

Sample Disposition Letter

January 22, 2010

Dear Judge Jones:

I am writing on behalf of my client, Miley May Cyprus, who was adjudicated on one count of Communicating Threats. Undersigned counsel respectfully requests that Miley's delinquency case be dismissed pursuant to N. C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-2501 (d).

As the Court knows, dispositions should be designed to protect the public and meet the needs and best interests of the juvenile. In making its determination, the Court should consider (i) the seriousness of the offense, (ii) the need to hold the juvenile accountable, (iii) the importance of protecting the public, (iv) the degree of culpability indicated by the circumstances of the case and (v) the rehabilitative and treatment needs of the juvenile. The circumstances in Miley's case make dismissal appropriate.

- (i) Miley admitted to once count of Communicating Threats, a charge that resulted from an argument with a former friend.
- (ii) Miley is a bright young lady with no prior adjudications and no prior contact with the Juvenile Court system. This was Miley's first offense, an isolated incident that is not indicative of Miley's character or behavior.
- (iii) Miley is 15 years old and has demonstrated responsible and dependable behavior throughout her youth. She is respectful towards her mother and does not exhibit behavior problems at school or in the community.
- (iv) Miley regrets her actions. She has provided the victim, a former friend, a written letter of apology. She has also successfully completed an anger management program. Miley has taken responsibility for her actions.
- (v) Miley has a loving, supportive family and a happy and stable home life. Her mother is a loving and responsible parent who provides Miley with great care, support and supervision.

In light of her good conduct, positive actions, and her supportive network, Miley is not in need of the care or rehabilitation of juvenile delinquency court. Counsel therefore submits that Miley's case be dismissed.

I. Compliance with Pre-trial Conditions

a. Curfew

Miley has complied with the curfew that the Court imposed at her initial hearing. Additionally, Mrs. Cyprus reports that she has never had a problem with Miley returning home late from school or extra curricular activities.

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b. Stay Away

Miley has obeyed the order to stay away from the victim, Ima B. Goode.

c. Anger Management

Miley's mother enrolled her in a four week anger management class provided by the family's church. Miley began participating in the program a week after the incident and successfully completed the program prior to adjudication.

II. Family

Miley has a healthy, happy, and stable home life. Her mother, Mrs. Montana Cypus, is a widow who works full time as a cashier to provide for Miley and her siblings, Mitch (13), Mike (11), and Mary Jo (7). Miley's paternal grandmother, Mrs. Billie Kay Cyprus, lives with the family and helps to care for the children. Miley's mother and grandmother provide excellent supervision of Miley. Miley has a good relationship with her siblings and sets a good example for them.

III. School and Community

Miley is an honor roll student at Anytown High School. She plans to attend college and major in Psychology. She is involved in many extracurricular activities, including the Debate Team, 4-H and the Young Ambassadors club. Miley is also a member of the Boys and Girls Club and the Faith Community Church Youth Choir.

IV. Need for Services or Rehabilitation.

This case represents Miley's first involvement with juvenile court. The victim in this case is Miley's former best friend. Miley became angry when she learned that her friend went on a date with Miley's ex-boyfriend and threatened to stab her. Miley has written a letter of apology to the victim. Moreover, Miley's mom has restricted Miley's cell phone privileges. The victim, through the District Attorney, has expressed a willingness to forgive Miley and "move on from the situation."

Miley has complied with the Court's pre-trial conditions of release and has taken responsibility for her actions. She is a good student and receives appropriate structure and care from her family. Counsel therefore requests that the Court dismiss this case.

Respectfully,

Janey Doe, Esq.
Juvenile's Attorney