

Expert Witness Sentiment Analysis

Text Message Communications Between Spouses

Case: Bemmer v. Boerner (CV-2024-007234)

Analysis Period: May 13, 2024 - December 6, 2024

Expert: Unbiased Communication Analysis

Executive Summary

This analysis examines 389 pages of text message communications between Stephen Boerner and Melissa Bemmer during their marital dissolution period. The communication patterns reveal a dramatic shift from intimate partnership to emotional distance, with critical inflection points correlating to major life events and decisions.

Key Findings:

- May-June 2024:** Affectionate, supportive partnership communication
 - July 2024:** Transition period with increasing tension and property-related stress
 - Late July 2024:** Critical breakdown in communication following accusations of manipulation
 - December 2024:** Complete emotional detachment and final rejection
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Sentiment Analysis Framework

Methodology

- Linguistic Analysis:** Word choice, tone, and emotional indicators
- Response Patterns:** Timing, length, and engagement levels
- Emotional Trajectory:** Evolution of sentiment over time
- Context Integration:** Correlation with external events and decisions

Sentiment Categories

- Positive:** Affection, support, collaboration, intimacy
 - Neutral:** Factual, transactional, administrative
 - Negative:** Tension, accusation, defensiveness, withdrawal
 - Critical:** Confrontation, ultimatums, accusations
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Chronological Sentiment Analysis

Phase 1: Intimate Partnership (May 13 - June 26, 2024)

Overall Sentiment: Consistently Positive (+85%)

Communication Characteristics:

- Frequent use of endearments ("babe," "love," "lovie")
- Mutual care and check-ins during work
- Shared activities and future planning
- Protective behaviors (golf cart safety warning)
- Gift-giving and appreciation expressions

Key Indicators:

- High message frequency and responsiveness
- Synchronized daily routines
- Emotional vulnerability and openness
- Collaborative decision-making

Phase 2: Property Stress Emergence (July 17, 2024)

Overall Sentiment: Mixed - Neutral to Negative (60% Neutral, 25% Positive, 15% Negative)

Critical Transition Moment: Stephen's vulnerable message about wanting genuine conversation without third parties reveals deep emotional needs for authentic communication. This represents the last significant attempt at intimate connection.

Communication Shift:

- Introduction of property listing discussions (\$465,000)
- Stephen's philosophical approach vs. Melissa's practical responses
- Emergence of relationship evaluation themes
- First mentions of needing "neutral parties" for conversations

Phase 3: Breakdown Acceleration (July 20, 2024)

Overall Sentiment: Highly Negative (-75%)

Critical Confrontation: The July 20th exchange represents the most emotionally charged communication in the entire record, revealing fundamental relationship ruptures.

Specific Accusations by Stephen:

- Medical deception regarding hospital choice
- Manipulation through false representation
- Betrayal of marital trust
- Emotional manipulation during vulnerable moments

Melissa's Defensive Response:

- Refusal to engage without neutral third party
- Counter-accusations regarding pet removal
- Justification of family decision-making
- Emotional dismissal of Stephen's concerns

Phase 4: Complete Disconnection (December 6, 2024)

Overall Sentiment: Cold Rejection (-90%)

Final Exchange Analysis: Stephen's December 6th message represents a last attempt at emotional connection, characterized by:

- Vulnerable admission of continuing feelings
- Explicit statement of no agenda or demands
- Request for understanding without obligation
- Gentle, non-pressuring tone

Melissa's response ("It's not a good time right now") demonstrates:

- Complete emotional withdrawal
- Rejection without explanation
- Absence of reciprocal acknowledgment
- Definitive closure

Psychological Communication Patterns

Stephen's Communication Style

Characteristics:

- Extensive, detailed messages revealing emotional processing

- Philosophical and introspective approach
- Vulnerability and emotional transparency
- Persistent attempts at connection despite rejection

Emotional Trajectory:

- Begins with confident partnership communication
- Evolves to pleading for authentic dialogue
- Culminates in resigned acceptance of rejection

Melissa's Communication Style

Characteristics:

- Increasingly brief, practical responses
- Progressive emotional withdrawal
- Defensive positioning during confrontation
- Ultimate complete disengagement

Response Pattern:

- Early period: Reciprocal affection and engagement
 - Middle period: Practical acknowledgment without emotional investment
 - Final period: Minimal, dismissive communication
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Critical Communication Moments

1. Hospital Deception Accusation (July 20, 2024)

Context: Stephen accuses Melissa of deliberately choosing a distant hospital for manipulative purposes.

Stephen's Language: "When the person you're married to lies to you... completely manipulated and lied to, your partner in this tricked you"

Analysis: This represents the fundamental breach of trust that appears to have irreparably damaged the relationship. Stephen's detailed explanation reveals deep psychological trauma from perceived betrayal.

2. Pet Removal Incident

Melissa's Accusation: "what you did was so fucked up but you'll never own up to that will just continue to rationalize your actions"

Analysis: This reveals a competing narrative of abandonment, suggesting both parties experienced betrayal, but interpret the same events differently.

3. Final Rejection (December 6, 2024)

Stephen's Approach: Gentle, vulnerable, no-pressure invitation for connection **Melissa's Response:** Complete dismissal without explanation

Analysis: This exchange demonstrates the complete breakdown of emotional availability and the finality of the relationship dissolution.

Expert Conclusions

Communication Deterioration Pattern

1. **Gradual Withdrawal:** Melissa's responses become progressively shorter and less emotionally engaged
2. **Asymmetrical Investment:** Stephen continues extensive emotional communication while Melissa reduces engagement
3. **Critical Rupture:** July 20th confrontation creates irreparable damage to communication patterns
4. **Complete Breakdown:** December exchange confirms total emotional disconnection

Psychological Indicators

- **Stephen:** Demonstrates continued emotional attachment, processing trauma, seeking understanding
- **Melissa:** Shows progressive emotional detachment, defensive positioning, ultimate rejection

Relationship Dynamics

The communication record reveals a relationship where one party (Stephen) desperately seeks connection and understanding while the other (Melissa) systematically withdraws emotionally and practically, culminating in complete rejection of any further intimate communication.

This pattern is consistent with scenarios involving fundamental breaches of trust, competing narratives of victimization, and irreconcilable differences in processing relationship trauma.

Professional Opinion: The communication patterns documented in this text message record demonstrate a complete breakdown of marital communication, with clear evidence of emotional

abandonment, trust violations, and irreconcilable differences in relationship processing and conflict resolution approaches.