

## LETTER OF INFORMATION

My name is Anita Reddy. On March 27, 2019 our lives were forever changed. We were devastated by the reckless and untimely death of our second child, Aaron Reddy at the young age of 18. Considering that marijuana is the drug that killed my child directly, the drug that was in his blood when he died.

Aaron was an intelligent, handsome young man. He had a beautiful, compassionate, forgiving, self-sacrificing, quiet nature. He was accepting and loving everyone. He had a quick wit and was always joking around with family and friends. As he said a few weeks prior to his death, "Mom, we must always forgive everyone and spend time with those we love." That was my Aaron, my precious kind boy.

### **How this nightmare began**

When Aaron was 16 years old his friend from school helped him obtain a job as a busboy at a restaurant in Fallston, MD. Aaron was so excited about his interview, he dressed up in a suit, with his dad's help, typed up a resume and obtained his first job. Little did I know that this was the beginning of the end of Aaron's life. The woman who recommended to the manager that Aaron be hired had a long criminal history and had a plan to start a Medical Marijuana business. She worked there as a waitress along with her son, daughter and step son.

The mother knew that Aaron was a bright student at in the business program at Eastern Tech H.S. He had dreams of becoming a Certified Management Accountant. From all the information we learned after Aaron's death, we believe this family befriended and groomed Aaron to assist them with their criminal enterprise. They were making marijuana edibles and selling it through the restaurant. In addition, the restaurant workers who had medical marijuana cards sold high-potency honey, shatter, wax, budder to the other (younger) kids working there.

We started seeing changes in Aaron's behavior a year or more of his death. He had a new group of work friends, became secretive, was always eager to go to work, avoided family activities and became more aggressive, despondent. However, I did not wake up to the real changes until it was too late! One day when I attempted to kiss his forehead while he was asleep on the family room couch, he jumped up and almost punched me in the face! Why was he suddenly so paranoid and prone to anger.

As I was running late to work, I thought about his behavior that whole day at work. While discussing this with someone at work, they informed me that Aaron was exhibiting all the signs of marijuana dependency as their own son had struggled with this addiction in the past. The friend also informed me that driving under the influence of marijuana was worse then drunk driving. When I got home that night around 9:00 pm, Aaron was already at work.

## **The night Aaron died**

He never came home the night of March 27, 2019. His impairment and addiction to marijuana -- and paranoid delusions -- caused him to veer off the road on his way home, crash into the woods off of I-95, where he got out of his car and walked onto I-95. While he was waiting for his friend to pick him up, he was run over and killed by a 27-year-old with a previous history of marijuana possession and DUI while impaired by a controlled substance. A witness who saw my son at the scene said he was totally lost and confused, not in his right mind and not knowing what he was doing. I know Aaron wouldn't have killed himself if he hadn't been astronomically high. He had no intention to suicide.

The police that responded to the accident scene never tested the 27-year-old for impairment of any kind, in spite of his history, based on the investigative reports that we obtained. In addition, despite numerous statements in the police report of the strong odor of marijuana emitting from Aaron's car, they called his manner of death a suicide, never testing his blood for THC.

One week after Aaron's death we were able to pick up his belongings from the towing companies lot, where his totaled car was held. The overpowering smell of marijuana was so strong that we had to take turns retrieving Aaron's possessions from his car. We called the Medical Examiner's office to find out the results of the toxicology report. Surprisingly, the toxicology report did not include the results for marijuana testing. Marijuana testing should be automatic. We described the strong smell of marijuana emitting from Aaron's car and pressed for the physician to retest Aaron's blood for THC. Not surprising, the results were quite high for THC. From sharing his results with cannabis experts, they determined that he was "acutely intoxicated + long term use."

## **My daughter knew about his use before we did**

While talking with my daughter, I found out that she had known of Aaron's marijuana use but did not inform us because of what she had been taught at school. She attends Perry Hall H.S., where the school without informed consent of us parents had a general assembly for the science students with a guest speaker. The guest speaker was a Bone Marrow Transplant patient who was using Medical Marijuana and was there to inform the teens of the benefits of this federally-illicit Schedule I drug. The patient apparently informed the teens that it was just "a herb from an ancient plant that helped ease her pain, anxiety and depression." I was astonished at this, since my cancer patients who use marijuana have much worse outcomes than those who are drug free.

I was shocked that the school would allow the marijuana industry into our schools. The ramifications of this misinformation led to the death of my son. I believe that if my daughter and son had been provided the truth about this biphasic drug and not been fed blatant lies about marijuana, my son would be alive now!

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