

Chief Leanne Joe,

Timothy and I just wanted to thank you for all that you have done to help our daughter. As you know, Gina's addictions were becoming unbearable and they were negatively affecting the entire family. We were scared that Gina would hurt her little brother Timothy Jr. if we continued to have her live in our home. When she experienced withdrawal, she would become extremely violent and Timothy was becoming rightfully scared of his sister. Gina loves her little brother very much, and I know it would tear her apart if she ever seriously injured him. Placing your child in a foster home is a very difficult choice for any parent to make, but it was the decision that would best protect both Gina and her brother. I hope you will understand and that in time, Gina will understand as well. I am hoping one day she will forgive us and understand that we tried everything we could, and that foster care was our last hope.

Timothy Jr. has been in private counseling since Gina left and we attend family counseling together so that we can be fully prepared for Gina when she comes home. I have really appreciated the close relationship you have had with us since Gina has lived in your home. We hope that the relationship you have with Gina will continue even after she leaves your care. Although I know she is hard on you at times, she has told us that she really likes living with you and thinks you're a "pretty cool" person to hang out with.

When we thought about putting Gina in foster care, my husband and I were so scared. We had heard horror stories of abuse and misconduct. Foster care allowed Gina access to treatment services, counseling and specialists that we could have never afforded as a family. It makes me sad that I had to give my daughter up so that she could be eligible for those services. I hope one day parents will be given more supports. For now, I can only thank the Creator that she has found a loving home with such an inspirational young woman such as yourself. We are truly thankful.

All my relations,

Connie and Timothy Joe