

January 14, 2002

*To Whom It May Concern,*

*My name is Linda Dalessandri and I am a childcare provider who cared for Chad Evans' biological son as well as his step son for nearly three years. I provided care for his step son from February 1997 through September 1999 and February 1997 through September 2000 for his biological son.*

*Chad's son was 6 months old and his stepson was 4 years old when they were first enrolled in my daycare. I found Chad to be an unusual step father as he truly went out of his way to be a real father to his stepson. In return, it was very obvious that the child adored Chad. I also found Chad to be exceptional with his biological son. As the child grew and could voice his thoughts, it was clear to see that he adored his father in a way that is not common with children.*

*As busy as Chad was with his work, he made time for his children. When the divorce was final with his ex-wife and a custody arrangement was made, I was so pleased to see that he truly wanted to be involved with his stepson's life, something that he had no other reason to do other than a fatherly love for the child. Circumstances were far from ideal and it would have been easier for Chad to be selfish and to turn his back on the child and only provide the love and care to his own son. But that is not the Chad Evans that I know. He was and still is a father with deep feelings of affection towards his family.*

*In all the time that I provided care for his sons, never did I see an unusual mark, or hear a comment that would alarm me to any abuse that may be taking place. I was a witness to the painful divorce and family break-up that Chad went through and therefore was aware of his struggle with anger. In my position of caring for children, I watch fathers with their own children as well as their step children. Although I have only been caring for children for 4 ½ years, having seen almost 60 beautiful children come and go, I can honestly tell you, few fathers can compare in the level of dedication. I am very much aware that relationships vary among different people and that I was not witness to his relationship with Cassidy. While my experience with Chad has been limited to the*

*relationship with his sons, I cannot express to you the surprise and concern that I have felt since Chad was formally charged with the beating death of a child. I find that the charge does not coincide with the father figure that I knew in Chad Evans. Please understand this, I make no excuses for the abuse that has been admitted to. As a care provider for children it is my first priority and a deep seeded desire to see that children are in safe keeping. Again, while I am not a first hand witness to the dynamics of the relationship that took place between Chad Evans and Cassidy Bortner, I can say that the kind of father that I witnessed in him and the degree to which he has been convicted, are two differing stories. Thank-you for your time.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Linda M. Dalessandri*

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*Co-owner and care provider*

*of Linda's Childcare*