

June 28, 2017

Dear Madison and Lisa,

July 1st will mark the 5th anniversary of my motorcycle crash. While I am sure you already know it wasn't an accident, I thought I should be 100 percent clear about it and my intentions going forward in this letter.

While there was no real easy fix for this situation, I was very clear with your mother and our father about it and my intentions. I let them know I wasn't going to cover things up and I wasn't going to continue to enable their behavior. At the same time, I begged them to sit down with Pastor Lynn and I, hoping we could address my very legitimate concerns about our father's issues and the danger they posed both to the family and others.

The response from the family was immediate and final, "Ignore him and he will go away."

To your mother, our father and the rest of the family (this means you), I was someone who had served his purpose and was now expendable. There are no real words to describe to you how that made me feel. Knowing every Christmas, Thanksgiving, Graduation, etc. had meant absolutely nothing to you.

Not to think but to now know, *I was truly expendable in your eyes...*

At first, I held out a small hope that one of you would reach out to me. I blindly clung onto the fact that I am your brother, *all those years we spent together had to mean something right?* As the weeks turned into months, which soon turned into years, I realized I was only deluding myself further.

Unlike you, I didn't just write you off or my obligations as your brother and as an uncle. After witnessing the system of enabling within the family, I started to take the steps to ensure not only you and my nephew but other unsuspecting people/patients wouldn't have to go through the "Johnny Russell" experience.

I will remind you, I almost died as a direct result of your mothers enabling behavior and our father's actions both as a father and a physician. To be very clear, he was treating me as a patient (Examining me at the start of each trip – checking my blood pressure, going over my medication with me, and giving me prescription samples your mother had prepared, etc.). He also prescribed multiple medications for me during this time period, including sleeping pills for my night terrors (which were a direct result of our trips).

If this situation was reversed and this had happened to you, *you know* I would have called you immediately and done everything in my power to help you (you need to only look at my actions to date). I can only thank God grandma is not around to see how you have handled this.

Your continuing to enable him only fuels his disease, making him search out bigger conquests (THIS IS PART OF THE REASON I WROTE THE BOOK – TO PUT A STOP TO NOT ONLY HIS BEHAVIOR BUT THE ENABLING AS WELL!!!).

I have done everything I can to put the family first in this situation, even after you turned your backs on me (actions not words).

I even pulled my book from circulation, when I saw your mother had filed for divorce. Clinging to the desperate hope that after *at least 21 months* of enabling our father, she was finally going to get on the right side of this. Later, I learned that she agreed to have the court records sealed and has not reported our father to the various medical boards in her role as executive director at Brookside (clearly more concerned with covering things up then taking responsibility for her part in this).

To be clear, I will not let our father treat me, you, your children or his patients like whores (read the book for more specifics on this) and I can not in good conscious let him continue to operate as a physician after what he has done.

He continues to operate as if he has done nothing wrong and your enabling behavior only reinforces his delusional thinking.

While I didn't expect you to write a book, I had hoped you might help me deal with this situation in some form or fashion. To be blunt, the optics of your inaction in helping me deal with this, make it look like you approve of what our father has done.

When I talked with a couple of friends of mine who produced the film *Spotlight*, I asked them what they thought it would take to shut down a "Bill Cosby" type of situation. They both told me that in all of their interviews the only thing that seemed to have an immediate impact was public exposure. I learned that everyone involved knew what was going on but it was easier to move the priests around than put a stop to it.

I have spent countless hour on trying to fix this on my own. Your repeated refusal to even talk about this situation has led me to come to the sad conclusion I am going to have to reach out to others for help with this. People who have the resources and reach in Texas to make a difference and make sure this issue is addressed.

With that in mind, I am going to give you one last bit of brotherly advice. As you start to get calls from different people asking you questions about all of this in the months and years ahead, I caution you to only tell truth. Once I took a stand against what our father has done in order to protect others, I have only told the truth no matter how badly it reflected on me and this has served me well.

There will be a lot of *new* information and you may be pressured to bend the truth or lie in order to protect or continue to enable our father or your mother. Don't fall for it.

Don't fall into the trap of family loyalty like I did. It almost cost me my life.

I continue to love and pray for you.

Sean