

Declaration in Support of Vacating the Judgment of Conviction
Rendered Against Gerald Arthur Sandusky

I, Marie, submit this declaration in support of vacating the judgment of conviction rendered against Gerald Arthur Sandusky in June 2012.

I am in my 50s and live in Pennsylvania. My full name, address, and phone number will be made known to the judge and are fully known to the investigative reporter Frank Parlato and private investigator John Snedden.

Testimony at the Sandusky Trial

I testified at the criminal trial of Gerald Arthur Sandusky on June 18, 2012. I was the last witness called by the prosecution in this case. I am also the mother of "Victim #9," who I will refer to as Ryan, who testified in the trial on June 14, 2012. Ryan was 18 years old and a senior in high school at the time of his testimony.

Prosecutors Claim Conviction Based on My Son's Testimony

Six of the 45 counts for which Mr. Sandusky was convicted concerned my son, Ryan. These counts included two charges of involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, indecent assault, unlawful contact with a minor, corruption of minors, and endangering the welfare of a child.

The lead prosecutor, Joe McGettigan, informed my son that he was the key witness in securing Mr. Sandusky's conviction and ensuring a prison sentence that would exceed Mr. Sandusky's natural life.

Concerns Regarding the Trial and Verdict

In the 12 years since the trial, I have carried deep misgivings about the charges and the trial's outcome. I now feel strongly that Gerald Sandusky did not receive a fair trial and that the process leading to his conviction was flawed. I have wrestled with these conflicting thoughts for many years, but I now believe that my son's testimony was manipulated and not truthful in material aspects.

Manipulation of My Son's Testimony

My son, Ryan, suffers from a learning and emotional disability. These challenges have affected him for most of his life, long before his interactions with Mr. Sandusky.

However, I believe the prosecutors exploited these vulnerabilities. After meeting with the prosecutors from the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Ryan's story changed significantly, leading me to suspect that they influenced his testimony. I believe my son was a victim of this manipulation and that his disability made him especially susceptible to persuasion.

I have come to believe my son is a victim, not of Mr. Sandusky, but of the prosecution.

Exclusion from Meetings with the Prosecution

Throughout the investigation and trial, I was excluded from the meetings between Ryan and the prosecutors. I now believe this exclusion was intentional. The Attorney General's Office claimed my exclusion was due to the possibility that I could be a witness in the trial. However, I now believe this was part of a broader strategy to prevent me from hearing how the prosecutors were influencing my son. Had I been present, I might have been able to ensure that Ryan was not coerced or misled into giving false or exaggerated testimony.

Misrepresentation of My Testimony

My testimony during the trial was also taken out of context, and I now believe this was deliberate on the part of the prosecution, specifically Deputy Attorney General Joseph McGettigan.

My testimony was used in a manner that I feel misrepresented the facts and my understanding of the situation. This further contributed to my growing doubts about the fairness and integrity of the proceedings against Mr. Sandusky.

Changes in Ryan's Story

Initially, Ryan consistently maintained that Mr. Sandusky had never molested him. He repeatedly told me, even in the presence of police, that "Jerry isn't like that. He's a nice guy. He's a big kid and is just touchy-feely."

However, after several lengthy meetings with Mr. McGettigan, Ryan's story changed from one in which Mr. Sandusky had not abused him to one where he did.

Testimony Inconsistencies

I can state from my own knowledge that my son did not accurately testify regarding the number of times he visited Mr. Sandusky's home. Before continuing, I want to note that I never read my son's testimony until it was shown to me in September, 2024 by Mr. Parlato. As a mother, I avoided reading it, but I always felt something was wrong about the conviction and how quickly the case proceeded to trial. However, I cannot remain silent after reviewing the testimony and realizing the inaccuracies. I now believe that these untruths played a significant role in Mr. Sandusky's conviction.

Ryan's Testimony Regarding Visits to Sandusky's House

During the trial, Prosecutor McGettigan questioned Ryan about the number of times he stayed at Mr. Sandusky's house:

Q. How many times did you stay at the defendant's house over the course of about three years, between 2005 and into 2008, 2009?

A. Every weekend from Friday to Saturday,
Q. Every weekend, almost every weekend?
A. Almost every weekend.
Q. Do you know how many times that was?
A. No.
Q. More than 20?
A. More -- more than that, between 150 maybe, maybe 100. I don't know.

On cross examination by Mr. Sandusky's attorney, Joseph Amendola, Ryan testified:

Q. ... how often did you go to his house, weekly or monthly?
A. Every weekend of the month.
Q. So every weekend. Did you stay the whole weekend?
A. Yeah.
...
Q. And you would stay from Friday night till Sunday?
A. Yes.
...
Q. So, you're telling us today that between the time that you were 12 in 2005 and the time that you stopped going to Mr. Sandusky's in what would have been when you were 16, which would have been four years later, I guess, 2009, your testimony is you were there virtually every weekend?
A. Yes.

Did Not Go Every Weekend

Mr. McGettigan, who always interviewed me separately from Ryan and vice versa, was always so certain that it seemed he wanted me to rely on his facts if there were any doubts.

Under cross examination, I did not know what Ryan had testified.

I was asked:

Q. Over the course of two or three years, how often would [Ryan] go to the defendant's home?
A. He would go a couple times a month.
Q. Almost every month?
A. Yeah, just about every month (during the football season). Not all (months). I would say from late spring till maybe it would stop, like, around Christmas time or so. So it was mostly all summer, you know, during football season, and then after football season, he would not go very often after that.
...
Q. [I]f [Ryan] said that continued for almost four years, is that a possibility?
A. Around three, four years, yes.
Q. And your testimony is that that was two or three weekends a month basically?
A. Yes. Now, it wasn't the whole year because there would be breaks, you know....

Contradictions in Alleged Abuse Timeline and Frequency

Ryan's testimony about the nature of the alleged abuse raises significant doubts. According to his statements, he experienced abuse nearly every weekend between 2005 and 2008, yet continued to visit Mr. Sandusky's home regularly.

According to the transcripts of the testimony, my son testified that when he was between "maybe 13 and 14, maybe 15," Mr. Sandusky forced him to "touch his penis," "suck his penis," "pulled his pants down, laid on top of me, kind of forced it in," and "put his penis in my butt" during his 100-150 all-weekend visits to Mr. Sandusky's home.

Ryan testified he was confined in Mr. Sandusky's "soundproof" basement every weekend "between 2005 and into 2008."

Ryan testified he did not like this alleged sexual contact, and when he screamed for help, no one could hear him because the basement was soundproof.

When I read this for the first time and, knowing my son, my first question was, "Yet he continued to go to Jerry's every weekend, for years?"

From my own experience and understanding of my son's character, this does not align with his behavior.

Ryan was not alone during his visits with Mr. Sandusky; other boys were almost always present, which would make the alleged circumstances of repeated abuse less plausible.

Ryan also testified that the basement of Mr. Sandusky's house was soundproof, explaining that his screams for help could not be heard. However, there is no evidence to support that Mr. Sandusky's basement was soundproof, and this claim further complicates the narrative provided by my son.

He also said he was unable to escape the basement, yet my son could have easily escaped from the Sandusky basement, which is actually a hillside property where a door in the basement leads out to the backyard.

My son was very skillful at getting in and out of places and used to sneak out of our trailer through a window when he was ten. His testimony that Mr. Sandusky held him captive in his basement every weekend for three years is not plausible and is not true.

Misrepresentation of Overnight Stays

As a mother, I was responsible for my son's care during the time in question.

Ryan's testimony that he stayed overnight nearly every weekend does not match my recollection. If he stayed overnight at Mr. Sandusky's house, it was infrequent, and was always after a home Penn State football game. On or twos occasion, Mr. Sandusky took Ryan to visit his mother in

the nursing home and, on Sunday, to attend church. I was fully aware of Ryan's activities, and I would have noticed if he had been away from home every weekend, as he claimed.

The Influence of the Prosecution

I believe that Ryan's testimony was influenced by the prosecution's narrative. When Ryan initially spoke to me about Mr. Sandusky, he expressed no discomfort or concerns about abuse.

His story changed only after multiple meetings with the prosecution, during which I was excluded from participating. This exclusion raises questions about how Ryan's testimony evolved and how his statements were shaped by external pressures.

My Testimony

At the time I testified, my recollection was incomplete. While I answered truthfully, I later realized that Ryan's testimony may have led the jury to believe he visited more frequently than he did. The cross-examination's confusing nature further complicated this discrepancy.

My son lived with me the entire time he visited Mr. Sandusky (allegedly from 2005-2009). It is my best recollection and estimate that Ryan visited Mr. Sandusky no more than 10-15 times, not 100-150 times as he testified, and stopped seeing Mr. Sandusky when he was 15, not 16, as he said.

Correcting the misrepresentation that Ryan stayed overnight more frequently than he did is crucial.

If he did ever stay a whole weekend, it was no more than two times and during a weekend when there was some special event, like a charity tournament, that included other kids.

It's important to note that most, if not all, the times Ryan stayed overnight at Mr. Sandusky's house were after Mr. Sandusky took him and other boys to Penn State home games.

Ryan attended these home games with Mr. Sandusky no more than once a month.

I do not recall that he saw Mr. Sandusky during 2008 or 2009, which limits the period of these summer visits to two years, not four.

Rape Allegations and Missing Underwear

During my son's cross-examination, Mr. Amendola asked him about the alleged anal rapes and injury to his rectum.

Q. Did you ever bleed?

A. Yes.

...

Q. Did your mom wash your clothes when you were at home?

A. Yes.

Q: Did she ever see blood on your underwear?

A No.

....

Q. And your mother never noticed anything wrong with your underwear?

A. Like I said, I -- I handle things differently than a lot of people.

...

Q. She washed your clothes, correct?

A. Yes.

The underwear testimony is significant.

Attorney McGettigan seized on this and told me I needed to mention that I wished Mr. Sandusky would have gotten him underwear and socks instead of Nike gear.

I did not fully comprehend why he wanted me to say that Ryan had had issues with his underwear.

I now realize he wanted it to appear that Mr. Sandusky caused this problem with the underwear.

Actually, Ryan had issues with his missing underwear for years before he met Mr. Sandusky.

During my testimony, Mr. McGettigan asked me the following question, and I answered as he had advised:

Q. One other thing I forgot to ask you. Did the defendant ever give [Ryan] gifts? Did he ever give him clothes?

A. Oh, yeah. He gave him clothes. He gave him gifts. I wish he would have just gave him some underwear to replace the underwear that I could never find in my laundry. On cross examination, Mr. Amendola pursued the question of the missing underwear.

...

Q. Did you ever notice anything unusual about [Ryan's] clothes?

A. I always wondered why he never had any underwear in the laundry. He always -- there was never any underwear, never socks, and I often wondered what happened to them. He would just tell me he had an accident in them and he would throw them out.

Q. Did you ask him about it?

A. Well, yeah, I asked him, and he would say he had an accident in them and he threw them out.

Problems Arose Long Before Ryan Met Mr. Sandusky

From an early age, Ryan displayed behaviors I found concerning, for which I took him to see doctors and therapists.

CYS investigators declared he was "experimenting," and it wasn't an issue at that time, but the behaviors continued.

I spent years trying to get him help because I found his behavior strange. However, when I discussed it with his therapists and doctors, none of them considered it a serious concern.

The important point here is that these behaviors started long before he ever met Mr. Sandusky. For example, he had hidden his underwear and socks since he was three or four, well before he met Mr. Sandusky.

My testimony was misunderstood by the jury, which I now realize was Mr. McGettigan's plan. He coached me and asked me a preplanned question near the end of my testimony, posing it as if he had forgotten to ask.

While my answer was truthful, Mr. McGettigan designed it so the jury would take it out of context. It, therefore, does not represent the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

I believe this absence of the three qualities of truth permeated the entire trial.

Prosecutor Takes Control of My Son's Testimony and His Life

At or around the time of the trial, Mr. McGettigan and others told my son, "You will never have to work a day in your life."

At the trial, Prosecutor McGettigan asked Ryan:

Q. Well, do you have a lawyer now?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever go looking for a lawyer?

A. No.

Q. Did your mom tell you she was going to get a lawyer?

A. No, you're my lawyer.

Q. Are you going to pay me?

A. Yeah, I'm going to try.

McGettigan's Role and the Influence of Legal Counsel

I believe that Ryan did not understand how the system worked.

Mr. McGettigan, while working as a Pennsylvania Deputy Attorney General, facilitated my son and my introduction to attorney Dennis McAndrews, who was to handle Ryan's legal matters, including a planned civil lawsuit against Penn State.

After the criminal trial, the pressure from the prosecutors to pursue civil litigation intensified. I explicitly told Deputy Attorney General Frank Fina that I did not want to proceed, stating, "No, I don't want to do that, it will ruin my family."

I was told my son would need medical and therapeutic care and Mr. McGettigan told us he could help us with that. He also said he had a friend who was a special needs attorney in Bryn Mawr, PA and that he could call to see if he wanted to help.

Prosecutor Refers Lawyer Then Joins Law Firm

Mr. McGettigan recommended attorney Dennis McAndrews, whose law firm he joined after leaving the Attorney General's office.

Within weeks of Mr. Sandusky's conviction, attorney Stephen Raynes, introduced by McAndrews, filed a notice of claim against Penn State on behalf of my son.

Manipulation of Testimony and Financial Exploitation

On July 17, 2012, less than 30 days after Mr. Sandusky's conviction, Mr. McAndrews had arranged for attorney Stephen Raynes to file a notice of claim against Penn State.

My son's testimony was manipulated by Mr. McGettigan and was false in material ways.

Mr. McGettigan ultimately profited financially by my son's false testimony. He became the law partner with the attorney he referred to my son (Mr. McAndrews) prior to the settlement with Penn State, where my son got an award of \$20 million less the contingency, referral fees, costs of setting up the trust, and repayment of borrowed money.

Mr. McAndrews also created a trust fund for my son.

Prosecutor Kept Me From Interfering With the Truth

Before and during the trial, Mr. McGettigan managed my son's personal affairs and assigned State Troopers to monitor his activities.

During the investigation, before the trial, I explicitly said early on, "I'm not jumping on this bandwagon," after which they excluded me from the process.

They never let me listen to what Ryan told them.

When they prepared Ryan for trial, the prosecutors wouldn't let me in the room.

Ryan was clearly unhappy. It was like the prosecutors were controlling his life, alternating between tempting him with the allure of having anything he wanted and the intimidation of the State Troopers constant presence.

Leading up to the trial, Ryan was using drugs and hanging out with a bad crowd. He was self-sabotaging and doing self-destructive behavior, like cutting.

The Troopers had already taken charge of Ryan.

I told the officers in charge that if anything happened to Ryan, I would hold them accountable.

Shortly after, I got a call that Ryan was in the ICU after trying to commit suicide. This was shortly before the trial.

After the trial was over, the litigation lawyers bought my son expensive gifts.

After the trial, Mr. McAndrews had us relocate to a condo in Bryn Mawr, PA. Then, Mr. McAndrews introduced us to litigation attorneys at Raynes McCarty, who provided us money to move into a few different homes in Malvern, PA and provided my son with money whenever he requested it.

I did not know where this money was coming from, but I later learned it was borrowed against a future settlement. We were unaware of how anything like this worked. We had never lived outside our means or dealt with matters such as this.

Upon information and belief, at the behest of his attorneys, my son had to borrow hundreds of thousands of dollars from a company called US Claims, which charges 27 percent interest compounded monthly over the three years between borrowing the money at the time of filing the claim and the final settlement. This money was used for living expenses, as well as the numerous therapists and professionals hired by his attorneys to allegedly help my son.

Attorneys Encouraged Spending

After my son filed his claim against Penn State, attorney McAndrew told my son he needed to move to a new house with live-in counselors.

My 19-year-old son went from living a modest lifestyle with me to having the freedom to do anything he wanted, thanks to the support of his team of "professionals." I tried to pay the bills and manage his affairs, but it quickly became overwhelming. My son never faced the natural consequences of his actions, including criminal activities that his attorneys bailed him out of.

On or about April 11, 2013, Attorney McGettigan, having left his position with the PA State Attorney General's office, joined the law firm of my son's attorney, the McAndrews Law Office PC.

On April 28, 2015, Ryan's attorneys settled with Penn State for \$20 million. I was living in Florida at the time and learned of this when my son called me and told me, "We got it."

After subtracting the lawyers' contingency fees of one third, plus expenses, and repayment of the high interest loans with US Claims, which in some cases were more than double the initial amount borrowed, attorney McAndrews made a trust fund for Ryan's money with some input from me on how it should be distributed. My main concern was protecting my son from opportunists, because I know he can be easily taken advantage of.

I did not realize at the time that the biggest opportunists were the ones claiming they were protecting my son.

Power of Attorney

Mr. McAndrews, along with the former prosecutor, Joseph McGettigan, having left the PA Attorney General to join the law firm managing my son's finances, established a power of attorney, Chris Malanga, to make legal and financial decisions for my son.

Mr. Malanga's occupation prior to his appointment was as a therapist and “life coach.”

Within no time, attorneys McAndrews and McGettigan and Mr. Malanga appointed numerous therapists, including some that lived with my son 24/7.

While Ryan was living with these therapists, he was arrested on marijuana charges in PA. Prosecutor Frank Fina and Mr. McGettigan arranged for him to avoid jail time and relocate to Colorado, because “marijuana is legal there.”

Therapists’ Control

The numerous therapists and other paid overseers became referred to as the “Colorado Team.”

In time, they forbade me to see my son without seeking approval from the Colorado team of financial and therapy – managers. When I wanted to visit, I had to wait for approval from his team and his attorneys. One or more members of the team supervised our visits.

When my son bought a house in Boulder, CO in late 2015, a “life coach” named Zachary Weinzetl moved in and slept on the couch. Mr. Malanga arranged for my son to have daily therapy at the Buddhism-based facility “Wind Horse” in Boulder.

Prosecutor Fina and Mr. McGettigan visited when there was allegedly a problem and hired a retired police officer to be on security detail for my son.

My son saw four or five therapists in a day, some of whom lived with him, along with nannies and doulas after his first baby was born. The managers of my son allowed drug use in the home before, during, and after this pregnancy.

One day, I observed Mr. Malanga hug my son and exclaim, “You’ve made me so much money, buddy! You made me what I am today!”

Whenever I claimed things were not right or tried to keep his drug use limited, the managers, including Mr. McGettigan, would tell my son, “Your mom is batshit crazy.”

Gradually they alienated my son from his family, mainly me — his mother.

Questions About the Trust and Who Profits

When I last had contact with my son, he was getting a weekly stipend of \$1500 but does not know how much money is in his trust and, upon information and belief, the lawyers, therapists and managers of my son's life "earn" far more annually than he does. I have also witnessed several so-called friends and girlfriends steal money from him freely.

My son has had more than one power of attorney, appointed by his attorneys, who handle his financial and legal affairs.

My efforts to encourage Ryan to work or start a business with me were met with adamant resistance by the "Colorado team," as if they did not want him to be self-sufficient, or me to have financial independence.

Ryan's drug use got more serious and he was eventually arrested in Colorado for cocaine. I do not know who bailed him out, but I can safely predict it was someone from the "Colorado team."

Instead of helping my son, Mr. McGettigan not only encouraged and coached my son to provide false testimony that, according to him, put Mr. Sandusky away for life, but he and his team of enablers have hurt my son and alienated him from me because I dared to advocate for his best interest.

While I highly doubt Jerry Sandusky ever abused my son (just as Ryan said to me repeatedly, before so-called "professionals" took control of his life), I know that Mr. McGettigan and his team of enablers have manipulated my son and continue to take advantage of him.

I am neither an advocate nor friend of Jerry Sandusky's. As a survivor myself, I believe the system must impartial and fair — to protect both the victimized and the falsely accused.

I, Marie, declare under penalty of perjury that I am making this statement voluntarily and of my own free will. I have not been offered any payment, compensation, or other inducements to provide this statement. Furthermore, I have not been coerced, threatened, or intimidated in any way by any person, party, or organization in connection with this declaration.

I confirm that the information contained in this declaration is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I am providing this statement solely out of my personal desire to tell the truth and bring forward the facts as I know them.

I declare this under the laws of Pennsylvania and under penalty of perjury.

2
Dated: October 1^x, 2024 *AMQ*

Location: Mount Pleasant, PA

Signature:

Angela Marie Quidetto

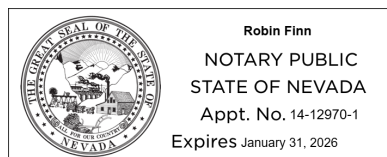
Angela Marie Quidetto

State of Nevada

County of Clark

This instrument was acknowledged before me on 10/02/2024 by Angela Marie Quidetto.

Robin Finn
Robin Finn



Notarized remotely using audio-video communication technology via Proof.