Changes: sequence of paragraphs 4 and 5

Emails/phone at end of para 3

Last line in para 5.

Last two paragraphs, amended as per last night

Norman

I’m sorry to have lost touch with you and Marjorie as a result of the breakup of our marriage.  Although I have written several letters and emails to you personally, I declined to send any for fear of causing more pain.

I am writing to appeal to you on the critical subject of Ben’s welfare.

3.

The current situation is that Ben hasn’t seen me since July, at which time we were meeting just one hour each week on a fragile schedule that was frequently cancelled, and always chaperoned by Jackie. This meeting was proposed by the court as weekly initially as part of a progressive plan; to permit Ben to rebuild trust and relationships. He hasn’t seen his nan, cousins, aunts and uncle for well over a year now. The current best we can all do is to send emails, which I do weekly, though to which he seldom replies.  Jackie sometimes shares Ben’s email account and, since he no longer has a mobile phone, we no longer have a method of direct contact.

4.

I believe this situation will have a significant detrimental impact on Ben’s long-term welfare, and as I’m sure you are aware and indeed the wider evidence suggests, it is important to his future wellbeing that he maintains contact with both families following such a break-up.

5.

Jackie maintains that she defers all decisions to Ben. My concern is that her passiveness makes it difficult for Ben to change the situation, and so challenging for him to arrange see me or any extended family. Instead it’s simpler for him to shut-out and ignore.

Whilst I haven’t ruled out referring the situation back to the courts following the initial child-agreement hearing in February, my current feeling is that this is a family situation that requires subtlety; to create the opportunity for Ben to make choices without negative impact.

To achieve this, I think Jackie would need those whom she trusts to help her realize how she can help Ben to have a positive relationship with both sides of his family in the future. I appreciate that meaningful conversations about this are bound to be difficult and I hope that you will give some consideration as to how, as a significant male role-model within Ben’s influence, you can help improve upon the situation.

I have written to Jackie to make her aware of this letter and I realize she may ask you to ignore it, or perhaps you may feel inclined to not get involved. However, given the importance of Ben’s welfare I appeal to your own judgement to decide on an appropriate course of action.

Kind regards

Paul

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