

My grandson Maddox B. Pergoda was born October 19, 2004 to Heather A. Pergoda-Gezelman and my son Eric Tucker. Paternity was established by DNA testing. The parents had joint custody. From the time Maddox was an infant I have been a major caregiver and the bond established between the two of us is undeniable. Heather relied on me continually for help with Maddox. He spent almost every weekend at my home. He had his own room complete with furnishings, clothing and any necessities that were required. He was well cared for by me in a very loving home including meals, bath time, playtime, and sleep time. He grew up with a neighbor whom he formed a friendship bond with from the time he was 2 years old. Maddox loved his time at grandma's and verbally expressed those feelings when he was able to talk. Unfortunately, the parent's relationship was tumultuous but I continued to keep a stable, constant environment for Maddox.

In 2009 his father was given sole custody and they both lived with me in the same home Maddox had been used to. I continued Maddox's upbringing, assisting his father while he worked, with meals, schoolwork, social activities, playdates, parties etc, again giving Maddox a stable home and routine. He acquired two pets a cat and dog that he is very fond of at my home. We took regular vacations every year in the summer from the time he was a year old usually at the ocean in Rhode Island or New Hampshire. The first year all four of us vacationed together, then for a couple of years Maddox, his father and myself, then it became just Maddox and myself every year for the past 6 or 7 years. Our last vacation together was in August 2015 at Hampton Beach in N.H.

In 2013 his mother was given sole custody and Maddox was not allowed to see me as often as he wanted to. He was still able to visit, go out to eat, and vacation with me but not as often. I continued to send him cards and gifts on all the holidays he was not able to visit. On our mini vacation that year, during school break, Maddox told me he wanted his "family" back. It broke my heart to see him hurting like that. Then visits became more frequent again. I attended and brought him to his soccer games, and any school functions I knew about. He had his birthday parties at my home with family and friends as always and I did my best to try to make him feel secure with the changes and keep the familiar in his life. He spent Christmas Eve Dec 24th 2015 at my home with family and friends. That was the last time I saw him.

I called Heather every week afterwards as I always did, asking when Maddox could visit. My calls were not returned and I was rarely able to speak to Maddox even though he has his own phone. Heather answered me on Jan 24, 2016 saying they were not in the area but she would have Maddox call me. I spoke with Maddox a few times, and on March 3, 2016 he said he had been asking his mother to let him visit me but she wasn't allowing it. After continuing to contact Heather about visitation she told me on March 11, 2016 to stop contacting her. Therefore, I have filed for visitation through the courts. I have learned they were evicted from their apartment in Farmington on March 20, 2016 and have yet to learn their new address.

Maddox has endured more than any child should have to and I believe he will only feel more emotional stress or abandonment if he is not allowed to see me. I have been a constant, stable presence in his life and I know how much he loves me and I love him.