

CLERK OF THE COURT

1 **RPLY**  
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7 **EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**  
8 **FAMILY DIVISION**  
9 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

\*\*\*\*\*

9 SUSANNA G. GRONAU, )  
10 )  
11 Plaintiff, )  
12 vs. )  
13 CHRISTIAN G. GRONAU, )  
14 Defendant. )

Case Number: D-15-511057-D  
Department: H  
Date of Hearing: June 10, 2015  
Time of Hearing: 10:00 a.m.

14 **PLAINTIFF'S REPLY AND OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S OPPOSITION AND**  
15 **COUNTERMOTION**

16 **COMES NOW** Plaintiff, SUSANNA G. GRONAU, by and through her attorney of record,  
17 JOHN HALL HOWARD JR, ESQ., and hereby files her Reply and Opposition to Defendant,  
18 CHRISTIAN G. GRONAU's, Opposition and Countermotion. This reply and Opposition is made  
19 based upon the pleading and papers on file herein, the affidavits attached hereto and testimony and  
20 argument to be made at the time of hearing.

21 **DATED** this 3rd day of June, 2015.

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23   
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**I.**

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The Defendant now asserts that since their son Sean's birth they both provided substantial care. The truth is that Plaintiff provided almost the entire care for Sean in terms of daily activities such as feeding, clothing, medical care and doctor visits, and transportation to school and overseeing homework and ensuring educational progress. Plaintiff openly admits that Defendant is very involved with Sean's baseball for the last two years. The Plaintiff questions whether the Defendant is pushing Sean too hard to really fulfill his dream rather than Sean's as Sean often seems extremely stressed out by his father's demands.

The Plaintiff adamantly denies she has an alcohol problem or a prescription problem. It is ludicrous for the Defendant to state the Plaintiff has been too hung over to take Sean to school.

**II.**

**POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

The Defendant asserts he should be awarded joint legal custody and primary physical custody of Sean. Joint legal is agreed to but it is the Plaintiff that should be awarded primary physical under NRS 125.480 because it is the Plaintiff who has always provided a far more stable home. There is a high level of conflict in the home created by Defendant's actions. Their now adult child, Sydney, attests in her affidavit to the toxic, tense and abusive behaviors in the home created by Defendant. Please see Affidavit of Sydney Gronau attached as EXHIBIT 1. The Defendant has often simply refused to buy his family basic food and clothes, school supplies and pay required bills to simply maintain the home.

The Defendant seeks to avoid or downplay the importance of NRS 125.480 (j)(k) as regards to his history of parental abuse of both children and his documented domestic violence. Defendant denies he has been a perpetrator of domestic violence which is clearly false. Domestic violence is not purely limited to acts of physical violence but also encompasses acts of degradation, verbal abuse, financial denial and manipulation and withholding of basic necessities. Whether acts of domestic violence have occurred and the overall weight to be given is left to the Court to determine.

The Defendant now asserts he should be awarded child support. Even assuming the Court

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1 orders temporary joint physical custody, Plaintiff would be entitled to receive child support under  
2 125B.080, and *Wright v. Osburn*, and *Wesley v. Foster* based upon relative incomes. Defendant also  
3 asserts that he makes \$3,500.00 per month whereas the Plaintiff makes some \$650.00 per month.  
4 Clearly there is a vast discrepancy of incomes.

5 The Defendant further asserts that Plaintiff has refused to obtain or maintain employment  
6 which is untrue. She fully intends to work more hours and search out ways to better herself. Plaintiff  
7 is entitled to temporary support under NRS 125.040 and an award of fees under *Sargeant v. Sargeant*.

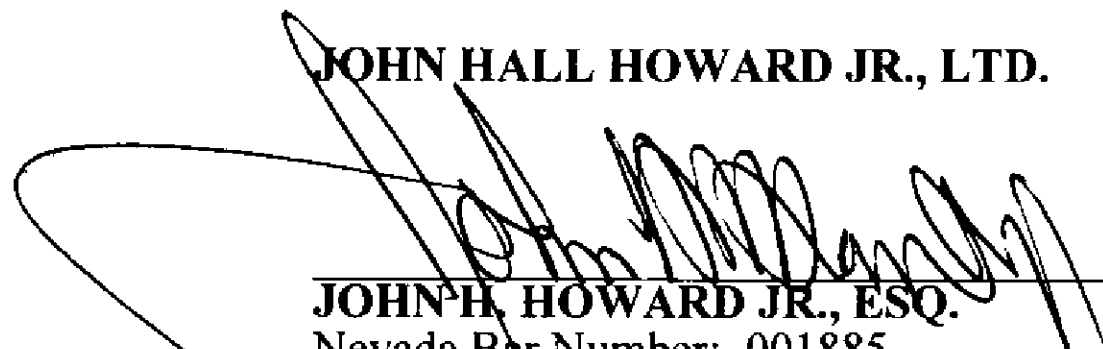
8 **III.**

9 **CONCLUSION**

10 Plaintiff is entitled to the relief set forth in her Motions on file herein and the requests made  
11 by Defendant in his Countermotions should be denied or await full hearing.

12 **DATED** this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2015.

13 **JOHN HALL HOWARD JR., LTD.**



14 **JOHN H. HOWARD JR., ESQ.**

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18 Ph: 702-385-5505

19 Attorney for the Plaintiff,

20 Susanna G. Gronau

21 **AFFIDAVIT OF PLAINTIFF**

22 STATE OF NEVADA )  
23 ) ss:  
24 COUNTY OF CLARK )

25 SUSANNA G. GRONAU, being duly sworn, states:

26 1. That the Defendant claimed he has been Sean's primary care giver. This is not true.  
27 All of Sean's and Sydney's life, I have provided food, clothes, education help, and medical expenses.  
28 Although the Defendant makes more than enough to buy groceries, he does nothing more than bring  
home chocolate milk and pudding only he eats. Sean relies on me for food because he is too scared  
to ask the Defendant for anything. If Sean needs clothes, I have to buy them. The Defendant will

1 only provide baseball equipment for Sean. With school, I have had to go alone to Sean's  
2 parent/teacher conferences during his school years and am the one that has always taken him to  
3 school. Along with this, I am the only parent to push him on homework. The Defendant does not  
4 think of Sean's education as important. I have always taken Sean and Sydney to doctors and dentist  
5 appointments growing up and have paid their co-pays. The Defendant often accuses them of faking  
6 illnesses and won't help them with medical expenses;

7 2. That the Defendant claimed he became a little league coach. Although this is true, this  
8 has had a negative effect on Sean and our family. He signed up for a coach position not for Sean, but  
9 for himself. In fact, the Defendant signed up during the last time Sean, Sydney and I left him. We  
10 were gone for over a month, and when we came back, he was coaching a team of random kids. Later,  
11 the Defendant has "bought" his team by becoming a manager. He paid to put our business name on  
12 all of their uniforms, and provided food every practice for them while we starved at home. He would  
13 tell me there was no room in the truck for me to come to their games; however, Sean had to convince  
14 him to make me team mom so that I could be there. During little league and now, the Defendant is  
15 very critical and hard on Sean; literally screaming at him while he's playing and cursing in front of  
16 parents and children watching. After too many complaints from the Lone Mountain league and  
17 parents, the Defendant was no longer allowed to coach teams. He still claims he is a coach to people  
18 he meets, brags about things he has never done, and makes up lies on the spot. The Defendant does  
19 not make Sean do baseball for Sean, but for himself. He has told me many times that his goal is to  
20 "be like Tiger Wood's dad." Sean is just a tool he is using. He does not care if Sean enjoys baseball  
21 or not, he only cares if Sean is doing good. If Sean messes up, he is abused and humiliated. The  
22 Defendant has told my daughter and I before that he has a right to abuse Sean because coaches will  
23 later in life. Before games, Sean will have diarrhea and headaches. The Defendant gets infuriated and  
24 thinks he's faking it on purpose;

25 3. That the Defendant mentions he takes Sean out of town for games. The Defendant has  
26 pulled Sean from multiples teams and made him bounce back and forth from them. Sean has had to  
27 try out for teams nonstop because the Defendant is never satisfied with him. The Defendant would  
28 not allow me to come on the two out of town trips for baseball he had. Sean should've been in school

1 during these trips;

2 4. That the Defendant said he assists Sean with schoolwork. I am the only parent who  
3 consistently cares about Sean's education. Only when I plead with the Defendant to push Sean to  
4 do his homework does he do anything, and he often says to Sean that "a dummy can't play baseball."  
5 The Defendant does not see Sean's education as important, only if he does well in baseball, and if he  
6 was able to, he would pull Sean out of school completely and make him focus solely on the sport;

7 5. That the Defendant claims that I have a substance abuse problem. This is a complete  
8 lie. I do NOT do drugs and am willing to take any drug test to prove that. Also, I have not touched  
9 alcohol since my 2008 arrest. The Defendant and my children know this;

10 6. That the Defendant has wrong information about my arrest. It was not in front of my  
11 child's school and Sean was NOT in the car, nor did he ever get into the car. The medication I had  
12 on me were prescribed to me at the time and I was NOT abusing those;

13 7. That the Defendant also claims that we made the decision to home school Sean  
14 because I was too "hungover" to take him to school. This is, again, a lie because I have always taken  
15 Sean to school. Often times when the Defendant takes days off, he makes Sean stay home with him,  
16 not caring about his education. The reason Sean got homeschool was because on the second day of  
17 his 6th grade year, he was involved in a fight with other students. I was at work so Sydney went with  
18 the Defendant to get Sean from the dean's office. Sydney and Sean both told me later that the  
19 Defendant yelled at the dean, threw out racial slurs and told Sean to "kick the kid's ass" in front of  
20 the whole dean's office and refused to acknowledge that Sean did any wrong. The Defendant told  
21 me that if I brought Sean back to that school that "it would be Sean's blood on your hands." Anytime  
22 the fight was brought up, the Defendant encouraged Sean to fight the other party involved if they ever  
23 interacted again. I, then, got on a waiting list with Connections Academy online school and K-12  
24 online school, and finally got him into Odyssey Charter School. To this day, I take him, pick him up,  
25 and help him with his assignments online;

26 8. That he also had a horrible lortab addiction and drank alcohol very often. As far as I  
27 know, he has not used illegal drugs in years or alcohol since 2010. I don't know about pain pill  
28 addiction, so I will not state lies. For years, he did use meth, marijuana, pills and cocaine. After he

1 quit using illegal drugs, he became deeply hooked on pain medication. It was so severe that he drained  
2 out our entire savings and business accounts. At this time, I believe he has a prescription for klonopin  
3 and suboxone;

4 9. The Defendant denies that he is an abuser. The Defendant has been verbally,  
5 emotionally, physically and financially abusive to me, Sydney, and Sean. Some examples are pulling  
6 my hair, flicking matches and cigarettes at me, breaking phones, coffee pots, doors, throwing my  
7 daughter's high chair at me, throwing a hot burrito at me. He has cornered Sydney and screamed in  
8 her face. He smashed her phone and broke in our laundry room door off the wall charging at her. If  
9 Sean cries, he tells him to stop and that "men don't cry." I have been to counseling at Safenest since  
10 1998 for help with dealing with an abusive partner. Sydney has also received counseling when she  
11 was younger from them. In October of 2008, Sean, Sydney and I left to stay at Safenest's shelter for  
12 abused and battered women and children. They know about my situation and spoke with both  
13 children. They received counseling there. Sydney and Sean have both confided in their school  
14 counselors about the abuse. Sean's previous counselor, Mrs. Parish, even sent Sean home with food  
15 and clothes after hearing about the financial abuse. The foundation Olive Crest has also had to helped  
16 us. They gave us food every Wednesday for six weeks and helped me get the rest of Sean and  
17 Sydney's school supplies. Sydney, Sean and I also had to sneak and get counseling at Beach  
18 Counseling in 2014;

19 10. That the Defendant is not involved with our children. He does not provide groceries,  
20 clothes, or school supplies. I have had to bring them to all of their doctor and dentist appointments  
21 and pay their co-pays;

22 11. That on November 17, 2007, the Defendant and I got into an argument. I said  
23 something that must have angered him to the point that he slapped me across the face. Both Sydney  
24 and Sean were standing within 3 feet of us. He smiled and slapped me two mores times;

25 12. That Defendant has hit, slapped, and even beaten Sean with a belt. If Sean wasn't  
26 doing something right, the Defendant would slap him in the face. He'd spank him if Sean spilled a  
27 drink or broke something on accident. As I stated before, the Defendant has beaten Sean until he bled  
28 through his diaper;

1           13.     That the Defendant insists that Sean sleeps in our bed, between him and I. Sean is  
2 almost 13 years old. If I try to sleep in the middle, Defendant calls me greedy. If Sean falls asleep  
3 on the couch or in his own room, Defendant will bring him into our own room to sleep next to him.  
4 The Defendant's only bond with Sean is baseball, which is a toxic bond. Growing up, the Defendant  
5 didn't spend time with Sean until baseball. Around the time the Defendant got kicked off of the  
6 coaching position, he left his job at Republic Services and decided to work at a mine in Northern  
7 Nevada. Defendant would be gone for 5-8 days and come home for two days. During this time, he  
8 never left us money. I know Sean loves both his father and I and I've never told him not to. However,  
9 within the past year and a half, the Defendant has tried to isolate Sean from me and his friends. The  
10 Defendant will get angry if Sean wants to play with his friends while Defendant is at home;

11           14.     That I spend every day with Sean before I go to work and I alone raised him. I play  
12 games with him, read to him, get him to do his homework, and take him to school and back. I make  
13 or buy him breakfast, lunch and dinner. I've been the one making sure Sean has clean clothes, as our  
14 washing machine has been broken for over a year. I bring our laundry to my mom's or my work to  
15 do loads. I buy him shoes, socks, underwear - things the Defendant kept promising to buy Sean but  
16 never did. I've attended all of Sean's parent/teacher conferences. The Defendant has only gone to one  
17 when Sean was in the first grade. I have taken Sean to "Build and Grow" workshops at Lowe's where  
18 Sean has made over 13 things. I've taken Sean to Home Depot workshops as well. Every  
19 doctor/dentist appointment Sean has had, I've taken him to and I've been the one to keep up on his  
20 vaccinations. I've attended all of Sean's and Sydney's school performances choir, school plays,  
21 award ceremonies. Sean has had counseling at Safenest with Heidi, at E.J. May with Mrs. Parish, at  
22 Beach Counseling with Kelly Beach, and has also spoken with Carissa and Mattie from Olive Crest.  
23 I have never forced Sean to say anything he didn't want to and he told all these counselors, "my dad  
24 is mean to my mom. He calls her names and screams at all of us." I love Sean with all of my heart.  
25 I am not trying to keep him away from his father, as the Defendant told Sean I was. I am trying to end  
26 the cycle of abuse. It is hard to undo hate and abuse, but it is possible to stop it. It is possible to limit  
27 Sean's time with his father. This is not to hurt Sean or the Defendant, but to save Sean from feeling  
28 like he'll never live up to his father's expectations, from giving up on school and friends, and from

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1 becoming an abuser and/or being abused;

2 15. That the Defendant has not, does not, and will not meet Sean's physical and emotional  
3 needs unless the Defendant is court ordered to get counseling and court ordered to start paying for  
4 food and clothes;

5 16. That the Defendant never helps Sean with schoolwork. The only time he gets home  
6 "on time" is if Sean has baseball practice on Tuesday and Thursday;

7 17. I'm guessing the Defendant doesn't even know where I work or the days I work. I've  
8 had this job for almost three years and I work Tuesday-Saturday 2-5 at a dog grooming shop. I have  
9 never been terminated from any job. My prior job before this was full time for 3 years. I took an  
10 emergency leave due to leaving the Defendant a second time on February 25, 2012. The Defendant's  
11 threats and abuse escalated to the point that I feared he would kill me. Prior to both the above listed  
12 jobs, I stayed at home to raise both kids. I worked full time up until I had Sean. I've never failed to  
13 show up to work. I have been seeking full time employment. The Defendant has had 4 jobs in the  
14 past two years. The Defendant can leave the residence and easily afford to pay for this house. He left  
15 us before, bought an RV and lived in Round Mountain, NV for 8 months. Sean should remain in the  
16 house with me until it is sold;

17 18. Further affiant sayeth naught.

18 Susanna G. Gronau  
SUSANNA G. GRONAU

19 SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me  
20 this 3rd day of June, 2015.

21 [Signature]  
22  
23 NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said  
24 County and State



25  
26  
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# **EXHIBIT 1**

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**AFFIDAVIT OF SYDNEY GRONAU IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S REPLY AND COUNTERMOTION**

STATE OF NEVADA            )  
  ) ss:  
COUNTY OF CLARK         )

SYDNEY GRONAU, being duly sworn, states:.

1.       That I am the oldest child of Susanna and Christian Gronau. I am 18 years old and live in the same house as my mother, Susanna, my father, Christian, and my brother, Sean, who is 12 years old. I write this with a heavy heart as it concerns my parents and my brother. This is extremely difficult for me and has been for my whole life. I am writing this as both a witness and victim of the emotional, verbal, financial and physical abuse, as well as the neglect and manipulation, my father has put on my family. This violence my mother, brother and I have been wrongfully put through isn't a simple family feud. In this household, the norm is to be treated lowly. Self respect is unheard of and self-esteem does not exist. There are no apologizes that come after his abuse, but we are trained to be blamed for anything bad, no matter who was at fault. I am writing this to not only record the mistreatment we have endured, but to explain why it is a necessity to Sean's survival and healthy growth that my mother has majority custody of him;

2.       That for as long as I can remember, I have not had a good relationship with my father. I feel anxiety, fear, and a sense of inferiority when speaking to him and even being in the same room as him. Growing up, I have never been good enough for his impossible standards and therefore have never been able to satisfy him. More times than I can count, has he put me down for not having a full time job, having bad grades, not playing sports, and thinking of my interests and goals as inadequate. I have heard him call me a "failure" and "a drop out" so many times that I have grown to believe it. He calls me "lazy" on a regular basis and he thinks all I do is sleep. He says I never leave my room, but when I do, I feel so much discomfort. I have been slut shamed at young ages, accused of taking drugs now and also at a young age. I have never touched a drug in my life. My own father has belittled to the equivalent of an unwanted stepchild or roommate;

3.       That one of my father's biggest abuse tactics is accusing my mother and I of substance abuse. He falsely accuses my mother of being a drunk and abusing pills she has prescriptions for.

1 I am around my mother daily and am witness to not only his accusations, but my mother's sobriety.  
2 My mom has not touched alcohol in years, and when she did, it was drinking with him on weekends.  
3 She has never abused alcohol and was never drunk around us as he claims;

4 4. That sometime in January and February of 2011, my dad made me realize how  
5 intimidating he could be. My parents were arguing in their bedroom. My father was cussing and  
6 calling my mother names like "fat cow" and "c\*nt". Sean, 8 years old at the time, was in the bed with  
7 them as he sleeps in their room. I was 14 years old at the time, went in there to take my brother into  
8 my room. My dad snapped and charged at me. He screamed at me for an hour in our hallway and  
9 would not let my mother get a word in or leave the bedroom. He smashed in our laundry room door,  
10 which still is not fixed, and broke my cell phone. This event still haunts me to this day. If I have ever  
11 been afraid of my father before, nothing could match up to this night. He cornered me, punched  
12 walls, and said unforgettable things that have scarred me for life;

13 5. That some other examples of his violent tirades include punching walls in, slamming  
14 doors, slapping my brother across the face, spilling oil all over our garage in a fit, smashing his own  
15 phone, and at times, even physically harming my mother. The most traumatizing and horrible time  
16 I've witnessed this was on November 17, 2007. That year, my grandfather, Gerry Gronau, passed  
17 away on my dad's side. My father was bad before, but this changed him in a drastically negative way  
18 and became completely bitter. That night, my parents were in a blowout fight for god knows what.  
19 In our front yard, in front of my brother and I, he slapped her three times in the face and even pushed  
20 her down. I remember him trying to deny it, and me taking all of my courage to tell him that "I saw  
21 what I saw. You hurt my mom." When my mom tried calling the police, he locked himself and Sean  
22 in a room and slapped/scratched himself. Sean, 5 years old at the time, thought it was a game and  
23 starting laughing and hitting himself too;

24 6. That in late 2008, my mother, brother and I fled to a Safenest shelter because the abuse  
25 was getting worse and more intense. My mother had been getting counseling from Safenest for years  
26 before this, and I had gone a couple of times myself in secret. The shelter was really hard on us, but  
27 it was peaceful. Stress was lifted off of my shoulders and I wasn't self conscious of everything about  
28 myself and around me for once. For a couple of weeks, I was able to breathe safely. My parents had

1 a court date set, and I thought that I finally was going to get out of this horrible and toxic household.  
2 It's sad that a young child like myself wanted my parents to get divorced, but I was forced to grow  
3 up and face reality before I knew what adulthood was. My dad promised my mom he would change,  
4 and we went back. I didn't believe it, and even cursed my mom for a long time after for bringing us  
5 back to the place that fosters such horrible memories. However, as I grew older I learned more about  
6 the cycle of abuse. My father fits the cycle to a T, and his "honeymoon stage", the calm stage of the  
7 cycle, lasted for about a month. He cried to my mom, left her love notes on their bed, and treated her  
8 like a decent human being for once. He went to Safenest appointments to correct his abusive behavior  
9 about 5 or 6 times then stopped;

10 7. That I feel my father has completely given up on me. To him, I am worth nothing in  
11 this custody battle and I guarantee he would have not tried to fight for me even if I was still underage.  
12 Nothing I do is good enough for him. In my junior year of high school, I asked him for money for  
13 a class. He told me I needed to get a job. I did just that and got home schooled. He wasn't satisfied  
14 with my job, though, because I wasn't working full time and I didn't help with bills. I have been, and  
15 still do pay for my own phone, groceries, and necessities. He has refused to buy food, clothes, pay  
16 bills on time, and help school supplies. My job, in his eyes, was inadequate. Even if I had three jobs,  
17 and I was going to school full time, I feel it still wouldn't be enough. I feel hopeless when trying to  
18 impress my father and embarrassed to discuss work and school with him. Our conversations turn  
19 into, "get a better job" "work full time if you're not going to go to school" "why are you so lazy?";

20 8. That ever since I can remember, my father has accused me of faking illnesses if I  
21 wasn't feeling well. He does the same for Sean. Because of this, I have had no financial support  
22 when it came to doctors and dentists appointments. When he's in a good mood and I tell him how  
23 I'm feeling, he'll say, "why don't you tell me about co-pays?" But every time I have, he's asked what  
24 I do with my paychecks and gets angry;

25 9. That my father is sexist, racist and homophobic. He often makes fun of my feminist  
26 views and refuses to see that women are equals. He expects "women" to do all the housework, and  
27 he allows and laughs when Sean refers to housework as "woman's work". Sean never has to do  
28 chores, saying everything is "a woman's job". My dad agrees with him and of course encourages his

1 degradation of myself and our mom. My dad often says the N word and is very vocal about his hate  
2 for black people. He has made fun of my friend for being gay and even yelled “f\*ggot” at him a few  
3 months ago. I am scared to bring my friends around him because he does not filter himself around  
4 them anymore;

5 10. My mother’s income is not high, but she spends it providing food for the family. My  
6 father has not taken us to the grocery store since 2014. Although he can more than afford it, he  
7 refuses to bring my mom and I to the store. In return, after being gone for hours and hours with Sean,  
8 he’ll come home with a gallon of chocolate milk, not even regular milk, pudding or yogurt that only  
9 he eats, and, if we’re lucky, the same frozen meal he likes. I personally have left out grocery lists in  
10 our kitchen but they always end up disappearing or thrown in a pile of papers. It’s hard to believe that  
11 he is broke when we beg for food. What is the money being spent on?;

12 11. That one of the most stressful methods of abuse by my father is the financial abuse.  
13 Although he has had multiple different jobs within the past few years, his income is high enough to  
14 pay bills and get groceries. My mom and I have tried applying for food stamps, welfare, and  
15 insurance plans. These entities need to know everyone’s income in the house but he refuses to tell  
16 us how much he makes. Our bills are never paid on time, or are not paid at all. Within the past year,  
17 our electric, water, gas, cable/internet, and phone have been shut off multiple times from no payment.  
18 We’ve had to wait hours, sometimes over a week, for some of these utilites to be turned back on. It’s  
19 absolutely terrifying when we wake up and realize they’re shut off because his reaction is horrible.  
20 When we tell him, he screams at my mom and I to get full time jobs and will sometimes wait to pay  
21 the bill as a form of punishment. My mother, Sean and I dread the abuse that comes with the notion  
22 that he has to spend money;

23 12. That the abuse my mother has to endure is unbearable to think about. Around my  
24 brother and I, he has called her every name in the book, made fun of her looks, teeth, weight,  
25 personality, goals, and just about everything you could think of. He has isolated her from all her old  
26 friends by flipping out on them in the past. He makes fun of her family so drastically that we’re  
27 embarrassed to bring them around him. He has cheated on her before and during their marriage. He  
28 has not made physical contact with her that I have seen in years and does not treat her like a wife, let

1 alone a partner or even a person;

2 13. That Sean is picking up my father's abusive traits and I am terrified that Sean's family  
3 one day will end up at a Safenest shelter running away from him. Sean is extremely disrespectful  
4 towards women and treats my mom and me like we should be waiting on him 24/7. Sean will never  
5 clean his room, dishes, or do any housework stating it's a "woman's job". My dad will laugh and  
6 agree with him and allows Sean to dictate my mom around. He encourages it, justifying Sean's  
7 baseball games as hard work enough. My brother also still sleeps in my parents bed, always between  
8 them. When my mom tells him he needs to start sleeping in his own room my father gets angry and  
9 makes Sean sleep in their room. If Sean falls asleep in his own room, my dad will carry him into their  
10 room and put him in the middle. A teenage boy should not be sleeping next to his parents;

11 14. That the relationship between my father and brother is poisonous. My father believes  
12 he is the epitome of a perfect parent because of Sean's baseball, but this is the opposite case. Sean  
13 being in baseball is my father's biggest abuse technique against him. I am two hundred percent,  
14 completely against Sean being in baseball because of how much it is ruining that child's life. It is  
15 TOXIC and disgusting what my father puts him through. He screams over the coach during games  
16 and loudly curses around other families and children. Before games, we all face verbal and emotional  
17 abuse. He screams at all of us for not getting Sean ready, and yells at Sean while he's getting ready.  
18 Sean always gets sick before games with diarrhea and has even thrown up. If he's sick before a game,  
19 my dad becomes furious and says he's faking or doing it on purpose. It is my dad's goal and only  
20 priority to fuse Sean into a professional baseball player. My dad does not care if Sean likes baseball  
21 or not, or if he has fun or not, he only cares if he does good. Sean's school work is neglected because  
22 he disappears almost every night with my dad for "practices" and games. I've told my dad before that  
23 Sean will never have an opportunity to become a professional player if he doesn't do well in school.  
24 My father is blind to this and, if he had it his way, he would take Sean out of school completely to  
25 focus on baseball. My dad does not care about Sean's education or happiness. He sees Sean as a way  
26 to fulfill his own dreams;

27 15. That my father made my mom pull him out of Lied, and signed him up for home  
28 school. I remember specific times when my mom would tell Sean he needed to be put back in public


1 school because he doesn't do his school work. My dad and Sean have both argued that he NEEDS  
2 to be home schooled. My mom is the only parent who truly cares about Sean's education;

3 16. That Sean is terrified of my father. He is scared to the point where he has stopped  
4 telling me directly when he is hurt by him in fear I'll bring it up to him when I'm angry. Sean lies to  
5 my father constantly about baseball and other general things. He purposefully goes in the front yard  
6 to practice swinging his bat when he knows my dad is on his way home so my dad doesn't get mad  
7 at him for practicing. When Sean does wrong, my dad has slapped him across the face multiple times  
8 and has even left a belt mark on Sean's wall. One time, my dad beat Sean till he bled over spilling  
9 baby powder everywhere. I will never forget the horrid event. After my father got served with  
10 divorce papers, he bought Sean toys in secret in preparations to kiss up to Sean. My brother is a very  
11 young 12 year old. His mindset is not one of a teenager yet and won't be when he turns 13, and he  
12 is easily manipulated. My dad is not a good influence on him and will continue to mold him into an  
13 abuser and destroy Sean's emotional state;


14 17. That my mother is a great mom to both my brother and I, and has tried her whole  
15 marriage to work it out with my father. Our house has always been cleaned by her, and she makes  
16 sure we have clean clothes, we're fed, and we're happy. My mom was my biggest and only support  
17 growing up. She was always around when I needed her and always made sure I was doing well. The  
18 same goes for my brother. I know my mom loves us more than anything;

19 18. That my story and experiences are not baseless just because I am 18 now. I deserve  
20 to have a say in whether my brother has a safe life or not. I am asking that my mother, Susanna  
21 Gronau, gets major custody of my brother, Sean Gronau, for his safety, his growth, and his well being;

22 19. Further affiant sayeth naught.

23   
24 SYDNEY GRONAU

25 SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me  
26 this 3rd day of June, 2015.

27   
28 NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said  
County and State

