1 Would counsel approach once. 2 (A side-bar conference was held off 3 the record.) THE COURT: We remain on the record in the case of State of Iowa vs. Benjamin 5 Trane. The Motion for New Trial has been 7 ruled on. 8 The Court will proceed to 9 sentencing at this time, again, noting the 10 Defendant in Count I was previously 11 convicted of Assault With the Intent to 12 Commit Sexual Abuse, an aggravated 13 misdemeanor, in violation of Iowa Code 14 Sections 709.11; Count II, Pattern, 15 Practice or Scheme to Engage in Sexual 16 Exploitation by a Counselor or a 17 Therapist, a class D felony, in violation 18 of Iowa Code Sections 709.15(1), 19 709.15(2)(a), 709.15(4)(a); and, also 20 Count III, Child Endangerment, as an 21 aggravated misdemeanor, in violation of 22 Iowa Code Sections 726.6(1)(a) and 23 726.6(7).

Does the State know of any legal

reason not to proceed with sentencing here

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1 today? 2 MS. TIMMINS: No, Your Honor. 3 THE COURT: Mr. Parrish? MR. PARRISH: No, Your Honor. 5 Other than what we've already mentioned to the Court, we would have no additional 7 record on that. 8 THE COURT: Okay. And we did have some conversation off the record, and the 10 Court is considering these as no mandatory 11 minimums. The discretion of the Court is 12 open on each of these charges. I believe 13 it's Count II that is specifically 14 excluded as a forcible felony, so the Court will take it as that. 15 16 MR. PARRISH: Correct. I think 17 that's correct. I don't think there's a 18 mandatory minimum on that. 19 THE COURT: All right. The Court 20 has before it the Presentence 21 Investigation Report completed in this 22 case. 23 Does the State have that? And 24 there was an Addendum too. The

statements -- some of the statements -- well,

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most of the statements were not by victims, so the Court will not consider those and ignore those.

Does the State have changes, corrections, or objections to the Presentence Investigation?

MS. TIMMINS: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Parrish?

MR. PARRISH: Thank you, Your Honor.

The record should reflect that we received a copy of the Presentence Report. We've had an opportunity to review it. I forwarded it to Mr. Trane and he reviewed it.

We also received a supplement a couple of days ago. As the Court has already indicated—and that was my objection, that these other folks who were listed as supplemental under the rules or the statute did not seem applicable. And the Court has indicated it's not going to consider it. And so I'm satisfied with that, Judge, that you not consider those factors and that any review of those that

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may have been made that you not consider
  them. I'm satisfied with that.
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          THE COURT: And again, I believe
  there's only one on there who would
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  qualify as a victim. Again, the rest were
  not read and ignored.
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         MR. PARRISH: Thank you. And we
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  would have no additions or corrections to
  make. Any issues, Judge, we'll address in
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  at sentencing. Thank you.
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          THE COURT: Is there a
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  recommendation by the State in this case?
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         MS. TIMMINS: There is, Your Honor.
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          Your Honor, the State does have
  victim impact statements. Do you want
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  those first?
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         THE COURT: Let's do those first.
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         MS. TIMMINS: Okay. Where would
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  you like them to do that?
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          THE COURT: Up here is fine
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  (indicating). As long as I can hear them
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  I'm good.
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         MS. TIMMINS:
                                     would
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  like to give a statement to the Court.
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          THE COURT: Thank you.
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1 MS. My name is 2 My son Dxxx was a--3 THE COURT: Can you give the initials, ma'am? 5 MS. Yes. I'm sorry. 6 My name is My son is A. 7 He attended Midwest from May of 2014 to April 2015. He was there eleven months. This was a decision that we did not take 10 lightly on sending our child to Midwest. 11 As I told Ben--and Ben had records 12 that our son was not an easy child. 13 Obviously, that's why we chose Midwest. 14 Ben told us when we went to tour the 15 school that they were very equipped and 16 knowledgeable of handling children with 17 anxiety, depression, ADHD, Oppositional 18 Defiant Disorder. 19 20 21

He said that their school offered good education; they offered therapy for family and for the children; and, that they could help our son. Unfortunately while Dxxx was there, he was not compliant to the rules. He spent a lot of time in the OSS room, which was a room that I was

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concerned about when we toured.

Ben told us that he did not foresee any reason why A. would be spending a lot of time there. However, A. did spend 60 percent of his time there. He would spend from a couple of hours to a couple of days to a couple of weeks at a time.

A. also suffers from Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, what his doctor feels comes from the OSS time from being-having a child with anxiety and depression being locked into this little room with no interaction with other people.

And again, like I said, my child was not compliant to the rules. Sometimes he would have to be restrained. They would restrain down his arms, his legs.

A. . . cannot have people in his face. He can't have people close to him.

He suffers with food issues now because it was so restrictive there. Now he tends to overeat. He is getting better now that he's more active in football, wrestling, track.

A lot of the things-- when Dxxx came home, he wasn't better. He was still struggling on a daily basis with his anger issues. He had trust issues. He thought everybody had an ulteriortive (sic)--I can't talk--motive about why they were wanting to be nice to him.

THE COURT: Take your time, ma'am.

MS. : When A. came home, I feel that Midwest did not help him at all. There were things with the OSS room. He was placed into the Pride Family where there was sexual abuse that happened. We talked to Ben about that.

You told us that you would keep our son safe while he was there, and this happened. You said that this was a consensual activity that happened between boys. He was 12 years old. He wasn't old enough to consent to anything. He was

doing things to get attention from the other kids to do something so he could level up. He thought that's what he had to do to level up.

We eventually, of course, brought

A. home. We sent him--he went back into public school. He had trouble at the behavioral school, so they sent him to the alternative school through the town that we are near. That school is what turned our son around. They had people who cared about him, loved him. They showed him support. They showed him ways to handle his anger and his anxiety issues. That's what saved our son.

He's doing well now. He's making friends. He's doing okay in school. He's joining sports, but we still don't know everything that happened there. He refuses to talk about it. He won't even cross the bridge to come into Keokuk. My husband has a second job that brings him into Keokuk. A. will not even come across here.

We talked to him about testifying.

He would not--he will not talk about anything that happened there. He breaks down. He gets very anxious. He gets very angry.

We went to meet with Ms. Timmins here. A. ... would not even get out of the car it got him so upset. We saw a decline in behaviors when we talked about this. We saw a decline in behaviors at school.

We may never know everything that happened there. And you're right, everything that we--I testified to came from you (indicating to the Defendant). It came from Gary. None of it came from Dxxx. I'm sorry. A.

with this for a lifetime. You may be sentenced for a few months to years. And I feel sorry for your wife and your children that you will be away from them, because I do have compassion to other people. However, it's a life-long sentence that my child has to deal with everything that happened there.

THE COURT: Anything else?

MS. 1 I'm sorry? 2 THE COURT: Anything else? 3 MS. No.THE COURT: Thank you. Timmins? 5 Ms. 6 MS. TIMMINS: Your Honor, Kxxxxxx 7 prepared a statement and did not 8 want to read it herself. And so our victim witness coordinator, Candis 10 Lockhard, will read it for her. 11 THE COURT: Ms. Lockhard. And can 12 you come up here so we can all hear. 13 think it will be better if you're speaking 14 at us. 15 VICTIM WITNESS COORDINATOR: Judge 16 Kruse, I am not quite sure where to begin 17 with this. The ways that I have been 18 impacted by the things that Ben Trane did 19 to me are numerous and have not lessened 20 throughout this entire process. 21 My time since the academy has been 22 spent trying to understand why he chose 23 me, attempting to protect myself from 24 shame, from the same thing happening again

in the future, and not just trying to cope

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and live with what this has done to me.

I've spent the past two years

trying to figure out what I did to make

Ben decide to do this to me. Was it how I

spoke to him? The way I looked at him?

The way I acted? I've gone over again and again what I did that made him think it was okay to do what he did and what I could do to make sure that no one ever has the urge to do these things to me again.

I've lost confidence in my own thoughts and opinions, rarely contributing to conversations unless directly spoken to me. Even then, when asked a question that has to do with my specific opinion, I typically shrug and say, "I'm not sure. I don't really care." I do this always thinking, what if I say something that shows what he's done--what if I say something to someone that shows what has been done to me, or worse, shows someone else that I am vulnerable and gives them an opportunity to take advantage of me just like Ben did?

Thinking the way I looked possibly

had something to do with the decision to hurt me, I went on a diet so restrictive that I've lost over 40 pounds since my time at the academy, causing my 5 foot 7 inch frame to drop from nearly 127 pounds to nearly 85. I started small and now have blown out of control. Now I am at least certain that no man will look at me the same way that Ben did, and no man will have the same urges that Ben did that led him to hurt me.

I now also think poorly of many people who are authority figures. I am suspicious of anyone that appears to have a nice happy family. I am suspicious of nearly every adult male that I meet regardless of the circumstances for which under we meet.

When I was in school, I made sure not to be too friendly or to engage much with my male teachers, fearing that anything I did could be misinterpreted as a sign to make the relationship inappropriate.

At work I don't speak to my male

co-workers about anything even remotely personal, not even something as simple as discussing how my weekend went because I'm concerned that any friendly behavior could be taken the wrong way and used against me the same way that Ben used my trust and exploited it.

I look down on anyone that appears to be a good husband, father, and so forth because I know exactly how Ben appeared to the people around him and what he portrayed and continues to attempt to portray. He makes himself out to be a family man, one who loves and cares deeply for all the children and teenagers and a man who loves his family, his church, and helping others.

The reality is that Ben enjoyed teenagers like me because it gave him the perfect setting to take advantage of them, while simultaneously seemingly everyone was praising him for taking on the task of healing troubled teens.

I no longer feel comfortable in my own thoughts, whether it be day or night.

During the day, no matter what I may be doing, I often have times where I completely pause, stare off into space, and think about the things that Ben did to me. These thoughts are intruding and nearly uncontrollable and extremely upsetting when they do come up. The only way I can cope with them is by shoving them back down inside of me as far as I can.

I'll occasionally get looks from my co-workers and be questioned on what I was thinking about. I always give a small smile and try to laugh it off saying, "Oh, nothing," in order to not arouse any concern or suspicion.

At night I rarely sleep more than four hours. Any sleep I do get is typically restless, riddled with nightmares so vivid upon waking me up. I will regularly take several seconds to realize that I'm not back in my bunk at Midwest Academy.

After waking up from a nightmare, I'll often force myself to stay awake for the rest of the night fearing that if I do fall back to sleep, I'll fall right back into another nightmare about the academy where Ben is hurting me and there's absolutely nothing I can do to stop it.

On the outside I may appear to have mostly recovered from my time spent at Midwest Academy and from the abuse I suffered at the hands of Ben. I have had two jobs to support myself. I live on my own. I take care of myself. I am able to attempt to engage with friends. I am able to go out in the world. But none of this is done with confidence.

I don't value my own thoughts, and I don't even trust my own intuition. I thought Ben was a good guy, and it turned out to be so horribly wrong. How could I ever trust myself again?

Even throughout this process, and even with the people who have helped me most, I've found myself questioning their intentions. Are they being nice to me because they care? Are they being nice to me so they can hurt me in the future once

they've completely gained my trust? I hate this part of myself, and I hate that Ben has created this massive loss of trust in me.

I want to believe that there are good people in the world. I want to believe that there are people who would never think of taking advantage me, and I want to have faith in people. But because of what Ben did to me, it is impossible.

I never want another young girl or anyone to feel the way I do. I never want someone to question their intuition or lose confidence in themselves and their own thoughts. I never want someone to be scared to fall asleep at night. I never want someone to fear being beautiful because they think a man will exploit them. I never want Ben to hurt someone in the way he hurt me, causing them the same pain he caused me, which is why I am asking that you please give him the strongest sentence possible. It will show him that what he did was wrong. He can't get away with all the sick things that he

has done. It will also hopefully prevent him from repeating these offenses when he is free.

It will give me some peace of mind to know that he isn't out doing whatever he pleases to whoever he pleases. It will send a message to him and to anyone like him that this type of behavior is absolutely unacceptable.

Thank you for taking my statement into your consideration.

Sincerely, K.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Is there further victim impact statements in this case, Ms. Timmins?

MS. TIMMINS: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Your recommendation?

MS. TIMMINS: Your Honor, the State recommends that the Court impose prison on each count and that each count be served consecutively. Each count involved a different child. Each child deserves their own justice in this case.

The Court sat through this trial. You know what the facts are. A lot of

people would say, well, he has a courtroom
of people here to support him. He has
over 100 letters of support that were
written to the Court, and that shows that
he's a good man; that shows that he's a
man who should be released and given a
second chance.

The State submits to you that it's that support and the type of support he has is exactly how he was able to commit his crimes in the first place. He was charming. People believed what he said. Parents believed what he said. Employees believed what he said. People did what he told them to do.

And because of that charm and manipulation that he has, he was able to control that entire facility, and because of that children got hurt.

The State asks that the Court look back at the facts that it heard during trial and recognize that the Defendant's behavior was pervasive. It was persistent. There was a pattern to it.

And, again, that the people who ended up

being punished by all of it were children, children that were in his care that he had promised others that he would take care of properly.

I would also ask that the Court consider the fact--you know, under Iowa law, mandatory reporters who are convicted of the exploitation count can't have probation. Well, the Defendant wasn't a mandatory reporter. The Court knows from the trial that he purposely and intentionally was not a mandatory reporter because he didn't want to be subjected to those rules, and he didn't want his employees to be subjected to those rules.

So I think that fact, too, should play into the Court's decision on deciding what to do with this individual.

A., B., they didn't get to decide how long they were locked in their rooms. K..., she didn't get to decide when the Defendant came in her room and made choices to when he was going to do things.

The State is asking that you impose

imprisonment in this case and that each count be served consecutively.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Mr. Parrish.

MR. PARRISH: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please the Court and counsel.

First of all, I want to understand the State's argument that says he's not a mandatory reporter, but yet the Court should impose a sentence as if he was a mandatory reporter, even though the statute says you don't do that. But there were other people, as the Court is aware, who were mandatory reporters at the school. So I'm trying to understand why the State is arguing that the Court should do something that the statute does not allow the Court to do. That's my first response to the State's argument.

I also want to remind the Court that in its ruling of December 17th of 2017 involving the statement from Ms.

K ., the Court indicated "the court does accept that the adoptive mother of the

alleged victim"--speaking of K. .-
believes that she did make false

allegations of abuse previously and would

testify to this." I'm reading from the

last page of the Court's ruling of

December 17th of 2017, that there was this

issue.

But also, Judge, I want to remind the Court with regard to the statement, that the Court can look at the victim impact statements, the skill level at which this young lady operated at the school, and remind the Court there were 1,900 students who had gone through this academy, and many of them were troubled kids who Mr. Trane was helping.

It would not be surprising, I'm sure the Court is aware as anyone--I won't say around the state of Iowa because you said don't do that--but if you're in an institution where you have kids who are problematic kids, whether it's Boys Town in Nebraska or any other school, you're going to have issues coming up with kids like this. So I don't think the number of

incidents that are being referenced here shows that there is anything out of character.

I don't want to go back and reargue the motions I made for a new trial, but I want the Court in looking at this to consider what factors they have to look at at sentencing. I believe I have a sentencing brief which I think goes through and talks about what issues the Court needs to look at in this matter.

And I would say to the State, this is not a closing argument where you could talk about people in the courtroom. We're basically talking about rules that the Iowa Supreme Court and the statutes say that the Court ought to look at when applying these issues. I'm not sure the State filed a sentencing brief in this matter, and if they did I perhaps did not get a copy of it.

But I think the sentencing factors that the Court has to look at run under several categories: the age, family circumstances, education and employment

circumstances, prior record, nature of offense, and other factors.

THE COURT: I'm following along with you.

MR. PARRISH: Okay. And, Judge, the other factors here would be he has already gone in and has gone through classes already with regard to the sex abuse allegation, even though when he makes his allocution I believe he would say he's innocent; that the evidence establishes that he's innocent. I realize that's different than what the Court believes and Ms. Timmins believes. But we are advocating that as a position. That's another factor for you to consider, but you can look at what he has done.

He has been in compliance. He has a wife with five kids. He has been supportive of them as best he can under these circumstances. There has not been a single incident. He has been brought to the court during his pretrial. And a lot of Courts would say, well, that's what he's supposed to do. But we know on

revocation hearings and pretrial revocations, that's not always the case.

In my experience when he comes for his meetings with me, he's always early; he's prompt; he's prepared; he has everything laid out.

I don't think that has anything to do with whether or not he's good looking and charismatic or anything like that. I don't know where that is a factor in this case. So I think the State is still making a jury argument for the Court, which I don't think has any place here.

But also he was without any prior incidents, Your Honor. I think he was cooperating. He didn't hide anything during the course of this investigation. Obviously, he didn't get all of his material back to help him prepare his case.

His wife has been supportive. His family has been supportive of him. You have the underlying affidavits that we filed under seal in this case outlining that it's a tight family unit. They work

together. They are very supportive.

But I think one of the most significant factors, Judge, falling into the category of other factors, is he drove back here himself and turned himself in and sat in jail for almost, what, twenty-eight, twenty-nine days, while he waited to post bond. He has had to wear a bracelet during the course of this incident.

employment opportunities, obviously it's difficult for him here in a high profile case to be able to get what I could call substantial employment. We've asked several times, as the Court is aware--I think his lawyer at one point, Ms.

Schaefer, that he go back to Utah or Idaho to work and be with his family where he would have that opportunity and be on these same restrictions, that people can travel all over the state of Iowa. I'm going to be criticized for saying this but I do want to say, Judge, people travel all over the world on bracelets and without

bracelets in cases like this and other cases, and they go through the airport and they go through security and other places and buildings, et cetera, and they can be employed.

He does not have that opportunity because of his particular skill. He does have that opportunity here if the Court allows him with a suspended sentence to do that. He can get employment. He has a company he can work with. He can stick by the terms and conditions. He understands the registration requirements with regard to this matter.

I disagree with one aspect of the Presentence Report with kids under 18, and that is that this young lady was 17, obviously, who was making an allegation, but with family members, et cetera, you can have that as an exception, other people who would be family members within his compound to be around people who are under the age of 18. And obviously, that would restrict his kids. That's on the Presentence Report recommendation. It

doesn't say they want it to do that, but that's one of the suggestions they have made.

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I think most telling, Judge, is-and I don't always agree with how they do
the testing here--but be that as it may, I
think the testing indicates that he is low
on the scale of reoffending. I think
that's an important factor.

Not only is it an important factor for this Court to consider, but you heard in argument about the issues at Newton. He would immediately fall into the category -- because it's the same test that they use there--in the low offender. question is how quickly he would get into a class if the Court decided to enter the sentence. But obviously, you have to stay out, and you don't get credit for the time that you put in outside of the institution before you go in. You just go to the back of the line and wait. So the question with that low test result of reoffending, is do you actually put him back in that category, and does that best serve

society? Or do you let him out where he could continue with his treatment classes, which evidently he has done successfully up to this point?

And as you know, I'm sure, as Ms. Timmins and everyone else, it's very difficult to get people who believe they're innocent of these crimes to go through, but he has cooperated and has taken the necessary tests and is going through the classes. So we ask the Court to give that some consideration.

We also believe that his continuation of education is significant and important, that the Court should consider that.

I think the Sex Offender Risk

Assessment at a moderate risk is a factor that should be considered. And I already indicated that the low, moderate in reoffending ought to be considered by the Court.

He doesn't have any collateral issues such as alcohol, drugs, or anything like that. As you know, Your Honor, when

people are out and they have difficulty the fact that they have these collateral issues contributes to their inability to stay in compliance with court orders.

I believe he has demonstrated to the Court and under the outlines that we've put in our sentencing memorandum that he can be in compliance. We ask the Court, as the Court has indicated, that you have wide open options with regard to this case. And if you have those wide open options, we believe that this Court should give him a suspended sentence.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Mr. Trane, is there anything you want to tell the Court regarding the sentencing options in this case?

THE DEFENDANT: Am I free to speak for a minute?

THE COURT: Yes.

THE DEFENDANT: Because the one thing throughout this whole process is I've never been given the chance to speak and to even express my side of the story.

Midwest Academy took in some of the worst kids, when you're looking at the numbers, the bottom 5 percent of kids--

THE COURT: Talk to me, not them, okay? Stand back there. Okay. Go ahead.

THE DEFENDANT: A. was a prime candidate for kids that are now the high risk in killing kids in school, these shooters. He had already taken a weapon to school, threatened to kill kids.

B was in the same boat. He was going to be taken from his mother and put into judicial custody because of his violent behavior around other people.

We had a school full of kids that are going to harm people and did harm people in the communities they lived in. Their parents were scared of them; their friends were scared of them; the school had kicked them out.

I mean, we're not dealing with kids that are doing well. Stated, he struggled. We knew he was going to struggle. My conversation with her was that it was going to take at least two

years with him to even see any results because of where he was starting. We knew he was going to be problematic.

These kids are--they need help.

There is not a place for these kids that are mentally unstable that need this help, and that's why we're seeing so many of these kids shooting up schools, killing friends, stabbing, drug overdoses.

The boy who killed his mother and father and then killed himself in prison was in that boat. He was taken out of our school and then went and did that a few months later.

We are not dealing with kids that are doing well. These are kids who are dangerous to society and to themselves. Every one of the witnesses that came were suicidal, had made many attempts, and since leaving the school, every single one of them, they testified were doing better, both witnesses.

I loved your son--

(Mr. Parrish conferred with the Defendant off the record.)

THE DEFENDANT: I dedicated my life to saving these kids and putting them on a better path. They might not have liked the school. It wasn't there to like. It was hard. They couldn't do drugs; they couldn't have sex; they couldn't punch people and hurt people without consequences. They had to go to school; they had to exercise; they had to eat; they had to do some of these things.

We dedicated -- the people and all the support, we had the best people in the community working there. We had a whole range of people with mandatory abuse reporting licenses and teachers to see these things, and if there was something inappropriate, they did say something.

Many times they made calls to the DHS about a staff putting duct tape on a kid's mouth. We called it in. We called in every time there was something inappropriate. The proper staff called it in, and on me. As soon as the allegation of K . was made, as soon as we confirmed that with the staff, they made the call on

me, the owner of the school, without (indicating by snapping his fingers) two seconds notice they made that call.

We ran a tight ship. The reason I wanted our records is because they kept track of the kids every minute of where they were at at the school, everything that they did, their weight, their intake. I mean, we kept track of every aspect of what happened at the school to discredit stuff like this from coming to court.

I know the kids didn't like it. I know they hated getting consequences.

That is the only way in our society that I know of to help kids rehabilitate, is to have consequences for actions.

These kids are doing better. You were in trial, and the girl said they had the best education, that was the only good thing that came out of Midwest. Most of these kids were getting a year to two years ahead of where they were at. The only reason a couple of these others weren't is because their behavior was so poor that they were already kicked out of

their school. They weren't doing school
to begin with. They had already been
expelled from every place: the
alternative schools, the regular schools,
any other alternatives in the state.
That's why the State of Illinois was
paying us to educate some of these kids,
because they couldn't do it.

And what we told these parents is that once the behavior gets in check, their academics take off. And that was proven over and over again. Once their behavior comes in, their education—they do well education—wise. These kids excelled. We brought up the average.

We're taking bottom 5 percent of kids that are flunking and not doing school, and they were leaving A and B students.

They were going to major university in universities. Every major university in the country we had a student attend. We had a student get into West Point, which was the No. 1 school in the country the year he got in. We had wonderful educators in this community that took the

time and loved these kids.

I have text messages from every one of these kids. When they went home, who did they call when they got in trouble?

They called me, all night long. Anybody around me can testify that my phone was never off. These kids would call me all hours of the night: I'm struggling right now; I ran away from home; I need some help; what should I do?

A. is one of them. It wasn't put in, but I have it right there

(indicating), the text messages to me: to be honest with you, Mr. Ben, the school helped me. I miss you. I miss the school. I miss my program family.

Those are his texts, not my words.

That's him reaching out to me after this,

many months after he was home. Nine

months after he was home, he was texting

me asking me how my family was doing. I

had a wonderful relationship with him. I

took him out many times to buffets and to

other things. I took him outside to play

with him when he was struggling because he

needed to get out of OSS.

B. Was in the exact same boat.

He was getting taken away from his family.

He was facing felonies that we didn't know about until afterwards. And we were trying to find a placement for him because his cognitive level was to the point to where we felt it was going to be a long-term solution. We spent five months trying to find placement.

That's the other thing that people don't understand. Where do you send these kids? The reason A. . . came to us is they couldn't afford another program, and they wouldn't take him. No one would take him. No one would take him.

I tell you with all sincerity of my heart that I have never abused a child. I have never sexually abused a child. I have spent my whole career stopping that from happening, fighting for kids who have been abused. It is one of the worst things in the whole world to have to deal with the consequences of abused children.

All those things that she wrote in her letter is the reason we kept her at the school. She had made allegations against her foster family of sexually abusing her and turning it into child pornography. She accused her aunt and uncle of raping her multiple times over years and filming it. That is the only reason I, as the director of the school, got involved with K. . , because the law enforcement got involved, and we had to her to the CDC or C-whatever, to get interviewed.

She is one of the smartest students we've ever had at the school. She knew the system. She knew exactly going to these places with the sexual abuse of what to say, what grooming--she's the one that told me what grooming was. She knew all of this.

She told me that if I ever did anything that she didn't like, she was going to make allegations against me. She told other girls that she was going to do this. All these witnesses that weren't

able to come are direct testimony that she was going to do this.

I hate sexual abuse with every fiber of my being. I adopted a girl into our family that had been sexually abused for seven years and had to deal with her problems, her anxiety, her mistrust.

Everything that was in that letter, I've had to deal with with somebody I loved that we brought in to kind of help take care of this and fix and help rehabilitate that.

It makes me sick to my stomach hearing that about me when I spent my entire career--1,900 students have come through Midwest Academy and not one has ever made that allegation, that insinuation, or anything nearly like that about me.

No employee has ever said that I was inappropriate in any way sexually, made any advances. I have never done anything or portrayed myself in that manner in any form.

All those documents would show that

I was never alone with K. Not once was
I ever alone. All the testimony that the
State has gotten, all the interviews that
they did, every person said he was never
alone with the student. I have never been
alone with her.

The only reason I took her on my caseload is her counselor left. Mike Davis, the director, clinical director, said nobody else will take her. She was a high-risk because of the making false allegations, a high risk. No one wanted to take her.

There was no other school that would take her. Nobody would take this girl because of her past. Because of where she sat--she was getting to the point to where she was too old and that her issues nobody else would take. None of our staff wanted to take her. Nobody wanted to deal with her. I mean, their recommendation was just kick her out. But then where does she go?

I believed that I was helping an abused child. She said she had been

sexually abused multiple times over multiple years. She knew that was a soft spot, and she preyed on that.

She made the same allegation after she left to the boyfriend of the sister she wanted to go live with. There is a huge practice of this. I mean, that's four to five times of this same allegation.

We were helping students. The reason our OSS rooms were set up the way they were is because DHS gave me the manual for child homes, and that is exactly how it was set up. Sharon
Andrusyk came to the school, measured our rooms, and told us specifically how big they were supposed to be, exactly what they were supposed to look like, and how they should be made, on her recommendation. We followed the letter of the law exactly as to how it was presented to us from the State.

In June of 2015, they came in and said, you need to change and become a child center. So we took off all the

doors. We made everything--kids were going to be in there for an hour timeout and then could go back. We followed that to a T. We did everything we were supposed to at the school.

I was not benefitting financially.

The two victims, A. . . and B . , were

paying under tuition. I was having to pay

almost \$1,000.00 a month out of the school

money to have them at the school. There

was no financial gain for us. They were

paying under tuition to help them out.

Everything I have done, my sacrifices have been for these kids. That was my legacy, is to help these kids so they won't go home and shoot up schools, blow things up, get put in prison, get pregnant and raise kids as single mothers. All the things that I had to deal with on a daily basis and why I did what I did, is to help these kids to have better lives.

Those two are doing better. In my sense, all these kids are doing better, all the witnesses. They were home doing well. They weren't in jail. They were

graduating school a year early. They got high school diplomas where they would have never gotten that before.

The one, L.S., that came in, we brought her back from the psych ward on one condition, to help her get a high school diploma. Because I know that when these kids leave the school, the odds of them getting and finishing school is like 5 percent. K. . is a perfect example of that. She is one of the smartest, intellectual students we've ever had at the school. When she was in the school, she was preparing to go to Minnesota and go into pre-med and become a doctor.

What I heard in testimony at trial was that she hasn't even finished her high school diploma yet. So in two years she didn't finish up her last six months or whatever it was of school.

Those are the numbers I see. If
these kids don't get help now, they don't
get turned around, and then you see them
in here killing people, hurting people,
hurting themselves, or doing other things.

I mean, it breaks my heart hearing some of these statements from some of these kids. I likened what we did at the school to cancer. When kids have cancer physically, they get put in a hospital; they get isolated; they get separated; they get given poison every day that kills them with hopes that through that whole process of pain and hurt and hardship that they will come back out stronger; that they will be healthy and get over that cancer.

Mental illness is real. Emotional illness is real. These kids were suffering from mental illness and emotional illness. Those same principles apply. You have to separate these things, which is hard. You have to separate them from the things that they want to do, the destructive behaviors. It's not fun.

In the cognitive behavioral theory, it says that Step 1 feels like hell.

That's what it describes it as. That first initial three to nine months feels like hell, because they don't feel stable;

they don't feel in control. Until they start getting to a point of self-realization is when they finally start doing better. And that is why you've gotten all these letters from kids and parents that are now succeeding and doing well, whereas before they were not.

I want to reaffirm to you that I never committed this crime to K. I never touched her inappropriately. I never spoke to her in any inappropriate manner or behavior. There is no evidence of me physically, on computer, electronically. There was no DNA found. And in what she said, there would have been DNA found on a couch, on the carpet in these areas. There would have been DNA found. There was DNA found, and it wasn't mine. I did not do this. I promise you this.

The kids who have been most abused in this situation have been my kids. Why isn't anybody looking after my kids?

Being without a dad; being threatened to have him put in prison; getting death

threats; getting bullied at school; having to put up with a horrible, unstable environment because everything had been taken from them. Their Christmas toys had all been marked up from the raid on my house. All their toys were-- I mean the shock, the trauma that little kids from 10 to 3, when you can't go home because people are tearing your house up. When does their consideration come in?

I want to put out to you that if all the information and all the witnesses would have come, they would have seen that K. . had--she had mental--she has mental illness. It is documented. Before she came--that's the reason she came to the school. She had a very large psychiatric evaluation that went step by step through all of these things that she does.

In today's world, if somebody takes a gun into the school and shoots it up, everybody else is a victim and they're this monster. But in today's society, somebody can come in and make a false allegation about sexual misconduct. It

shut down the school. It killed my career. It hurt over 100 staff. They lost jobs immediately. Look at the impact of that statement.

All these other kids were sent home without therapy. Their therapy was cut off immediately. All their lifelines, the help, everything that they had growing up to be stable was taken from them that fast (indicating by snapping his fingers), 86 students and their families. All of that was gone overnight, and these kids went home. Two of them ran away, and nobody knows where they're at. Two of them have died on overdoses since they've left, and one killed his family and killed himself in jail.

We were dealing with the hardest kids that nobody in the state wanted to deal with. They'd get kicked out of everywhere else, and they would come to me. And I always had open arms, and I would never kick kids out. They'd run out of money, it didn't matter. They would stay until they finished, until they

wanted their diplomas. Whatever they needed, they got from the school and from me.

given my life to make Keokuk a better place. Everything I did was to make Keokuk a better place. Everything I did was to make Keokuk a better place to live; to make the staffs' lives better; to make the kids' and the families' lives better. It wasn't always easy. And there's no magic pill that works on every student. There's no place that 100 percent effective, but we gave it our best shot. We took the kids that nobody else wanted. We tried.

We donated thousands of dollars to scholarships of local students. We donated thousands of hours of community service every year to show each of these kids that's what makes a good community is them giving back; and instead of taking, giving.

I would just pray that all this other evidence and things you'd look at, because I have been painted in the most horrible light I have ever seen, and that

is the farthest thing from the truth.

These kids that have come, they lived in my house for free. I babysit their kids when they were in jail. I paid for their U-Hauls to go home. I gave them facility vans when they didn't have vehicles.

That's what we were trying to do out there. And that's what I tried to do with my whole life, is dedicate it to helping these kids, because there is nothing greater than seeing all these people with their kids and their families back together. To seeing kids who hate their parents come back and love their parents. To see that reunion is the greatest thing in the whole world. To see them go home and be successful; to get graduation cards from college; to see marriage; to see all these things in the kids who have been cast aside and are finally coming back up.

That's what I want my legacy to be, not this. And I would ask you to please look at that and just see where we sat and

what we tried to do.

Thank you.

all the sentencing provisions provided in Iowa Code Chapters 901 and 902. The following sentence is based upon my judgment of what will provide the maximum opportunity for your rehabilitation and at the same time protect the community from further offenses by you and others.

The Court has specifically considered the following factors, including the contents of the Presentence Investigation: the Court did sit through the trial in this case; the victim impact statements presented here today; the letters in support that were submitted on behalf of Mr. Trane; the statements by Mr. Trane; and, everything else brought before the Court here today.

It is the order of the Court acting pursuant to Section--under Count I,

Section 709.11, on the charge of Assault

With Intent to Commit Sexual Abuse, the

Defendant is committed to the custody of

the Director of Iowa Adult Corrections for a period of time not to exceed two years and given credit for time served.

On Count II the sentence on Pattern, Practice, or Scheme to Engage in Sexual Exploitation By Counselor or Therapist, in violation of Iowa Code Sections 709.15(2)(a) and 709.15(4)(a), the Defendant is committed to the custody of the Director of Iowa Adult Corrections for a period of time not to exceed five years and given credit for time served.

On Count III, the Child

Endangerment charge, it's an aggravated

misdemeanor, in violation of Iowa Code

Sections 726.6(1)(a) and 726.6(7), the

Defendant is committed to the custody of

the Director of Iowa Adult Corrections for

a period of time not to exceed two years

and given credit for time served.

The fine on each of those, on Count I, will be \$625.00; on Count II, it will be \$750.00; on Count III, it's \$625.00. A 35 percent surcharge will be added on each of those fines.

Given your financial circumstances as shown in the Presentence Investigation, the Court will suspend or waive the fines and related surcharge in each of those counts.

Counts I and II are sex-related offenses, so within five days from this date, the Defendant shall register with the county Sheriff or within five days of release from custody or placement on probation, parole or work release, and shall complete all necessary sex offender registry forms as directed and shall pay a \$25.00 sex offender registration fee pursuant to Section 692A.110(1) of the Code of Iowa.

You are informed of your duty to inform the county Sheriff of any changes of address in this state or any other state within five days.

A civil penalty in this case will be imposed in the amount of \$250.00 under 692A.110(2).

In addition to the sentences imposed above, the following sentence is

hereby ordered under 901B and shall commence at the end of the sentence imposed for the underlying offense, and the Defendant shall be under supervision as if on parole, as provided in the Iowa Code for a period of ten years.

Each of the sentences imposed in this case, Counts I, II, and III shall run consecutive to each other.

There is no mandatory minimum in this case. The Defendant is given credit for time served.

Again, taking into account all of the circumstances, the sentence in each of these cases is not suspended.

A no contact order in this case shall issue for the protection of K. for a period of five years from this date.

The Defendant will be liable for court costs in this case. Again, given your financial circumstances, there are court-appointed attorney fees in this case as set forth in the document here today. The Court will limit that to \$5,000.00 on a reasonable ability to pay adjustment.

Pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 901.5(9)(a) and (b), the Court will 3 publicly announce the Defendant's term of incarceration may be reduced from the maximum sentence because of statutory earned time, work credits and program credits. The Defendant may be eligible for parole before the sentence is discharged.

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Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 81.2, the Defendant shall submit a physical specimen for DNA profiling.

In reaching the sentence, I've taken into account what will be the maximum opportunity for your rehabilitation; protection of the community from further offenses by you and others; your age; your prior record, which is non-existent; your employment circumstances, family circumstances; the nature of the offenses committed.

In reaching this decision, sir, I've taken into account primarily--it's a very difficult decision when a man of your promise, and I consider you a young man

yet, an extremely talented person, you have the ability to impress people; you have the ability to inspire people, if you choose to do so.

On the other hand, let me also mention I did take into account your family very significantly, with five children and a wife. In the other circumstances I took that into account. I just wish you had.

I'm sentencing you for the crimes the jury convicted you of. What you're saying here today is there should be a different result because you didn't do them.

In this case, there was a large breach of trust of your legal duty, and the jury found that to be the case in this case.

It is of the utmost serious nature. Your acts against very troubled and vulnerable young people is one that merits serious consequences. This was done while they trusted you. They were totally reliant on you, as you pointed out in your

statements here today. This is something that just cannot be tolerated.

Consecutive sentences in this case were based on that these are separate acts over time, as pointed out in the arguments made here today, extended over time.

Finally, nothing you said here today gives the Court any confidence that things will change for you. I've considered every factor imaginable not to come up with this result. Given the circumstances, I believe it to be the just result in this case.

Finally, and very importantly, your statement here today just--you're switching the tables. The people who are the victims, who the jury found to be the victims, are now victimizing you. And you are just re-victimizing them by what you're saying here today. So that's the reasons for the sentence, sir.

Now that you've been sentenced, it is the Court's duty to advise you of your right to appeal. Under Iowa law, you have the right to appeal your judgment and

conviction to the Iowa Supreme Court.

This appeal is started by filing a notice of appeal with the Clerk of the District Court. This notice must be filed within thirty days of today's date. Filing the notice of appeal is jurisdictional, which means that if for any reason the notice is not filed with the Clerk within thirty days, you would lose your right to appeal.

A copy of the notice of appeal must also be served upon the County Attorney by delivering a copy to the County Attorney's Office or mailing it to said office.

You must also promptly mail or deliver an informational copy of the notice of appeal to the Iowa Attorney General's Office.

You must also file with the notice of appeal with the Clerk of Court that you have served the notice of appeal on the County Attorney's Office and the Attorney General's Office.

Sir, if you cannot afford an appeal, you have the right to apply to

this Court for the appointment of a
lawyer, the furnishing of a transcript of
the evidence, the printing of any record
on appeal, and necessary briefs on appeal
at the expense of the State.

However, you must file an application showing that you cannot afford to pay for these items before the Court would order the State to pay for these expenses.

If you have any questions concerning that, bring those to the attention of your attorney at once.

Appeal bond will be set at \$50,000.00.

Is there anything else by the State?

MS. TIMMINS: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Parrish?

MR. PARRISH: Your Honor, the appeal bond is set at \$50,000.00. I believe the regular bond on this matter as per the uniform bond from the Supreme Court, it started out at \$50,000.00. I

believe it was an aggravated misdemeanor,

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  as opposed to a felony when it started.
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  We would ask the Court to consider the
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  uniform bond.
          THE COURT: Is it cash or surety or
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  cash only on the underlying bond?
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          MR. PARRISH: It's cash that has
7
  been posted, Judge.
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          THE COURT: I'll put it as cash or
9
  surety, $50,000.00.
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          MR. PARRISH: Thank you. I
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  appreciate that.
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          The other condition, Judge, is
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  whether or not he's going to be able to
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  travel while he's on bond. He would like
  to go back to Idaho and not remain in Iowa
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  and to go back with his family.
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          THE COURT: Are there any
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  additional restrictions placed on him that
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  the State is asking for if he is able to
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  post bond?
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          MS. TIMMINS: Your Honor, we'd just
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  ask that the same restrictions continue.
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          THE COURT: Well, I'm not putting
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  any additional restrictions on unless
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they're put in writing and so forth. At

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  this time, he has shown up for every
2
  hearing. He has shown up for everything.
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  Again, the prison sentence has been
  announced. So I think he'll show up.
          There will be a no contact order
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  issued with K. in this case, which I
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  don't think would probably be an issue
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  anyway.
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          MR. PARRISH: He will abide by
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  that, Judge.
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          THE COURT: Okay.
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          MR. PARRISH: Thank you.
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          THE COURT: All right. That's all.
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          (The proceedings concluded at 4:25
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  p.m.)
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${\tt C} \ {\tt E} \ {\tt R} \ {\tt T} \ {\tt I} \ {\tt F} \ {\tt I} \ {\tt C} \ {\tt A} \ {\tt T} \ {\tt E}$

I, Scott A. Landon, a Certified
Shorthand Reporter for the State of Iowa, do
hereby certify that I acted as the official
court reporter at the hearing in the aboveentitled matter at the time and place
indicated; that I took in shorthand all of the
proceedings had at the said time and place;
that said shorthand notes were transcribed by
me; and, that the foregoing pages are a full
and complete transcript of the shorthand notes
so taken.

Dated this 13th day of June, 2018.

__/s/ Scott A. Landon
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

Transcript ordered: May 16, 2018

Transcript delivered: June 13, 2018