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Ref: Chad Cordoma

To Whom it May Concern:

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I, Chad's father am writing this letter in collaboration with my wife(Chad's mother) and Chad's brother, Brad. We, as Chad's family believe insight into his history needs to be shared before a decision is rendered that will destroy the rest of his life and honestly ours. This letter is directly from Brad, the victim, and Chad and Brad's parents. We called the police that day in an attempt to get Chad the help he needs, not to see him sent to Prison. Chad has suffered from mental illness his entire life and due to a flawed system has never received the appropriate care. He has been to numerous counselors, had multiple evaluations and multiple diagnosis. We were never able to get a clear answer as to exactly what Chad was suffering from - every professional had a different answer. He always needed distractions to calm his thoughts, having headphones or earbuds in constantly (day and night) listening to music just to calm the never ending thoughts in his head. Anxiety about illness and death (his own and his loved ones) and other stressors that life presents to all of us. He has always had difficulty handling these thoughts (this anxiety was definitely intensified when he was incarcerated). This is why he eventually ended up self medicating with marijuana and alcohol -as an escape from his mind. If he had just been treated properly from the start by the professionals we counted on, he may not have found the need to treat himself. Unfortunately, the use of these substances has caused him to make very poor decisions. These poor decisions forced us to ask him to leave our home. This was done per the guidance of a mental health/addiction specialist, who informed us that we needed to stand our ground and keep him out of our house until he hit rock bottom. Unfortunately, he seemed to always be able to find people to enable him and his choices while under the influence. He had basically been homeless for the past 2 years and he had been attacked, robbed and taken advantage of on more than one occasion. It breaks our hearts, but we needed him to want to get help. Chad is not a violent criminal, he is a lost and confused young man who suffers from anxiety, lack of self-confidence and fear of not being accepted. Chaplain Mike and Becky Quintieri at the Flagler County jail can vouch for this. He is also very bright and capable of achieving so much in life. Prison would not do anything except exacerbate all of these issues and destroy his future. I am a retired corrections officer, I know firsthand what happens in prison and I know what it will do to ruin Chad forever. Sentencing Chad to prison would cause irreparable damage to all of us, especially Brad his 19 year old brother because he was the one who reported Chad to the police. As I said earlier, our intention was to get him the help he needed (and was refusing). Deep down we were never in fear for our safety, this was a stupid argument between two siblings. The type of argument that just passes and the relationship goes back to normal. We did believe he should not have a gun and that this could be a way to get him the real help he needs. We have very good insurance coverage and would be more than willing to locate a facility for Chad that will accept our insurance. We were hoping that the TASC evaluation would confirm the need for inpatient

treatment, but they recommended outpatient treatment from what we have heard (this means that they agree he needs help though). We believe that if the court remanded him to a minimum treatment period with specific requirements for after care as well, it would benefit Chad, his family and the state. We want nothing more than to see Chad live a happy, fulfilled life and we are sincerely hoping you can help us to accomplish that for him.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Caryn Cordoma

David Cordoma

Brad Cordoma

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