



SOUTH HILLS ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY ASSOCIATES, P.C.

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Honorable Dennis J. Waldron
Criminal District Court-Section F
2700 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70119

Dear Judge Waldron:

I am writing in regard to my brother Christopher Nabors. I am the oldest child in our family, Christopher is fourteen months younger and our sister is four years younger. I am thirty two years old and married with two young sons. I moved back to Pittsburgh last summer after spending four years in Boston during my Orthopaedic surgery residency. Enclosed is a picture taken three years ago of my oldest son with his name sake, my brother. I named my son after my brother because I love him, respect him, and miss him.

During early childhood my brother and I were constant companions and best friends. I was always just a little bit bigger and faster and a little better at most sports. This combined with his inborn personality caused us to be in nearly constant competition. To this day I think that this competition affects my brother's outlook on life and his relationship with me.

As with many siblings we grew apart during adolescence, each developing our own friends and interests. But as we matured and entered adulthood we both returned from college to attend graduate school in Pittsburgh. At that time we then became close again and shared several close friends, including one of my childhood best friends. This friend was Mike Aloe who ultimately chose Christopher to be his best man in his wedding. He continues to be a close friend of both of us and has written you a letter on Chris' behalf. Chris and I have been apart for the past 6 years since he moved to New Orleans to pursue his medical training. We usually see each other a couple of times a year and speak on the phone every few weeks.

Throughout my life I have seen the good side of Chris and the bad side. I believe that the good side far outweighs the bad. He has always been a very sensitive and caring person although his outer personality sometimes hides this. One example of his caring nature that comes to mind concerns a middle aged woman who Chris recently

cared for while working as a surgical intern. He phoned me several months ago to describe how this patient had survived a spontaneous hemorrhage into her brain. This is often a fatal condition but miraculously this patient survived with very few adverse effects on her mental function. During her recuperation she required the placement of a tracheostomy tube to assist her in breathing. Chris was assigned the task of performing this operation under the supervision of a more experienced surgeon. During her recuperation from this operation and her from brain hemorrhage she suddenly died as a result of an unexpected complication. My brother was devastated by this event and phoned me several times to discuss her case. Even though he was the lowest ranking member of a neurosurgical team composed of many physicians he still tried to blame himself for her death. We went over many aspects of her case and how she died. We finally pin pointed what we thought was the cause of her death and I think that as a result Christopher will be a better and more diligent physician. I think that he will be affected by this event for the rest of his life.

Another example of Chris' caring nature is the concern that he shows for my children. During his doctoral studies in neuroanatomy he became quite knowledgeable about how the brain develops and functions. He has told me that he thinks that the very early years of a child's development have a profound effect on the way the brain develops. He thinks that this can determine the ultimate capacity of the brain to think, learn, and function. Consequently he frequently tells me that the frequency and diversity of stimulation to a young child's brain can and will affect how that child's mind develops. He often phones me to ask how I have been stimulating my two young sons and to inquire how they are doing. Another example that comes to mind of his concern for my children occurred while we both visiting my parents about a year ago. My mother had gotten some old Halloween masks out of the attic which she thought the children might like to play with. But my brother saw these masks and was quite concerned that these masks might actually scare my sons. He was afraid somehow these scary masks might scar their young minds and have an affect on them for the rest of their life. He made my mother remove these masks.

My brother has some other admirable qualities. He is obviously very intelligent and perseverant as witnessed by the achievement of his three graduate degrees. He has always been quite competitive and I think this is part of the reason that has driven him to the high level of achievement he has in his professional life. He is a very amiable and social person who makes friends easily and who truly seems to enjoy talking to people and listening to their stories. I think that one day he will make an excellent and caring physician and one who will be able to make a positive difference in many people's lives.

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Chris also has some weaknesses. In my opinion the major one is a sense of insecurity. On first meeting Christopher this insecurity is often displaced outwardly as a kind of arrogant, self centered attitude. It is only after he lets down his guard that his true warm nature is often revealed.

His other main weakness may be related to his insecurity and is an unwillingness to express his inner emotions. He is usually quite willing and open about expressing his superficial emotions and those which he thinks will entertain people. I think that he learned this trait from my parents, who have also never been enthusiastic about expressing their emotions to other people or even to their own children. Unfortunately I think that the medical training process has accentuated this behavior. Seeing sickness and death on a daily basis dulls the emotions. And beyond that physicians are encouraged not to become emotionally involved with their patients because this could cause them to make decisions based on emotion and not based on medical facts.

In conclusion, my picture of my brother is of a likeable, sociable young man who truly enjoys being able to help people as a physician and simply as a human being. I know he is an asset to our world and will do many more good things in his life.

Sincerely,



Eric D. Nabors, M.D.

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