

BILL NO: HB 1117

TITLE: Family Law – Adoption of an Adult

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

HEARING DATE: March 8, 2023

POSITION: Favorable

Handwritten testimony of Carmelo Ray

Adult adoptee

2500 Putty Hill Avenue

Parkville, MD 21234

(1)

Many times I've heard people saying that "I wish I can go back to my childhood. It's full of memories and fun times."

Very true, however not the case for all of us. Some of us don't want anything to do with our childhood, nothing to do with going back anywhere where there was trauma involve. Some of us is Me "Armel Noubia" Now and proudly became Carmelo Bayanho Ray short for (C BR)

Trauma is a six letter word that can either destroy the good you have created, or enhance it. It's all come down to key word "Perspective." Not many kids get what I have

from foster system. Not many end up surrounded with a ~~too~~ loving caring mother that is not after the state check every month. I'm speaking from experience. I had some

foster homes I was sent to by DSS, I almost went back to my no having window, no heat, small tiny shed, because I was miserable. Thank God I had someone (Kelley Ray) who didn't let go of me during this entire process. I can't get into the details, however I want to paint the picture for you.

Imagine this, you have this lady in a 40's at the time, sees, this kids at a local gym, in deeparate need of help. This is a foreign kid that was put on the street at age 14 no family members, no uncle, no aunt, no cousins, Nobody. This kid never drops out of school he worked played sport and went to school.

She takes a chance on the kid, as soon as she realizes the situation she takes action, she calls the right people, she gets involve with^{no} demolish intention. This kid is being mistreated in the system, they don't feed him, they don't take him to his doctor's appointments, they don't pick him up from work late at night. This Lady (Kelley Ray) Decides to contact the DSS (Department of social service) supervisor to see if there is anything she can do to help. she was already doing the work anyway. This lady agrees to change her foster parent license from City to County for me. Just so I can get the proper care, and attention. This lady becomes my foster parent to the fullest, till I go on semi independent living. (That's where the system requires you to go get an apartment, teaches you how to manage bills, you get a job pay your bills and they pay you the ~~money~~ money back. Because you are about to age out of the system.) I'm out of the system, with the right guidance, the proper discipline, and the grace of God I buy my house at 20 years old. She had all the right to say "well I did my job, you are well off on your feet, bye bye now." But she didn't. She goes a step further. I'm going to adopt this kid no help from anybody, puts up her own money, hires her own attorney, To the biggest nightmare of this journey to find out that she needs permission from a Bastard, selfish, ignorant, irresponsible, ~~psycho~~ psychopath woman, who will never pass a single class on parenthood. only know how to open her legs to men, if it's ok to do her job for her?"

You put yourself in that situation, ~~see~~ how much anger and resentment you will have. This is someone that set me up for failure, I could have been dead, stabbed, ~~jailed~~ Jailed, she wouldn't have cared. I have to notify her that a loving, caring mother is trying to do her job for her?.

"It's like someone who shoots you to kill you, you survive and the paramedics call that person to tell them, oh by the way the person you shot is not dead, they survived, ~~we~~ are taking them to this hospital ~~we~~ need your signature before we start to operate to take the bullet out."

The worst thing you can ever do to a traumatized person is to make them go back to their abuser, or make them relive their trauma moments. For starter I didn't know ~~to~~ I could be adopted again at my age I 28 years old might my mother been taking care of me since 2012 it's 11 years now I know my mother. My biggest fear was what would happen to me if I'm not able to make decision on my own like at the hospital, they would have to call the psycho witch. Now with this adoption in place no chance in hell she has to interjere with my life ever again, No attachment whatsoever. For what it's worth I think the process can be a little better. for instance, Not notifying the abuser if the kid is over 18 years old, and has been on his own for a while. The out of country journal advertisement is a big headache because there are scammers they can take your money and never get it done. Different countries have different rules. Not ~~every~~ everyone has a faster process like the U.S.

Money is no object when it's well invested in what we want.
the aggravation of the process is what gives headaches.

The biggest thanks I could give to my mother was to carry her name and make her proud and I did it, the goal is not over yet I'm only 28. I'll make sure her name is known and her story is heard. I have no anger toward anyone I just don't want insignificant people to know about my business. I'm a private person. In the other hand, what happened to me was the best life training I could ever have not even college ~~to~~ could teach me, what I've learned in my journey. There is no other tragedy in life that can scare me. My biggest advantage in life is that ~~is~~ I've built survivor skills while being homeless. Nothing else can scare me.

I'm fortunate enough that my mother could afford it I do believe there should be a system in place to assist those parents out there who "QUALIFY" and "Deserve" to adopt the kid they want to give a second chance in life to.

Lord knows I needed that second chance and

Kelley Ray gave it to me. Here I am today telling my story. Failure in life is not lack of will power, it's lack of guidance and there are many kids out there with a right parent they can achieve wonders. but some are stuck in foster system with greedy ~~parents~~ foster parent who are just after the state's check. some parents want to start the process but lack the funds.

All I can say is I'm a lucky son of a gun.

~~Handwritten signature~~

Carmelo Ray

02/28/23
Handwritten initials