

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

Attorney-Client Privilege



Memo

To: File
From: Stacy Ferraro
Case: McKenzie Chapman
Re: Interview with Rita Chapman
Date: October 3, 2017

Name, address, contact information

Rita Chapman
2119 Woodland Way
Apt 7J
Jackson, MS 39202
601-777-7777 (cell)

Circumstances of contact

Stacy Ferraro met Rita Chapman in her home. We met for 2 hours.

Substantive information obtained from interview

Rita is McKenzie's mother. Rita was 15 when McKenzie was born. McKenzie's father Marshall Adams was Rita's high school boyfriend. Marshall was very good looking and was a football star but he had a bad temper. When he and Rita fought he would strike her.

Rita is shocked by the crime. Rita said McKenzie was always nice and well mannered. McKenzie was never in any trouble at school or home.

When McKenzie was 4 months old, Marshall and Rita had a terrible fight and Marshall shot Rita in the back with a 22. Marshall was sent to Parchman for 8 years. McKenzie never had a relationship with his father. His father never sent any birthday or Christmas presents. His father never paid any child support. Rita tried to take McKenzie to the prison to see his father, but it was too far a drive.

Rita didn't tell her mother Earline Chapman that she was pregnant. Rita was afraid of what her church going mother would do to her. McKenzie was born premature and he was sickly for the first 2 or 3 years. McKenzie was born in May of 1998 and stayed in the hospital for 2 or 3 months. On Dec. 31, 1998, McKenzie's lung collapsed. Two or three times McKenzie developed bronchial pneumonia and had to be put in an oxygen tent at the hospital. His pediatricians were Dr. Thomas and Dr. Phillip. When McKenzie was 9 or 10 he grew out of his respiratory problems.

McKenzie walked at 10 months and said single words like "bye" when he was a year and a half. McKenzie was 3.0 to 3.5 years old before he was talking in full sentences. The baby sitters potty trained McKenzie because Rita was at work.

Rita thinks McKenzie had both the measles and the mumps. He did not have the chicken pox. McKenzie never had a broken bone. McKenzie never had any problems seeing or any dental problems.

When McKenzie was born, Rita was living with her mother Earline who helped her as much as she could. Rita was too young to be a mother and did not know how to care for McKenzie. When she was 18, Rita got her own place and a job waiting tables at night.

Rita started drinking in high school and then she started using marijuana and then crack cocaine. Rita became addicted. It was hard for Rita to take care of her kids during the day and work at night. Rita says there was a time when she was living the “street life” but she always took care of her kids.

Rita has two more children, a daughter named Willow and a son named Martin. Martin went to live with his paternal grandmother Tabitha Temple when he was 6 months old. He is a student at Ridgeland Junior High. Willow’s father, Blake Watson was killed in a car accident. Willow, McKenzie and Rita all lived together.

McKenzie attended Boyd Elementary, Brinkley Middle School and Callaway High School. He repeated third grade and seventh grade. He went to alternative school a couple of times. The teachers would pick on him. He was a great football player. He got into a fight with the coach and quit going to school in 9th grade.

Rita’s parents Earline and Lawrence were from Scott County. Her father died of cancer when Rita was 6. Her mother died in 2011 from a heart attack. McKenzie tried to do CPR on his grandmother when she died. Rita’s mom was a fabulous cook and ran a restaurant for many years. Her mother was very involved in the church and community events. Rita’s brother Ronald suffers from depression. Rita’s uncle killed himself.

Since the crime occurred, Rita has been diagnosed with depression and is taking Zyprexa.

Impression

Follow-up Needed