of his police car. You knew your children were guilty, yet you never once instructed them to tell the truth. Dakota had to find out through Detective Ledbedder that you were starting to tell the truth and even then he wanted to know what you were saying before he changed his story. That is how engrained it is in your children to know Mom will lie. You are the reason they have been sentenced to such long prison terms. Your boys didn't know what to do when the accident happened. They turned to you for help. What they did was not intentional. What you did was. From the minute you knew those boys had a wreck, your plan was to lie. Maybe they didn't tell you right away they killed someone. But when they showed you the damage to the truck, you told them to lie. That came out in testimony. After the 911 call, on your way home,

Dakota asked you, "Who we are going to tell, you told Dakota, "We tell NO ONE". Your crime was premeditated.

I feel sorry for your children, they never had a chance with you as their mother. Your "love" destroyed them.

You want to be portrayed in the media and community as a good mother and a good person, yet you would let another mother wonder what happened to her child? If Dakota's wallet wouldn't have been found, you would have kept up the pretense that you were good Samaritans.

If the three of you hadn't been arrested for this crime, I would have come to you and THANKED YOU for calling 911 and saving Maranda. That thought now sickens me.

I woke up on June 5, 2015 to a phone call. One of Noelle's friends asking if she was home. I saw her car in the driveway...but she wasn't home. She was dead in a field a mile away. I ran through my house looking for her. I looked in her brother's room, her sister's room. I went back upstairs and looked under her bed. The one place I didn't look for her was Gordon Road. I had no idea she was there. But you did. You may not have known her name at the time, but you knew there was a dead girl laying in that field...and you knew that your boys were responsible. You knew there was a mother somewhere out there needing answers...answers only you and your boys had.

It has been very hard for me to write this statement without being hateful and bitter. I have nothing but contempt for you, but believe it or not, that hasn't always been the case. When I first learned of Noelle's death and your boy's arrest, I read the comments posted on the various news sites. Those initial reports had very little information. People were saying terrible things about Gage and Dakota. At that point in time, I believed this was all a terrible accident. I replied to those comments, identifying myself as Noelle's mother, and asked people to withhold judgment until more facts were released. I asked the public to keep in mind those boys had a family that would be hurt by reading their comments. I gave them the benefit of doubt.

The day after Noelle's death, I left Verdigris and returned to my hometown to arrange her burial. I buried my daughter on June 8th. I watched my son lift shovel

after shovel of dirt to fill her grave, until he couldn't do it any longer and passed the shovel on. You see, that's a tradition in our family. We bury our own.

When I returned home, the town of Verdigris was kind enough to close off access to the accident site so that my family and her friends could visit the site. At this point in time, I didn't even know what spot of the road she had be struck. As I walked from the church where we parked, (both you and Dakota referred to the church as the bank-another example of you premeditating the lie you planned on telling authorities), I tried to put what little facts I had together in my mind. I walked down that road. I saw the skid marks...and my steps faltered. Walking along side those marks on the road was a death march. Where the marks ended, so did my daughter's life. Each step I took was one step closer to her death.

A neighbor had erected a cross at the break in the fence line. I hate that cross and all it represents, but I love the fact that he did it.

I spoke with one of the first responders and asked him where he found Noelle. He didn't want to take me into that field. I insisted. The grass still held the impression of her body along with the tire marks, two feet from where she lay. I wanted to lay down in that field and die. Instead, I picked a wildflower and brought it home and put it in our family bible.

Noelle was my son's best friend. We have been in counseling since she died, he thinks he is responsible for her death because he wasn't home that night. She was six years old when he was born. She was like a second mother to him. They slept in the same room even though they had separate rooms. They watched Bob's Burgers every night. She hated that show, but she watched it with him. My son is suicidal. Every morning when I walk upstairs to wake him up for school, I'm afraid he is going to be dead. Like his sister. So not only am I having to deal with a dead daughter, I'm afraid every day for my son. I'm afraid I will ultimately lose two children to your family.

Noelle has a little sister too. She puts on a brave face. She is the angry one. She is like her momma. But she is hurting. I see it in her eyes. She constantly tries to stay busy so she does not have to see or think about Noelle being gone. She feels obligated to be perfect now in everything she does to fulfill Noelle's legacy. Her choices in school, church, where she wants to go to college...all because she

thinks she has to fill Noelle's shoes. No child should feel that type of responsibility.

As for me, I quit my job of 11 years because I couldn't go to the bathroom without someone asking me about the trial and I spent most days crying at my desk.

Now, I am unemployed. I have cashed out my 401k to support us. I cannot eat. I weigh 86 pounds and have ground my teeth down to nubs. Before court dates, I start having nightmares. My kids can't go to school. I got a letter from the state wanting to prosecute me because my kids had missed too much school. Because their sister is dead. I spent a year waking up each morning to my kids crying from their own nightmares. I have trouble looking Noelle's father in the eye. I feel like I am to blame for Noelle's death. I didn't hear her leave that morning. I didn't stop her. I did not keep her safe. It's ironic that I feel more guilt than you.

My kids are finally getting a little bit better. But they will never be the same. I will never be the same.

I am 40 years old. I will have, hopefully 40 more years on this earth. And I will spend those next 40 years missing my daughter. Although I write about Noelle a lot, I can't write the pain of missing her away. I can't cry it away, and I will never understand why it happened.

You have destroyed a family. One act. Destroyed a family. Your LIES compounded the act. You tried to hide what your boys did. What you did was PREMEDITATED. You could have made it right. You could have spared us three years...You could have confessed...the moment you found out....And we wouldn't have had to go through all these court dates. We could have had CLOSURE...the closure we all so desperately need.

I hate writing down the "impact" this has had on me and my family.

I don't want to try and vocalize this overwhelming pain that literally feels like it is suffocating me. I don't want to have to talk about the people that left my daughter in a field to die, lied about it, and then tried to play victim. I don't want the world to see my devastation and feel sorry for me, I do it because, as you so adequately stated the quote by Agatha Christie... "A mother's love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity, it dares all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path."

I do not want anyone to forget Noelle. Here's another quote for you, "So long as they speak your name, you shall never die"... that's Dante. I will never stop speaking her name, or what you and your boys did to her because she deserves justice. I want people to know WHO my daughter was and remember what was stolen from her.

Her friends are going to college. They are getting married and having babies.

Noelle's friend, Parker, got married last year. She photographed herself holding a picture of Noelle so she was a part of her wedding party. Noelle's friend Aubrey is getting married this year, she is hanging a memory locket on her bouquet with Noelle's picture. Noelle should have been there with Parker...she should be there for Aubrey, but she is dead. Your boys are the reason she wasn't and can't.

Dakota got to have a wedding, didn't he? It was beautiful, that rustic wedding. Glad you got to experience that and that you chose to publically post all the pictures on Facebook. Noelle probably wouldn't have wanted that kind of wedding. She once said when she got married she would just wear "nice jeans and a nice t-shirt". She didn't get the chance to fall in love and plan a wedding. I will never get to see her walk down the aisle.

Why didn't you delete your Facebook after your sons killed my daughter? Or at least make it private? Did you think I wanted to see pictures of Dakota's wedding? Your weekly karaoke nights? Do you people even think about anyone outside your circle? The world around you? No. You don't. Why? Or how? How do you just live in this pretend world? Can you even comprehend the mental anguish those few acts put me through?

Maybe you thought the three of you had done nothing wrong. Yeah, I think that's what it boils down to. You thought you were above the law.

And still, three years later, you won't be accountable. You are still trying to maintain innocence...or now...a conspiracy theory.

The laws of physics says for every positive there is a negative. The only positive thing I have ever thought in regards to Noelle's death was, "At least Noelle will never have to see her own child lowered into the ground." The negatives far outweigh the positive though. I will never see her DNA recreated. The DNA that you and your lawyer have tried to make light of. Those three little "specks", that

in your last court date, neither of you even knew the location of on the truck. I get it. I really do, when you are trying to get your guilty client off, you will pull out all the stops. But have you stopped to think about how that affects the victim's family? Will you pay any price to go free? That is a rhetorical question. In this trial, we have seen Dakota try to say he should be tried in federal court because he is Native American, Gage ask to go the Marines, (as if following his lifelong dream is a punishment?) and you say your lawyer gave you ineffective counsel. You put off your sentencing date by two months with this ploy. Tell me, if, in January, if probation was the only punishment on the table...would you have fired your lawyer and hired a new one?

You yourself stated you were willing to admit guilt until you found out there might be jail time. You preached on your FaceBook post and in this court room that you were guilty but not of ALL charges and you were going to "fight to the end". The day you pled guilty, if they had offered probation for all charges and no jail time would you be "fighting to the end"? Would you still want to pour money into your lawyer, numerous court dates to try to clear your name of whatever charge you don't feel you were guilty for? No, we all know if you were offered no jail time you would have plead guilty to all of them with no issues. In fact, you did plead guilty to all of them, you just don't want to go to prison. Matt Ballard asked you on the stand, "What are you guilty of?" He was overruled. I am asking today. What are you guilty of? Loving your boys is not an acceptable answer.

I saw your interview with Fox. I listened and hung on to every word because I am still looking for the grief and regret that you and your family claim to have, yet have not shown. I listened to you sit here in this court room and explain why you wrote your post and did the interview. You said "you wanted to be heard. You "wanted your side out" You said you feel like the media has painted you and your family as monsters and you just wanted the truth to be known of the type of people you and your boys are. I want to assure you that EVERYONE sees the real you. EVERYONE knows the truth; and EVERYONE knows what kind of people you and your boys are.

A person's actions will tell you everything you ever need to know about a person. Actions prove who someone is, words just prove who they want to be. The sad thing is, the media and this court have established who you are based off your

actions for the last three years. When you and your boys finally spoke... your words did back up your actions. All your posts and interviews did was solidify everything we already knew about you and your character...that you have no remorse...except that you got caught...that is what you have remorse for.

Based off your actions, you are dishonest. When your boys took the stand and did their interview with the police there were numerous things said about your character Annette:

1. Mom does not like to pay for things so we were going to lie.
2. Mom told us to lie so family members would not judge us.
3. When I asked mom who we were going to tell she said NO ONE.
4. In your own FB post you stated you immediately told the truth (then spoke of your regret for telling the truth). The definition of immediately is...at once, instantly, without any intervening time or space, as soon as... If you had told the truth immediately, it would have been on the 911 call. It would have been in your first statement when the police asked what happened. It would have been in your second statement when Dakota's wallet was found and you were called back. NOT in your third opportunity to tell the truth when you realized the evidence was mounting. You yourself said you had 2.5 hours to think like a criminal. 2.5 hours is not immediately, Annette. Your actions, your boy's actions, your words, and your boy's words show you are dishonest people.

I see you as having no remorse. Three years of you coming to court, laughing, joking with each other. Delay tactic after delay tactic to drag this out even further. Weddings, vacations. Seeing me in public and toasting me with your drink, your mother and friends attacking my daughter and Miranda for this tragedy on Facebook. Numerous times you, your boys, their wife/girlfriend, your mom, your friends have said it JUST was a mistake. Hours after knowing he and his brother killed my daughter Dakota acted upset and put out that he had to do a written statement for a third time because he lied on the other two. When he set on this stand he did not start crying or get emotional until he discussed his relationship with his brother. Nothing about taking a girl's life. Gage fell ASLEEP with no issue after finding out he killed a girl and severely injured another. None of you knew if

Miranda was going to make it, but he slept like a baby. You stated in your FaceBook post they didn't "decide" to run over someone, it was a mistake. Everything you and your boys did after the accident was a choice. Not a mistake; and that is what you are being held accountable for, Annette. The majority of people, when they make a mistake think back and say "If I could only have done this or that differently. Not you, in your Facebook post you stated "The family felt we did not have any remorse...let me tell you... when I wake up in the morning and when I have moments of silence I don't pray for my boyz and my family I pray for those girls and those families." Does pray equal remorse to you Annette? Even your own words do not say you have remorse just that you pray for us. I wish I could believe that. I don't. If it is true, I'm going to ask you right now to stop. Instead of using that time during your "moment of silence", I want to ask you instead to pray for yourself. Pray that God changes your selfish heart. Pray for real compassion, pray for forgiveness, pray for God to open your eyes so you can fully see the impact of your actions. Pray for Him to keep you from saying offensive things like, "We are hurting too." Pray for accountability.

I apologize I have to explain definition of words to you but you do not seem to grasp what your actions and your words truly say about you. Remorse means to have deep regret, guilt for a WRONG committed. You do not think you or your boys did anything wrong. It was a "mistake" in your own words. You are NOT guilty in your own words. You cannot HAVE remorse without those other two feelings. The majority of people that have remorse and regret look back and think of things they could have done differently. You have stated you see nothing you could have done differently. The only things you suggested you could have done differently was come up with different scenarios of how you could have hid evidence or ran away if you were "to think like a criminal" You said in your interview with Fox that you think things through slowly and it takes a while for you to really think things through. So in the three years since my daughter was killed, all you have come up with is different scenarios of how you could have been MORE dishonest. I DO believe your WORDS that you are slow to think things through and I do believe you would have been even more deceitful if you had the time to think things through that day. Your actions, your boy's actions, your words, and your boy's words show me you have no remorse.

I see you and your boys do not want to take any accountability that can actually affect you in any way. You did not tell the police as soon as they got to the crash site your boys had been involved in an accident at the EXACT same spot. You did not want your boys to do any jail time and if they HAD to do any jail times MAYBE just a year max is what they argued.

You and your boys have tried to portray yourselves as the victims in this tragedy, because of all the negative things said about you in the media. Posting on Facebook, "that the truth will come out". Your family members attacking me, Miranda, and Noelle. Trying to tear down my character, calling Miranda a liar, attacking the DA's office, the judge, the police, and the media. I could sit up here all day quoting things you and your family have said to paint EVERYONE else in a bad light. You stating there will be justice for ALL families involved. What justice are you entitled to? Why do you and your family think you can lump us together in what I am dealing and what you are dealing with? I had no CHOICE in anything that has happened since my daughter's life was taken. All you and your sons have HAD since my daughter was killed was CHOICES It was YOUR bad choices that have put you in the situation you are in TODAY. Not MY CHOICES, not Noelle's, not Miranda, not the police, not the DA, not the judge, not the MEDIA. YOUR CHOICES. You are not victims. You are here today because of the consequences of your actions and choices.

I understand unconditional love, as I have previously said, I would stand in front of that truck and experience all of Noelle's and Maranda's fear and pain every day for eternity if it meant they didn't have to go through it. If I could make the decision standing here today, I would take Noelle's place in the ground so that she could have the chance to experience life. I WAS NOT GIVEN THAT CHOICE.

But you want your story to be told...you love your boys...That's a real nice story.

Good job, Annette. Your side is out. Everyone sees you for a horrible excuse of a mother who has ruined multiple people's lives. Including people you claim to love. Thank you for allowing us to see the full picture by speaking your truth. No time in prison will fix all the destruction your character has done. You are a vile and disgusting human.

Judge, the prison system is supposed to rehabilitate people. But how do you rehabilitate someone who doesn't think they are wrong? This woman needs a lot

of help. Probation won't help her. I don't even know if prison will help her. But maybe if she is behind bars and has nothing to do every day but reflect, hopefully she will begin to understand the severity of her crimes. I don't have an answer as to how many years she deserves in prison, I am counting on your expertise and judgment to sentence her appropriately.

Annette, since you are fond of quotes, I will leave you with this one..."I hope you get everything you deserve."

Dear Judge Steidley,

On June 5th 2015, our world was turned upside down. We had no idea that it would take ³ years of court dates and waiting to see that justice be done for what Butanda attempted to help her sons get away with. She put the care for her sons above Maranda and Noelle by not rendering aid or calling 911 as soon as she arrived to the scene but instead instructed her boys on what to say, do, and how to act. I believe had she not shown them how to lie, hide, and told them what to do, her boys would have probably told the truth and spared our families the agony of 3 years of court dates and may have had a lighter sentence. I believe she is just as guilty as her boys, if not more so. After hearing about her background, it seems that she has had the luxury of not facing consequences for her actions and has passed that luxury to her sons. In an attempt to try to sway the public to believe she is innocent, she constructed a Facebook page which pieced together pieces of the preliminary hearings to fit her story and as if what her sons did to Maranda wasn't enough, she called Maranda a liar for what she said on the witness stand. Butanda was heard on the 911 tape saying that Maranda told her that she had been drinking. That was proved to be a lie when the paramedic and first responders on the scene testified that Maranda was barely alive when they arrived on the scene and she couldn't even say her name. Butanda has not made any attempt to reach out to Noelle's family or our family but have instead complained about how hard this has been for her. It is time she took responsibility for what she had done and faced consequences for her actions. I hope she gets every bit as much time as her boys did if not more.

Thank you,

Ann Rutherford

Maranda's Mom

To the Honorable Judge Steidley.

I want to explain what will be written below. It will be a combination of my writing and my wife's (Noey's Stepmom of 18 years). I want to make sure that our whole family is heard, and we appreciate the opportunity to express not only how we feel, but the negative impact that we have experienced as a direct result of Dorthea Butanda/Annette Wicker. You will see some themes repeated below.

My Noey was my first child. I was a very young dad just 1 year out of high school when she made her debut to the world. You see, I only wanted to have boys but she changed my mind at her first cry. I could not possibly imagine how she would impact my life for the better. I was not a good person, and even though I was an "adult" I was not a man. I firmly believe that I could have gone down a path that would have put me on the other side of the courtroom if it had not been for my Noey. Even though it made life tougher to be a freshman in college with a baby, it was worth every moment. I don't have any other daughters, she was it. We will miss all the things that daddy's do with and for their baby girls. **NO walking down the aisle, NO watching her graduate from college, NO holding my first grand baby.** Noey's positive impact on the world was cut short because of a series of bad decisions. Not only could this tragedy have been prevented, but the compounding effect was far more reaching than any of us expected. This was from a direct result of Dorthea Butanda/Annette Wicker.

This started with the way that Butanda raised her children, and I believe this is a direct result of the way she was raised. Her misguided actions show that she will lie, lie, and lie some more to minimize her involvement in crimes, and blame the victims for being victims. Butanda's first reaction to knowing that her boys killed someone was not to help, but rather to hide. She spun a story that 2 drunk boys could remember, and if it wasn't for a wallet in a field the truth would have taken a lot longer. She is the maestro here, she is the reason this has lingered on for 3 long years. She is the "Momaoso" directing her own

children on how to behave so that she can “fix this”. I believe her actions are worse than what the boys did because she is the main reason this “accident” became murder. It was not out of the goodness of her own heart that she started to tell bits of truth, it was because law enforcement did an impeccable job of gathering evidence. She continues to try and minimize her involvement and tells stories that change when presented with evidence to the contrary. She is the puppet master that pulled strings until she got tangled up in them. She has a pattern of believing she is above the law, or is smarter than everyone else. This will not be her first time in jail, but I hope it will be her last. I hope that she matures and learns to take responsibly for her actions. I believe that her behavior of 40 plus years of lying, covering up, cannot be turned around in a short time. I understand that our justice system is set up so that an innocent person does not do time, but Butanda is far from innocent. She has exercised her right under law to maximize her time out of jail. Even though it has been very hard on my family I understand that it was her right to do so.

The impact that Butanda’s actions have had on my family is beyond comprehension. I live 13 hours away from Claremore, and to say that planning trips, to go to court, are more than difficult. The cost of travel alone is something that I was not prepared for, but the worst part is that it is impossible to grieve the loss your only daughter properly. We have been held hostage by Butanda, not allowed to live life because of her manipulation of the court. Making a plea, and then going on television, making posts on social media, creating fake accounts to try to gain support and trying to withdraw the pleas to avoid jail time, has been taxing on my family. My sons are not the same boys they were before they lost their sissy. My marriage is not the same, my wife is not the same, and I will never be the same. We have been forced to put life on hold. We feel guilty for creating new family memories without Noey, and because of the lies, 3 years have gone by with very few happy memories. There is not one thing that does not remind us of her. All we had left were memories, and because of another tragedy, we lost those as well. Not only have we had to deal with the loss of our only daughter,

our house that had all the memories burned down on 05/23/2016, just shy of 1 year of her death. I was unable to process the grief, and was waiting to go through Noey's things, and now I will never get that opportunity. Dealing with nightmares, guilt, and feeling helpless is something that is hard for a father to accept. My duty as a dad was to protect Noey, and I failed. My days are filled with fear that something else could happen to my boys. I can't describe the overwhelming feeling of fear that I get when I hear a siren, and we live on the main street that is access for emergency vehicles. My kids are not allowed to ride their bikes or skateboard to the park because I fear something could happen to them. The negative impact that Butanda has created will have lasting ripple effects on our lives until we see Noey again.

I feel the closest I will get to justice is if the maximum sentence is imposed on Butanda because she is the reason we still suffer as much as we do. Her actions are unfathomable to me. Thank you for hearing me.

Bryan New

The affects your decision to lie, hide, and drag out court proceedings has been devastating to our family.

We have had to go on with our lives without the physical presence of Noey our only daughter while watching all her friends go off to college, get married, have babies, take mission trips, attend school abroad, all of which are dreams Noey had for her own life! She will be 22 this year that seems insane to think about...what would she have accomplished in the last 3 years? Which country would she have chosen to study abroad in? Would she have met someone there to bring home to introduce to us? Would she be ready for marriage yet? I kind of doubt it, I think that would still be a year or so off for her as she was fiercely independent and opinionated so it would take a very special young man to walk alongside her confidently as a best friend and help mate! Just ask

any of her high school debate team members and debate teacher!
Ha-ha

I think of her wedding often, picking out the sneakers I KNOW she would be wearing under her more than likely simple strapless dress! (That would be traded for joggers as soon as the formal ceremony part of done lol) Her wedding would definitely be a no fuss simple wedding that made the "ceremony" part short and sweet and the family and friends celebrating and dancing part almost never ending! She definitely would have honeymooned somewhere warm because she HATED the cold! Although ironically her "fashion" favorites were all winter pieces! Joggers, hooded zip ups with graphic tees and millions of slouchy beanies! Those beanies were on her head even when it was 100 degrees out! Ha-ha Truth be told I loved clothes shopping for her because those were my faves too, so I knew I couldn't go wrong with my choices! It was both heartwarming and heart breaking to see her dressed in the all the stuff I had just bought her for her birthday and Christmas that year as I walked up to her casket that awful day! All I wanted to do was fix her beany cause she would be so mad that it was on that way! "You do NOT wear your beanies on your forehead" she would tell her little brothers then she would proceed to fix it to the proper placement! But I could not fix it for her because of the extensive damage the boys had inflicted on her tiny body when they hit her. I'm sorry... I think I may have slipped onto a rabbit trail! That happens often now, life will be happening and then boom something small will happen and take me down a path of excruciating grief mixed with sweet sweet memories of the past. So back to thoughts of her future, would she be successfully running her dream non-profit organization reaching people around the world? What advice would she have for her brother who's heading into high school next year and struggling silently despite weekly counseling with the fact she is gone forever? Her littlest brother is completely lost without his big sis to encourage him and build him up to be confident in his

uniqueness and proudly display his “weirdness” ‘Cause that’s the kind of girl she was! Unafraid of what others thought of her and refusing to let others define who she was or put her in a box! She was amazing with kids, everyone back home wanted her to watch their children and quite a few, then toddlers, still ask their parents if she can come play with them! Her kids would have been smart cheeky little monkeys! And they would’ve been spoiled rotten by their grandparents all the while Noey protesting “HEEEYY! I was not allowed to do “that” when I was a kid!” What grandmother name would Noey have taken when her children started having kids!

So much life left to live! So much taken away.

We spent 2 years with our lives on hold, afraid to plan anything for fear a trial date would end up being scheduled. I found out 2 years into this ordeal that your family had NOT put your lives on hold! You had vacations and even weddings! So no longer will your decisions hold us hostage! I can’t believe we let you not only take our only daughter from us but steal 2 years of our lives with our boys! We only have 4 years left with our oldest boy before he is a grown man!

I’ve tried to put into words for almost 3 years now, how Dorothea Butanda’s choices and actions the night we lost our daughter have affected our lives, but I’m not sure there are accurate enough words in the English language to express it all. Not only do I feel angry but also completely flabbergasted that a mother could lead her 2 young intoxicated and therefore impaired children down such a devastating life altering path and still to this day call it GOOD and the normal motherly thing to do! She just months ago was posting on social media that her actions were what any mother would do and that she was protecting her children. It is not protecting your children when you command them to do illegal things in order to hide the fact they were involved in the death of a person. Yes, those boys CHOSE to

drink and then get behind the wheel of a vehicle. Those were choices THEY made on their own! And they will have to live with that and accept responsibility and punishment for the outcome of those choices, but by blindly obeying their mother (the authority figure in their lives) in the hours that proceeded that event, they now lose almost 25 years of their life. She took an event that was, yes HORRIBLE, and not only made it so much worse for her boys but also for my family! Her bad motherly decisions did not stop that morning when police finally put them behind bars for the day. She has continued to show very poor judgment by continuing to lie to the court, to lie and attack the victims' families via TV stations and social media. She defends her decisions as right and righteous and for these reasons I believe she should get the maximum penalty allowed by the law for her charges. If I'm being completely honest I believe she should be held even more responsible for what happened that night than her boys because she was the adult, she was the one who had the fully functioning mature adult brain NOT under the influence of alcohol and COMPLETELY in control of her actions that evening! She KNOWINGLY CHOSE to break the law and command her boys to break the law after the incident. I know the law will not allow for her to serve MORE prison time than the boys for her charges but I believe she should get the max sentencing for what it can charge her with. And I pray that this time and separation from those boys allows them to grow up without her bad influence and learn how to be the best people and citizens they can be after they have served their time!

Thank you
Amber New