

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
BEAUFORT DIVISION**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

v.

**JAMES HARDING**

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**SENTENCING MEMORANDUM  
ADDENDUM**

Case No. 9:14-cr-00054-DCN

**SENTENCING MEMORANDUM ADDENDUM OF JAMES HARDING**

Counsel for James Harding reached out to a number of families who have been able to adopt children with the help of Mr. Harding. They volunteered to provide letters describing their experience. Below are summaries of their accounts. Also included is a letter from Gulnara Jakiyeva, a Kazakh woman who has known Mr. Harding for 15 years and although was never formerly adopted sees Mr. Harding as a father figure.

**Sherrie Bezuidenhout Letter**

Sherrie Bezuidenhout adopted two Ethiopian children through International Adoption Guides (IAG). Ex. A. Ms. Bezuidenhout maintains that she had a good personal experience with Jim Harding and a positive business experience with IAG. Through both adoptions, Ms. Bezuidenhout retained a private investigator to ensure the accuracy of Mr. Harding’s statements regarding the children. Ms. Bezuidenhout states that, “there was no information discovered that Jim [Harding] and IAG didn’t disclose from the beginning.” (emphasis added).

Ms. Bezuidenhout claims that, “[a]ll of the children were happy and healthy” as both of her adopted children seemed to be well cared for and only required immunizations upon their arrival to the United States. Additionally, Ms. Bezuidenhout was, “very impressed with how clean and neat the care center was.” She notes there was ample staff at the orphanage, and that

they “all appeared very happy in their jobs.” Specifically, there were “lots of nannies,” “several teachers,” and “a cook.” In addition, the orphanage was well-stocked: “There were lots of school supplies as well as baby supplies, formula, rash cream, bottles, diapers etc . . .[sic].”

### **McCracken Poston Letter**

Former Georgia State Representative McCracken Poston and his wife adopted three children from Kazakhstan, using World Partners Adoption (WPA) for all three adoptions. Ex. B. Overall, Mr. Poston was impressed with WPA and with Jim and Cindy Harding. He notes the orphanages were clean and the employees seemed to care greatly for their charges. Mr. Poston’s perception is that to him it was immediately apparent that World Partners ran the best and most honest program in the country.

Mr. Poston outlines the difficulty of the adoption process, but states that he and his wife felt like they were well prepared by Mr. Harding. He asserts that the entire effort of WPA was to prepare them for the Kazakhstan rules and regulations. Mr. Poston claims he felt confident that the program was being excellently managed and notes that Mr. Harding’s reputation in the adoption community was excellent.

### **Jeffrey and Karen Davis Letter**

Jeffrey and Karen Davis adopted two Ethiopian children through Mr. Harding and IAG. Ex. C. In their own words, the Davises had an, “overwhelmingly positive experience with Jim Harding and International Adoption Guides (IAG).” They recount they were both very impressed with the cleanliness, hospitality, and level of care at the orphanage, and describe the orphanage staff as “just incredible.”

The Davises’ son recounted his experience under the care of Mr. Harding and IAG as being positive. He told his parents that when something new arrived at the orphanage or

whenever something was upgraded he remembers often being told that “Mr. Jim” sent it or requested it be done or fixed. Moreover, their son has no negative feelings toward the orphanage placement process and expressed that he would have been dead if it were not for being placed in the orphanage. Put simply, “[h]is happiest memories are at IAG.”

### **Gulnara Jakiyeva Letter**

Gulnara Jakiyeva has known Mr. Harding for 15 years. Ex. D. Although she was not formally adopted by him Ms. Jakiyeva affectionately refers to Mr. Harding as her father. Ms. Jakiyeva first became acquainted with Mr. Harding in 2001 when he and his family wrote her a letter asking if they could become pen friends. She recounts that a year later, Mr. Harding and a number of adoptive families visited Kazakhstan to build a playground for the children at the orphanage. She says Mr. Harding always thought of all of the orphans. Whenever she received a package from him she also noticed the other children received candy and gifts. Additionally, Mr. Harding was able to find time to keep in touch and never forgot about Ms. Jakiyeva’s birthday.

In her life Ms. Jakiyeva went to college, received a scholarship, graduated, and got a good job, which she says she owes entirely to Mr. Harding’s unwavering support, guidance, love and care.

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/ Bruce Maloy  
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BRUCE MALOY  
Georgia Bar No. 468525

Atlanta, Georgia,  
August, 23, 2016.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day electronically filed the foregoing SENTENCING MEMORANDUM ADDENDUM OF JAMES HARDING with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system which will automatically send email notifications of such filing upon all counsel of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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