



May 18, 2009

The Honorable Mary A. McLaughlin
United States District Court
for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
U.S. Courthouse
601 Market Street, Room #13614
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1723

Dear Judge McLaughlin:

My name is Elena Mogilyansky. I live in Israel and work in an organization that helps elderly people to find nurses and at-home care. Andrew Mogilyansky is my nephew whom I know from the time he was born, for the last 38 years. We spend lots of time together especially during weekends and holidays. For the six last years of his life in Russia (he left at the age of 18), we lived in the same house. Andrew was an active, happy, and very talented kid. He showed his intellectual abilities very early. At the age of four he was already reading fluently and solving complex mathematical problems for his age. Everybody in the family was certain he was going to become a great mathematician or physicist. Later, when Andrew was in a special math and physics oriented school, he generously shared his gift with friends. Many times, passing by Andrew's door, I heard his quiet and friendly voice explaining the solution to a very complex mathematical problem. He did it without smugness or a desire to demonstrate his superiority. His high school friends always gave the impression of not only being intellectually gifted adolescents, but also noble and good boys. Probably it is not a coincidence that my daughter chose a friend of Andrew's as a husband, but my son-in-law is a friend from a different time, the years at Columbia University.

Very early on Andrew showed such character traits as courage and determination. Once, during a summer vacation, two children, Andrew, six years old, my daughter, two years old, and I went for a walk to the nearby, but not very familiar forest. I was so busy picking mushrooms and berries that I did not notice that we had gotten lost... It was getting dark... I had to tell the children I did not know the way home! It took about one minute for Andrew, who had been absorbed observing an anthill as big as he was, to become a considerate, strong little adult that took responsibility in his own hands. We returned home very late that day and it was six-year-old Andrew who brought us.

During his teenage years, Andrew helped his elderly grandparents take care of their garden by solving everyday technical problems around the farm. He always did it with a joke making everybody around smile and laugh.

Andrew grew up, completed his studies, but didn't lose sight of us. He was still helping us, but this time his help became monetary help. For several years we received a monthly sum that was intended and used for my daughter's study at Haifa University. At the time, Andrew was just starting his business and despite this he was helping his cousin get higher education.



Later, my sister told me that he also helped pay for the education of his aunt who is younger than he is and who lost her father at a very young age. Nobody knew this at the time. You can see how humble Andrew is – doing good deeds and not asking for any reward or acknowledgement from others.

Here is another example. Several years ago, Andrew was in Israel on a business trip and visited me and my husband. He really didn't like some parts of our old house. Before departing, he gave a big amount of money for our standards. He did it in such simple and tactful manner, so sincerely, that it was impossible not to accept this gift.

The last time I saw my nephew was in his own house with him as father of three-month-old twins. So much warmth and understanding could be seen in his relationship with his wife, so much warmth and attention to the babies!!!

Dear Judge, I am grateful for the attention you have given my letter and I hope you will take it into consideration.

Respectfully,

Elena Mogilyansky
Hahaluz 47/24 Nahariya 22100, Israel
Tel: +972-4-982-7626