

JESSICA GOOD – SENTENCING STATEMENT

I admit that I am guilty.

I used my child to take advantage of the charity and trust of others to benefit myself. I knew it was wrong at the time, I knew that that I was harming my family and the people who trusted in me, but at the time, I did not consider the harm I was causing. I thought only about myself.

I used the money for everyday expenses. Used it to pay bills, food, and fund activities with the children. I used my story to get services I would not have otherwise like tickets to OSU games. There were also the food stamps and Medicare. That allowed me to stay at home and not work.

The reason I did what I did comes down to greed, disregard for others, seeking sympathy and acceptance, and a life out of control. I have no excuse for the way I acted. I look back and don't why I did what I did. It does not make sense. I can't believe I would do such a thing, but I did. Now I have to live with that, my family has to live with that, people who trusted me have to live with that. I'm so sorry.

I acknowledge that I have caused others harm:

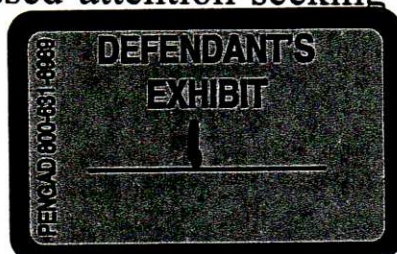
I have caused harm to family, emotional suffering for my children and husband, damaged relationship with my in-laws, my immediate family, friends, church members, and community. And worse, I harmed the best members of the community – the trusting and charitable members of the community, the people who deserve to be hurt the least. I know sorry does not make up for the harm I caused, but I am truly sorry.

I also caused financial harm. I took money from people who worked hard for their money so that I could stay at home. I took money from the tax payers who funded medical services that I should have been working to pay for. I hurt people I have never met, and people who have never even heard of me, people who don't know they were cheated. To them I am sorry as well.

I have addressed my problem:

I had psychological evaluation conducted in October by Gail Poyner. She identified psychological issues I needed to address.

I began counseling with Steve Megli in August of 2016. At first it was individual counseling, my husband began seeing him individually as well, and then we began doing marriage counseling in October. With Steve we addressed all the things I had done wrong, we focused on my childhood, my past marriage and difficulties I was having in my marriage now. We addressed attention seeking behavior, seeking acceptance, greed,



selfishness, and what caused me to do what I did. We discussed harm I had caused, discussed what needed to be done to mend relationships, and acceptance of consequences for harm already caused. We are continuing to address these issues through counseling.

I began counseling with Jessica Banchard who was at ATS at the time. I started seeing her October 2016. That was for individual counseling, my time with her was more focused on behavioral health. We went through the psychological evaluation. We focused on my family history, and possible causes of my behavior, the depression I was suffering from, the anxiety, and attention seeking behavior that came out of that. I am continuing individual counseling to address these issues.

I also began attending Celebrate Recovery on August 14, 2016 – two days after I was arrested. Kristin Campbell called and said I should come. In that program I completed a 12 step program, which is a nine month program. That program addresses moral values, turning point, complete inventory of all past wrongs – who you have wronged and your part in that. I first focused on making amends with my children, my husband, my in-laws, reached out to people I have wronged in the community who contributed. I am continuing to make amends, and will be making amends for years. After I completed 12th step I gave my testimony – I admitted what I had done wrong, acknowledged the harm I caused, and asked for forgiveness.

I am now employed. I have been employed for over a year, the first time I have worked full time since around high school. It has been good for me. It has allowed me to provide for my children, like I should have been doing all along. It has taught me the value of money and made me appreciate working for what you have. It has also allowed me to earn money to pay back those who gave me money.

I have been caring for my children. Ever since my children were removed from my home, my husband and I have been working to have the children return home. At first we were getting limited supervised visits, eventually we started doing weekends, we then did week to week, and on September 15th the children returned to my home full time. I have been focused on making them comfortable and being a good mother and provider for them.

I understand that accountability is important. I have put boundaries in place to prevent this from happening again. Accountability is a big part of that. I have my husband or mother-in-law go with me to all doctor appointments with the children. I have an accountability team at CR, we meet with each other weekly and stay in contact daily. I meet with my sponsor every other week, and she is a phone call away at any time.

I have tried to make amends:

I have apologized to my family and am doing counseling with my family. I have apologized to people who trusted me and gave me money. I know saying sorry does not

fix what I did, but I think it is important to let them know that I understand that I hurt them and I am sorry.

I have been doing community service through Growing Hope. I have completed 50 hours.

I've also refunded \$675 to gofundme. I am working to refund others who paid also.

I know what I did was wrong and accept the consequences:

It's been difficult, I've been castigated by people in public, in front of my children, and I deserve it, but it hurts. I have already caused my children to suffer because of my actions, and I don't want to cause them any more harm that I have already caused.

I don't deserve, or expect, forgiveness from those I harmed. I understand that it will take years before those close to me will trust me again, and I will never regain the trust of many – not that I deserve their trust after what I've done.

I cannot undo what I did. The emotional damage I caused my family will be with them for the rest of their lives. I cannot restore the trust people had in me. I've apologized to those who would allow me to apologize to them. I also understand that I need to repay the money I took from people. It will take me a long time, but I will repay all that I took.

I know that you are going to consider the things I did wrong, but I ask that you also consider what I have done since that time and the changes I have made in my life. I am not the same person I used to be.

I know that God has forgiven me, but there are still consequences for what I did. I understand that today I will be receiving the legal consequences for what I did. I know that I deserve to be punished. I know that my punishment, whatever it is, will change my life, and I fully accept that. I ask that you allow me the opportunity to be here for my children and allow me enough time to repay the money I took.