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Raye Of Hope Ministries



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Monday, May 10, 2010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

My name is Mia Thurston, Founder and Director of Raye of Hope Ministries located in Phoenix, Arizona. Latisha Morrow was a resident at my facility on or about 2/9/2009. She went on to get a job working in Mesa, Az. she then decided to move to be closer to her job. Around the week of April 6, 2009 she came to the house to move her things. As she was talking to the Pastor and I, her daughter and a friend started packing her things as well as a few other things that did not belong to her. A couple of days later when she started unpacking her things she noticed that she had a bottle of my husband's medication for his high blood pressure. On April 9, 2009 she then called and stated that she was on her way to return them and she didn't know how they got mixed up with her things. I stated to her that it was okay to return the medication (lisinopril) and that I would be at home and awake waiting on her. On the way to my home her friend that she was riding with was pulled over by the police and Latisha was arrested for having the medication in her possession. She told the officer that she was returning the medication and that it belonged to her Pastor and he decided to call us. My husband and I both spoke with Officer Sheridan and explained to him that she had indeed called to inform us that she was on the way to bring the medication. He then told me that the medication bottle had 2 oxicodone pills in it along with the lisinopril and that their procedure was to detain Latisha. He also stated that it was not up to him to let her go or not, but since he talked to us he would recommend that no additional charges be brought against her.

I proceeded to call her Parole Officer Kevin Grady the next day and he was off duty on Fridays. I then spoke to his Supervisor and his supervisor's Supervisor and told them the story. They informed me that they had not yet seen anything in the system and they would call me back on Monday the 13th when Mr. Grady returned. They said that the procedure was to detain her until everything was cleared up and it sounded as though she should be let right back out because the situation seemed open and shut. On Monday the 13th Mr. Grady called me back and read the arrest report to me that said the same thing that I told him and he was pretty sure that Latisha would be released as long as Tempe did not issue a warrant for the charges. Days went by and I called everyday trying to fight for her freedom because it was just a misunderstanding plus my

husband needed his medication that was never returned to him. The arresting officer stated after a few days that he did not issue a warrant and that it was up to the courts but they had a certain amount of days to do so. Mr. Grady stated that Tempe had about 72 hours to issue a warrant or not and if they issued a warrant then she would go before the parole board and if they did not issue a warrant she would be released.

I did not hear anything after about 2 weeks and Latisha was not released. There was also no warrant issued and Mr. Grady did not know what the holdup was. She was scheduled to be released on May 8, 2009 which was the remainder of the time that she had left from her parole anyway so Mr. Grady said if I did not hear anything that she should at least be released that day. Well, she wasn't and time went on and it seemed as though I started getting the run around.

Around the beginning of June I started corresponding with not only Kevin Grady but also Mr. Taretilli who both informed me of a special hearing that they were going to have concerning Latisha's release. Mr. Grady also said something to me about a Senate Bill that Latisha was on and that's why she should have been released. I asked if I could attend the hearing and they stated that they would find out. I received a phone call from both of Kevin Grady and Mr. Taretilli on June 3, 2009 stating that I would not be able to attend the hearing. Mr. Grady assured me that he had been to many of these hearings and that Latisha would be able to ask him any questions that she wanted to even what I had said to him and that he would have to tell them the truth about our conversations. So I contacted Mr. Taretilli and told him what Mr. Grady had stated to me and for him to let Latisha know to ask Mr. Grady about returning the medication to Pastor so that he could tell the truth to get her out. Latisha's hearing went on as scheduled and she still was not release right away and it took a while after then before we heard anything. I was never allowed to speak to a judge, prosecuting attorney or anyone directly related to her case other that her Parole officer at that time Kevin Grady, and her Counselor in the Prison Mr. Taretilli. I tried everything I could to get her released with no avail. According to Mr. Grady, Tempe never issued a new warrant for any new charges and she should have been released within ten days of her arrest.

Latisha moved back in with me after her release until she moved around August 15, 2009. I remained in touch with her new Parole Officer Mr. Moses Abadjivor until her release from parole in October. Until then Latisha never received any new warrants or charges.

I am not sure about Mr. Grady's supervisor, Supervisor's name, Mrs. Washington, I believe, however she was the person that I spoke to concerning the contract for felons getting out of prison to come and stay in our facility, but after that I was not able to get a contract to help other felons.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 602-748-9389. Sincerely,

Mia Thurston