



20 September 2012

Memorandum for the District of Columbia Superior Court:

I understand that Natalie Khawam is planning to appeal the conditions mandated after her child custody case, and I wanted to offer my observations of her parenting of her son.

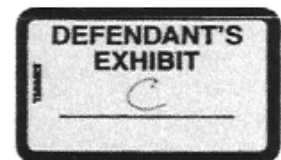
My wife and I have known Natalie for approximately three years, getting to know her while serving in Tampa, Florida, through our friendship with Dr. and Mrs. Scott Kelley (Natalie's sister Jill is married to Dr. Kelley). We have maintained that friendship ever since.

In the intervening years, we have, on many occasions, observed Natalie and her son [REDACTED] including when we hosted them and the Kelley family for Christmas dinner this past year. In each case, we have seen a very loving relationship - a Mother working hard to provide her son enjoyable, educational, and developmental experiences. Natalie clearly dotes on her son and goes to great lengths - and great expense - to spend quality time with him.

In view of this, it is unfortunate, in my view, that her interaction with her son has been so limited by the custody settlement. It is clear to me that [REDACTED] would benefit from much more time with his Mother and from removal of the burdensome restrictions imposed on her when she does get to spend time with him.

Sincerely,

David H. Petraeus
General, U.S. Army (Retired)





September 22, 2012

District of Columbia Superior Court
500 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

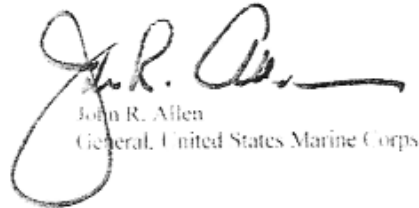
Memorandum for the District of Columbia Superior Court:

I have recently been informed that Ms. Natalie Khawam is in the process of appealing her child custody case related to her son [REDACTED]. I wanted to take a moment to support her efforts based on my family's observations of her parenting.

My wife, Kathy, and I came to know Natalie when I served at Headquarters, U.S. Central Command as the Deputy Commander. On multiple occasions we had the privilege of observing her with [REDACTED] at command social functions. Natalie clearly loves [REDACTED] and cherishes each and every opportunity she has to spend time with him. She is a dedicated mother, whose only focus is to provide the necessary support, love, and care for her son. I have noticed the particular care she exhibits to ensure all his needs are taken care of, not only material needs, but emotional, educational and interpersonal. [REDACTED] clearly loves his mother, and by natural instinct, it shows that he needs her maternal affection. It is quite evident that this is a loving and nurturing relationship in which she places the needs of her son above her own.

It is tough enough for [REDACTED] to live his life struggling to understand the separation of his parents. We should not penalize him by limiting his expectations to experience the love, mentorship, and guidance of his mother. In light of Natalie's maturity, integrity and steadfast commitment to raising her child, I humbly request your reconsideration of the existing mandated custody settlement.

Very Respectfully,



John R. Allen
General, United States Marine Corps

