

Kelli Copeland
50 Butternut Drive
Keene, NH 03431
February 13, 2002

Judge Tina Nadeau
c/o Chet and Pam Evans
71 Sullivan Street
Keene, NH 03431

Dear Judge Nadeau:

I am writing to you on behalf of my good friend Chad Evans, who was recently found guilty during his trial. I cannot begin to tell you how shocked I was when I read about the verdict in the newspaper. It seemed impossible that Chad could have been found guilty of the horrible crimes for which he was being tried. The Chad Evans I know was not, is not, and never will be, capable of harming anyone, especially a child.

I worked with Chad at Domino's Pizza in Keene while he was awaiting his trial. He never talked much about the trial at all, except to answer people's questions when articles about his situation started appearing in the local paper. Chad and I used to work together night, and I always looked forward to the time we spent together. He always did whatever he could to make my job easier, without ever being asked. He always had a smile on his face, even though I knew that underneath the surface he was anxiously counting down the days to his trial. He was always someone that I could ask for advice, and he always seemed to know just what to say to make me feel better. Being a college student, I sometimes had trouble balancing the stress of school, work, and bills, but whenever I worked with Chad, I always felt one hundred times better.

Chad is a wonderful person, and I miss him very much. I know that everyone at work misses him too. There is not a single person I know who was not touched by Chad in some way or another. To me, his kindness, his compassion, and his honesty were the qualities that made him really stand out from the crowd. He had a positive affect on everyone he met, and I sincerely regret that it is only now that I am saying these things to you on his behalf, when I should have said them to him when I had the chance.

I never had the opportunity to meet his son, Kyle. However, I do know that of all the things in this world that could mean something to Chad, there is nothing that is more important to him than the love he has for his son. All Chad ever talked about was how much he wanted to be there for Kyle. He would tell me about the dreams he had for his son; teaching him to read, to ride a bike. He would bring pictures of Kyle to work, and tell me lots of cute stories about him. I could tell by the look in his eye that he was so proud of his son. I could see by the smile that brightened his face whenever he talked about Kyle that this little boy was the center of Chad's universe.

He always told me that the biggest fear he had about the trial was the possibility of losing his son. Now it seems the worst has come to be, and I'm left wondering, who will teach Kyle how to read, or beam with

pride as he rides his bike down the street on his own for the first time? I know that these are difficult questions for anyone to answer, and so I am not really posing them to you, but perhaps you will consider them when you are sentencing Chad. Perhaps you will think of all the people who love Chad and depend on him. Perhaps you will make it possible for Kyle to know his father while he is still young enough to need him.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I know that your time is valuable. I also believe that Chad's presence in the world is valuable. I believe that he still has a lot of life left to give to his son, to his family, and to many people who have not yet crossed his path. There are few people who can know the truth behind this sad situation, but there are many whose lives have been changed by it. I hope that you will use your good judgment, and consider the fate of the innocent when you sentence Chad Evans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelli Copeland". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Kelli Copeland
Tel. (603) 352-5388

Dear Evans Family,

My name is Kelli Copeland. Maybe Chad mentioned me. I got your letter and his, and I'm more than happy to write this letter for you. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to help Chad or his family. If you need me, you can reach me at 352-5388. I'm praying for all of you.

Take care,
Kelli

I enclosed an extra copy of my letter for your records just in case. The one for Judge McLean is in the unmarked envelope enclosed.