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A Mother's Love – a Son's Alcoholism

Posted on May 30, 2011 by Lisa Frederiksen • 1 Comment

A Mother's love in the face of a Son's Alcoholism.

The following is a letter a mother wrote to her son and shared with me to put on this blog in the event it may help other parents. It is beautifully written and shares the pain-filled decision she's had to make. Names have been replaced by _____ to protect identities.

Dear _____,

Once again I am writing to insure there is no confusion regarding what I am about to say.

I have never wavered in my love for you _____, or in my willingness to do whatever was needed for your safety and well being. I have no doubt that you have the strength and determination necessary to reclaim your life. But I have become painfully aware that I cannot do it for you. Nor will you be able to do so yourself if you continue to drink.

It is excruciatingly painful for me to say and to believe, but there is no doubt in my mind that you are an alcoholic. As long as you continue to drink, nothing will improve for you. For my part, I will no longer support your drinking, or 'look the other way'. I am doing what you have often requested: 'treating you like a forty year old man'. When you are willing and able to acknowledge all that you have lost, and to accept the truth of how much your life has been destroyed by alcohol, I believe that you have the strength and the will to change things.

As far as I can see, you have two options:

- To quit drinking and do whatever is needed to take back your life;
- Continue deeper and deeper into alcoholism, until it leaves you sick and alone and possibly homeless. It will inevitably, kill you.

If you choose to quit drinking, I will support you in any way I can and offer you two options:

- 1.) A Residential treatment center where you can live for up to three months and find help and support from people who know the difficulties of alcohol addiction and are themselves struggling toward sobriety. This is what helped _____ return to the family and life he had lost.
- 2.) I will allow you to live at home **as long as you follow the program and do not drink.** Although this sounds like



A mother writes a painful letter to her son outlining what she can and can no longer do in the face of her son's alcoholism.

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business as usual, it is not.

To live in my house, I will expect you to:

- a.) Meet once with a woman who is an expert on alcohol and its effect on the brain.
- b.) Connect with a new doctor (whom I will recommend).
- c.) Attend DRA (Dual Recovery Anonymous) meetings 2x/week with _____ and 2x/week with _____, AND 2x/week on your own. There are AA meetings at _____ and at the big church on _____ that you can walk to.

If you refuse to stop drinking:

- 1.) It is only a matter of time that you will be homeless which will inevitably lead to hospitalization and/or jail.
- 2.) There is no reason for you not to move to Reno where I will buy you a house. You can stay inside, and do exactly what you do here: smoke and drink and inevitably, talk to yourself. If you ever find yourself in jail or the hospital, you will have a home to return to. And someone to call if/when you need help.

I will never stop loving you _____, but I am 72 years old and could die tomorrow. I can no longer afford the stress of living with your drinking and the constant fear and worry of what it might lead to. Today, I know you have lied to me about many things and, because of my love and devotion to you, I have often looked the other way. Or hoped against hope that you were telling me the truth, even when I knew you were not. In accepting that behavior I was not helping either of us. I believe that I have finally awakened to the reality of what I am dealing with. I can only hope that you will do the same.

All my love,

Mom



Lisa Frederiksen

Author Speaker Consultant Owner at BreakingTheCycles.com

Lisa Frederiksen is the author of nine books and a national keynote speaker with over 25 years public speaking experience. She has been consulting, researching, writing and speaking on alcohol abuse, drug addiction, secondhand drinking, treatment, mental illness, underage drinking, and help for the family since 2003. Her 40+ years experience with family and friends' alcohol abuse and alcoholism, her own therapy and recovery work around those experiences, and her research for her blog posts and books, including her most recent - "Crossing The Line From Alcohol Use to Abuse to Dependence," "Loved One In Treatment? Now What!" and "If You Loved Me, You'd Stop!" - frame her work with medical school students, families, individuals, students and administrators, businesses, public agencies, social workers, family law attorneys, treatment providers and the like. Please feel free to call Lisa at 650-362-3026 or email her at lisaf@breakingthecycles.com.

Filed Under: Alcoholism | Drug Addiction Treatment | Recovery, Secondhand Drinking | Help for Families

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
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 May 7, 2013 at 12:31 am

Painful to read . . . but oh so very necessary for this mother and her son.

A drug and alcohol counselor told me that only after his father turned him away and stopped enabling him did he get clean and sober. As parents when we shift our behavior it shifts the behavior of our kids even when our kids are 40 year-old adults. Alcoholism stunts emotional growth. This man will need to not only seek support for rehabilitation but also life skills to deal with everyday issues he's buried with alcohol.

A brave mom to share this. Sending big hugs and bundles of strength. I hope that she is seeking support as well.

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