

Stacy Snowden
14031 Huston St.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

March 26th, 2018

Honorable Judge Dennis Craig
Kim C. Hammond Justice Center
1769 E. Moody Blvd., Bldg. 1
Bunnell, FL 32110

Your Honor,

I am writing in regards to my younger brother, Brenden Geary, who is being charged with third-degree animal cruelty. This crime has shocked our family to the core, and we are determined to get Brenden the psychiatric treatment he very much needs.

Brenden, like the rest of the family, is from California, and his plan is to come home to the Los Angeles area to be with family and seek mental health treatment. I would like to strongly encourage the court to order a psychiatric evaluation for Brenden, as he has not been able to seek out mental health care these past few years due to a lack of health insurance. Because of the nature of his crime, we as his family are adamant that he get immediate treatment, and we are committed to that. Currently Brenden does not have a home to go to in the state of Florida, nor does he have family or friends in the area upon whom he can rely for support. His being in California, near his large and supportive family, will be paramount in his path to his mental fitness and ability to re-enter society as a law-abiding citizen.

As his older sister, 10 years his senior, I watched Brenden grow up, and even played a large role in his upbringing. He is an incredibly sweet, soft-hearted young man, who I know will be able to move past this horrible crime once he gets the treatment he needs. We are a family of five children, I being the oldest, and we lost our mother to a tragic off-roading accident in 2002. I was 15 years old, Brenden was 5, and while it shocked and traumatized our family very much, it affected my brother in an extremely poignant way. He immediately showed signs of emotional trauma, his Kindergarten asking that he be held back, as he was not coping with the loss of our mother very well at all. As he grew up, Brenden showed signs of his emotional and mental state having been stunted, and he was capable of explosive emotional outbursts. Sadly though, mental health treatment was not sought out for him when he was a child.

Though my brother needs immediate and potentially intensive mental health treatment, that does not mean he is irredeemable, and such is the purpose of this letter. Brenden has always been a thoughtful, sweet, and responsible young man. As his sister, having watched him grow, I see the side of him that might be suffering from severe mental illness, but I also know the side that will flourish once he is treated properly. That side of him is beautiful, and I cannot stress this enough. He has always been a sensitive and caring person, showing kindness to friends, family, and yes, even animals. Brenden loves to laugh and be with his family, having a particularly close and special relationship with our sisters, Sara and Samantha. He is silly and goofy, and has a special ability to see the good in this world. I am committed to making sure Brenden gets treatment, and that he has his family nearby for support at all times. My brother is not a victim, he must be held accountable for the crime he has committed, but he is a young man who needs help, and I hope the court can see this. The crime he committed does not have to be the

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beginning of a bad path for my brother, rather, because of his true heart and character, it can be the beginning of a positive journey.

Brenden came to Daytona in the Fall of 2015 to attend Embry Riddle University to study engineering, but since then, his mental health has suffered. We, as his family in California, know it is necessary that he be able to get home to be near us, as we are committed to getting him treatment, and providing a strong support system. Here in California, Brenden has myself and my husband, as well as both sets of grandparents, two of our sisters, uncles, cousins, and his father, as well as many close family friends, who are all prepared to provide the support that he needs during this time. We will make sure that he gets health insurance, long-term mental health treatment, a place to live, a job, as well as emotional support. If the court is able, I would like to respectfully request that part of his sentencing might allow him to transfer to the state of California, namely Los Angeles County, so that he might serve the time for his crime, but also be able to seek the mental health treatment and full family support that he needs right now.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and for your understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stacy Snowden', with a stylized, cursive script.

Stacy Snowden