

Linda A. Russell
1917 Stockton Street
San Francisco, CA 94133

1 **To the Court:**

2
3 **REF: Russell V. Walsh**

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6 My name is Linda Russell. I am Stephen Russell's ("Stephen") mother, a retired registered nurse, and I have
7 known and spent a large amount of time with Tara Walsh ("Tara") since she and Stephen met in 2015 and
8 began dating. Tara often spent weeks to months at a time in San Francisco. I was either living in the
9 apartment below (Vermont St) or upstairs in the house on Stockton Street. Of the three years that Stephen
10 and Tara were together, I lived below or with the couple much of the time, including the period when she
11 moved with Evie to San Francisco in February.

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13 When Tara was away in New York she would text me often, sometimes daily. She would complain about her
14 family and life in New York and obsess as to whether my son was cheating on her, though some occasions
15 they were not even together. Tara would refer to pregnancies and miscarriages on multiple occasions that I
16 now believe were faked, much like the recent fake pregnancy she documents in her court filing. She would
17 also ask me for money and that I intervene with my son to send her more money directly and not just pay for
18 things like her apartment, medical care, or nanny directly.

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20 I spoke often with Tara about moving to San Francisco and know that she decided to do so and did so early
21 this year. She bought furniture and other essentials for the baby, changed her address, signed up for long-
22 term medical care, and went house hunting with my son. The recently floated notion that she was here on
23 vacation is not true.

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25 When Tara was with us she would work from home and I would see her a lot. She spoke often of her abusive
26 family history and her own mental illness. My understanding from Tara is that her family was that she not on
27 good terms after a family court dispute while in her teens and that her mother had beat her regularly, was
28 mentally ill, and generally controlling over trivial matters. Her father was described as either very passive or
29 very angry and a recovering alcoholic. Tara was never on good terms with her sister Brienne who kept a blog
30 that documented in the most terrible terms both the family's history of abuse and battles between the
31 sisters. Based on Tara's description, the Walsh family was profoundly dysfunctional. For my own part, despite
32 living and spending so much time with Tara and Stephen, I have never met Tara's parents or even spoken to
33 them. Not a single member of Tara's family has come to visit. They have never once attempted to contact me
34 about any of Tara's accusations.

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36 In court documents both Tara and her sister state that I think my son is mentally ill and a drug addict and that
37 I told them so. This is not true. I remember saying precisely the opposite in response to what I felt was very
38 odd set of texts and conversations with Tara where she seemed obsessed with getting me to agree with these
39 points. What I can say is that when Stephen is with Tara, I did notice odd changes in his sleeping patterns and
40 know that he has had to go to the emergency room and doctors over symptoms that they now describe as
41 likely being caused by Tara giving him her medications on an ongoing basis.

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43 Tara has voiced allegations of abuse from Stephen. Never in his life has he been physically abusive to anyone.
44 His temperament is not to even to raise his voice in anger. He is a wonderful son. He is highly intelligent, has
45 always been a hard worker, and is charitable with his time and money and I would say that if I were not his
46 mother. Stephen is a genuinely good person. On the occasion Tara references in her complaint, I was actually
47 present. I had been called by Stephen and hurried home to observe and try to calm Tara. While Stephen was

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1 still in bed, Tara began breaking expensive electronic items according to both of them. When I arrived she
2 had already destroyed a new iPhone, an iPad, and possibly a computer. She was hysterical. When I asked her
3 why she was breaking things she said it didn't matter because Stephen could afford to buy new phones and
4 computers.
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6 She stated she had fallen to the floor when she tried to take a laptop away from Stephen. Stephen stated he
7 woke up to loud noises, that Tara had chased him around the house, broken his phone and other devices, and
8 had dived at him trying to grab a laptop, but said that they were both fine. Neither Tara or Steve seemed hurt
9 or needed medical care. The next day Tara did not fully remember the incident. This episode and the time
10 Tara threw a full bottle of wine at Stephen are the only physical interactions I can remember between Tara
11 and Stephen during the time they were together.
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13 The statement by Tara's sister Brienne Walsh that Tara told her family that she was 'beaten unconscious' is
14 not true and not supported by any facts or witnesses. Tara does not say this herself. If Tara did say this to her
15 family it would be very disturbing, but would explain a lot. I cannot fully believe that Tara would tell such an
16 obvious lie, however, and think this might just be another round in the ongoing battle between the sisters.
17 Brienne Walsh's statement does Tara no favors and strikes me as very manipulative and self-centered. My son
18 called it "creepy" and deeply patronizing to Tara and I think that is right, as well. It reminds me of the time
19 Tara told me that her sister Brienne made Tara sit out of a "family" picture in which Brienne and her husband
20 Caleb posed as Evie's parents. Creepy is right. I beg the court to intervene to protect both Evie and Tara from
21 the situation she has gotten herself into.
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23 I have never been to Tara's parents' home, but Tara's descriptions of it make it seem fine for a short vacation
24 in the summer but ultimately oppressive and awful. Her parents and family have never shown the slightest
25 interest in helping Tara and Evie before now and their declarations seem oddly focused on keeping and
26 raising Evie themselves. There is just no reason for that. Stephen is a wonderful person and he has a large
27 group of responsible family and friends around him to help raise his daughter. The only people who have
28 spent any serious time with Tara or helped her with doctors or provided a roof over her head or other
29 support in the last two years are here, as well. And we had committed to helping Tara and Stephen raise their
30 daughter long before the Walsh family broke their word to get Evie safely home after a short vacation.
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32 I beg that that court find a way to get Tara the help she deserves and to bring them both home before it's too
33 late.
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35 **DECLARANT:**

36 **Russell, Linda**

37 **DOB 08-04-49, Add; 1917 Stockton St, San Francisco, CA 94133**
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39 **I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State**
40 **of California and New York that the foregoing declaration is true and correct.**

41 **Dated 6/12/2018 at San Francisco, CA.**

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44 **Linda A. Russell**