

There is absolutely no excuse or any reason in the world that could ever justify any of Mr. Brunstetter's actions. His behavior was unacceptable, indefensible and unforgivable. No matter what his life circumstances are or were he had no right to indulge his sexual perversion with a confused eight-year-old girl. It is traumatizing and perverse for a child to be sexually attacked and then told by the predator that he loves them and that these acts are consensual. Submission is not desire, it is survival.

Everyone has a right to go about his or her life without being singled out for abuse. It is impossible to judge everyone, and living in a state of paranoia is exhausting and dangerous. Lauren is entitled to have a family, friends and a social life; to feel safe and to believe that there are good people in the world. But after spending more than two years in counseling, for which I must re-arrange my work schedule, and thousands of dollars worth of prescriptions, she still has a long way to go before she regains a normal perspective of interpersonal relationships after Mr. Brunstetter's betrayal.

I myself am still coming to terms with learning that someone I loved, trusted and shared a life with, who I thought was a stabilizing influence on Lauren, could turn out to be this evil. I spent two years of my life thinking things were one way, only to learn years later that I was deceived. Now even the few memories of our time together that were once happy turn my stomach to knots. I second-guess myself far more than in the past, and have difficulty trusting anyone.

The legal process in and of itself has been a traumatic ordeal, and especially intrusive for a teenaged girl who has suddenly had her whole life examined and criticized as though she was being further punished for having revealed the original violation. Things shared with her counselor in presumed confidence, and private online conversations with her school friends and romantic interests were laid out for the court to review. This is certainly not something any young girl would subject herself to for any reason but one; regardless of his denials, Mr. Brunstetter is guilty of the allegations against him.

I have nothing to gain for my daughter or myself by his conviction and incarceration except peace of mind in knowing we did what we could to prevent him from putting another family through the nightmare we've found ourselves in the middle of. The damage is done for life either way for our family. I doubt Mr. Brunstetter can begin to comprehend the harm he did to Lauren's psyche, and by extension, to her body, which she sliced to ribbons time and again as a dysfunctional coping mechanism to deal with her unspeakable suffering.

Mr. Brunstetter is now 44 years old, still a relatively young man. I do not know whether any pedophile can be rehabilitated through therapy, but it seems clear that placing Mr. Brunstetter in any sort of treatment program for sex offenders is unlikely to produce a positive outcome. Based on his continued denial of the acts of which he was accused, I can't imagine his participation in such a program would be enthusiastic or meaningful.

I therefore request that the court recognize the risk Mr. Brunstetter poses to society, and do what it can to keep him out of circulation as long as possible. Impose the maximum possible sentence on each charge resulting in conviction, order that the sentences be served consecutively rather than concurrently, and don't suspend any portion of the sentence. Additionally, require him to register as a Child Sex Offender upon his release to warn others who may cross his path. Otherwise, the possibility that Donnie Brunstetter will resurface in another family in a few short years is very real.

Sincerely,

Lisa Banks Turner