

*Letter from Chad Evans to the members of the Chad Evans Wrongly Convicted Committee at their first meeting, on 24 March 2010. Pam Evans read the letter to the Committee.*

Thank you so much for coming tonight to our initial meeting of the Chad Evans Wrongly Convicted Committee. I'm honestly blown away that each of you took time out of your day for me. As some of the people that know me better than anyone in the world, you are all aware of how hard it is for me to ask for help.

Part of me wanted to ask because I know everyone is busy with their own life, and the last thing that I want to be to anyone is a burden or a bother. The other part of me never wanted to ask because I was afraid nobody would want to. I guess I was wrong.

Three months ago when we started this difficult task, I never imagined I would be writing this letter, at least not so quickly. I know this is just the beginning of what promises to be a long emotional, difficult process - a process that is likely to take several years if successful. I can't help but feel a little hope with Morrison leading the charge and with all of your support. This will be tiring, but I'm hopeful that as things progress more people will join the fight. There are sure to be hard weeks and setbacks ahead. We'll just have to rely on each other and pick one another up. Morrison and I have already had a few.

One of the hardest things for me is that for the past ten years, I have not been allowed to be human. I grieve every day for the terrible loss of Cassidy, the loss of my time and ability to create memories with all of you, and loss of time to raise my incredible son, Kyle, and impact the life of my amazing stepson, Brent.

My life is an open book for all of you to see. The good, the bad and the mistakes. If you have questions, please ask. I will answer anything to the best of my ability. We will need everyone's special skills and input for this to be successful. As much as I would like to do this all alone without bothering any of you, it is just not realistic. My pride has to take a back seat.

There is no greater injustice in the world in my view, than Cassidy dying a few months before her second birthday. For nearly 10 years, I've felt a tremendous amount of guilt for her death. The things I should have seen, should have realized, should have reacted to, should have done. Unfortunately, none of the "should have's" can bring her back. God knows I would trade places with her if I could, but I cannot. Through all the pain I feel for Cassidy's loss, as well as all other things previously mentioned, I'm still haunted by one thing - I had nothing to do with causing her death. I was convicted of a horrible crime, but it was a conviction based on emotion rather than facts. Our task, incredibly difficult as it is, will be to show this to the good people of NH.

A special thank-you to all of you for coming. You have touched my life in so many ways. To my family, thank you for your never ending support, to David and Polly - thank you for hosting and to Morrison thanks for being even more tenacious than I am.

I love you all,  
Chad