

EXHIBIT 6

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

NEW HOPE FAMILY SERVICES, INC.,

Plaintiff,

5:18-CV-1419 (MAD/TWD)

vs.

SHEILA J. POOLE, in her official capacity
as Acting Commissioner for the Office of
Children and Family Services for the State
of New York,

**AFFIDAVIT OF ELLIE STULTZ
IN SUPPORT OF NEW HOPE
FAMILY SERVICES' MOTION
FOR PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION**

Defendant.

1. My name is Ellie Stultz.
2. I am above the age of 18, of sound mind, and I have personal knowledge of the facts explained in this document.
3. When I was a student at Houghton College, I became pregnant.
4. My pregnancy was not planned.
5. A counselor that I was seeing at Houghton College shared with me that she had previously been an employee of New Hope Family Services.
6. She told me that New Hope was a Christian adoption agency.
7. She was confident that New Hope would be able to help me find a family with whom I would be comfortable to place my baby. I loved the concept that I would be able to pick the family so that I wouldn't be just leaving my baby with whoever someone else picked.
8. I contacted New Hope and Diana Johnson was the adoption caseworker who helped me through the process.

9. She was phenomenal in helping me through all of the procedures involved in placing my child for adoption.

10. Diana had adopted children herself and had handled several adoptions, so she understood the process from both perspectives.

11. Everyone at New Hope made me feel loved. No one condemned me for getting pregnant without being married.

12. At several different points in the process, Diana prayed with me that I would know the will of God and have wisdom in the choices that I was making for my child.

13. The staff at New Hope did a good job of talking me through the pros and cons of my options to parent, abort, or to create an adoption plan.

14. They encouraged me about the blessing that adoption could be to me and to the family with whom I would place my child.

15. I have a strong Christian faith and I saw genuine faith in everyone I worked with at New Hope.

16. It was very important to me to find a married mother and father who would raise my child.

17. I also wanted to give my child to someone who was not able to have a child of their own.

18. The most important thing to me was that my child would be raised in a God-centered family by strong Christian parents.

19. When I was about seven months along, Diana came to my house and showed me profiles of different adoptive families that she felt fit what I had told her I was looking for in an adoptive family.

20. The profiles were photo books that shared details about each family.

21. She encouraged me to take my time in making a decision.

22. It was a very personal experience.

23. I told Diana that I would like to consider placing my child with a certain family.

24. Diana arranged for me to meet that couple at New Hope.

25. It was important to me that I was able to meet my child's adoptive parents before the birth. When we met, we were able to ask one another questions.

26. The father who adopted my child is a youth pastor and for a while I had wanted to become a youth pastor myself, so the thought of him sharing the gospel every single day to young children helped me to have peace that I was making the right choice.

27. After we met, I truly made my decision to go through with the adoption. I also decided to hand over the baby right after I gave birth.

28. I believe the adoptive parents came with Diana to the hospital about 24 hours after I gave birth and we signed the paperwork then.

29. We agreed to exchange letters and pictures through the agency two times per year. I love that I am still able to keep in contact with my daughter and the family.

30. I still meet up with Diana periodically because I feel like she helped me with more than just the adoption process—she became a mentor and friend.

31. I understand that the state is trying to force New Hope to include unmarried couples and same-sex couples in its adoption program. As a birthmother, considering placing my child with New Hope, New Hope's Christian faith was important to me. If they had shown me parent profiles of unmarried couples or same-sex couples I strongly believe that I would not have gone through with placing my child through that agency. I would view New Hope recommending unmarried, cohabiting couples or same-sex couples for consideration as adoptive parents to my child as an indication that they had compromised their beliefs. It would cause me to question whether their faith was genuine and would have created doubt for me about proceeding with them.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date: November 29, 2018.

Ellie Stultz
Ellie Stultz

STATE OF NEW YORK)

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA) ss.:

On the 29th day of November, 2018, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said state, personally appeared ELLIE STULTZ, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument, the person or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.

[Signature]
Notary Public

ROBERT E. GENANT
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Oswego Co. No. 4528066
Commission Expires April 30, 2022

EXHIBIT 7

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

NEW HOPE FAMILY SERVICES, INC.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SHEILA J. POOLE, in her official capacity
as Acting Commissioner for the Office of
Children and Family Services for the State
of New York,

Defendant.

No.: 5:18-cv-1419 (MAD/TWD)

**AFFIDAVIT OF JEREMY
JOHNSTON IN SUPPORT OF
NEW HOPE FAMILY
SERVICES' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

1. My name is Jeremy Johnston.
2. I am above the age of 18, of sound mind, and I have personal knowledge of the facts explained in this document.
3. My wife Tara and I knew when we got married that we would not be able to have children. We started looking at adoption in 2013. My sister-in-law worked with several adoption agencies. She told us about New Hope Family Services.
4. As soon as we looked into it, we knew we wanted to adopt through New Hope. We appreciated that New Hope was faith-based and we wanted to work with an agency that shared our Christian beliefs, particularly about family.
5. When we first contacted New Hope, they were not taking new families. My wife and I decided to wait until we could work with New Hope. Several months later, New Hope contacted us and we began working through the approval process to become an adoptive family.
6. As part of that process, we took part in seminars and meetings. That first seminar opened with prayer and we saw the clear Christian faith of New Hope

staff members play out in the ways that they interacted with us and other families. We talked about our Christian beliefs during the process and we even used our priest as a reference.

7. New Hope helped us put together a photobook to provide to birth moms, so they would get to know more about our family. New Hope staff gave us advice about what to include and how to put it together. They showed us samples. And they reviewed drafts of our book and gave us suggested edits. We incorporated New Hope's suggestions in creating and editing the content, lay-out, and appearance of our book. A true and correct copy of excerpts from our photobook are attached as Exhibit 1.

8. In 2015, a woman saw our book and chose us to adopt her baby. We were so excited. We met with her and the father before the birth. New Hope staff facilitated this meeting and attended it with us. We prepared to welcome this new baby. When our son was born, his mother had doubts about whether she could give up her baby to be adopted. New Hope arranged for our son to go to what they call a "Tender Loving Care Family."

9. Tender Loving Care Families are families that provide temporary foster care for New Hope. They provide care and a loving home for a baby when that baby cannot immediately be placed with the adoptive family. In our case, our son was with a Tender Loving Care Family for 30 days. Then his mother decided she wanted us to adopt him. We are so glad that she did.

10. We really saw New Hope's faith-based services come through in that difficult 30-day period. The staff we worked with tirelessly prayed, counseled, and

helped us through that time. I know the staff working with the birth mother did the same for her. I don't know how we would have made it through those 30 days without New Hope's Christian counseling and love. Working with New Hope actually inspired us to become more involved with our own church.

11. Before our son's adoption was finalized, we started the process to adopt again through New Hope. In our second adoption, we were able to bring our daughter home two days after she was born.

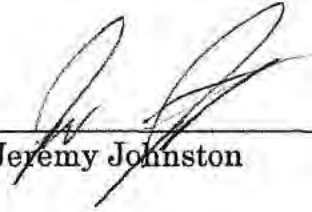
12. We are still waiting to finalize our daughter's adoption. It is scheduled to be finalized in 2019 through New Hope. I don't know what will happen to us if New Hope is forced to stop doing adoptions. We are in the middle of the process and everything would be up in the air. At the very least, I know it would delay our adoption and increase the costs as we try to find another agency to transfer the adoption to so it can be finalized. It would be like starting over as we got to know the new agency and staff, and they got to know us.

13. I also don't know what would happen to the ongoing relationship we have with New Hope for our son's adoption. We have an open adoption with our son's birth parents, so we send pictures and letters to New Hope three times a year. His birth parents can then get those pictures and letters from New Hope. We are also sending pictures and letters to our daughter's birth mom and will continue to do that through New Hope. For both kids this will continue until their eighteenth birthday. I don't know if or how this can be transferred to another agency so that we can still get information and updates to our children's birth moms.

14. My wife and I have talked about the possibility of adopting a third time. If we decide to adopt a third time, we would only do so through New Hope. The adoption experience is so personal that if we walk through it again, we would want to do so with an agency that shares our Christian values particularly about life and family.

I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed this 30 day of November, 2018, at MW, NY New York.



Jeremy Johnston

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF)

On the 30 day of November, 2018, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said state, personally appeared Jeremy Johnston, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument, the person or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.



Notary Public

LINDA M. FEATHERLY
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF NEW YORK
LIC. #01FE801134
Qualified in Onondaga County
My Commission Expires Oct 21, 2022

EXHIBIT

1

Hello, our names are Jeremy and Tara. It's so hard knowing where to start and how to find the right words to express how excited we are and how much we appreciate you looking at our profile. While we will never know the full impact of what you are going through, we do know that this must be a hard and emotional time for you.

We wanted to share with you the life we live and the abundance of love we have in our family.

We would love to expand our family through adoption. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for looking at our profile.

Sincerely,

Tara & Jeremy

»»» Hello



soulmates



We first met each other 9 years ago briefly at a birthday party. It was not until a year and half later that we would meet again when Jeremy started working for the same company that Tara did. While at a company function we started talking and immediately hit it off. We started taking our lunches together and became great friends. We noticed right away that we share the same sense of humor and adore our families. We had been dating for just over a year and knew that we were meant to be together. We were married on August 27, 2011. We have a strong bond and we face every aspect of our lives together.

love of my life



two souls, one heart



XOXO

hard WORK

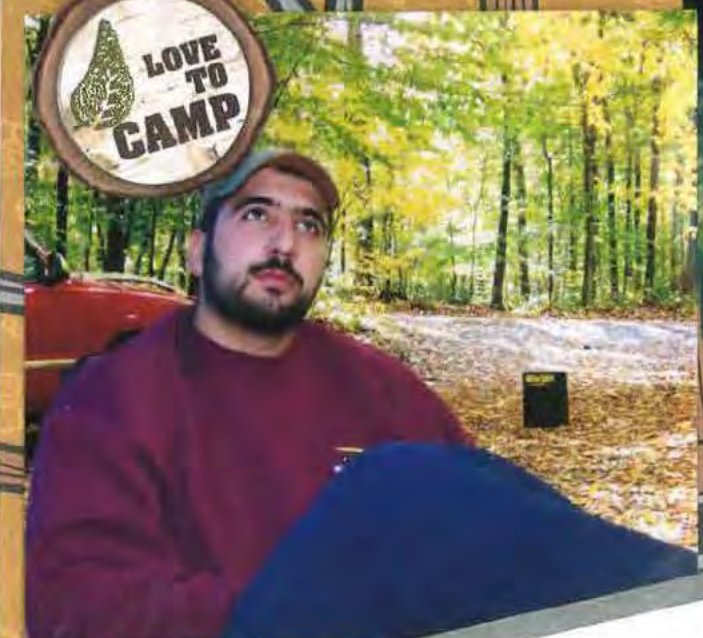
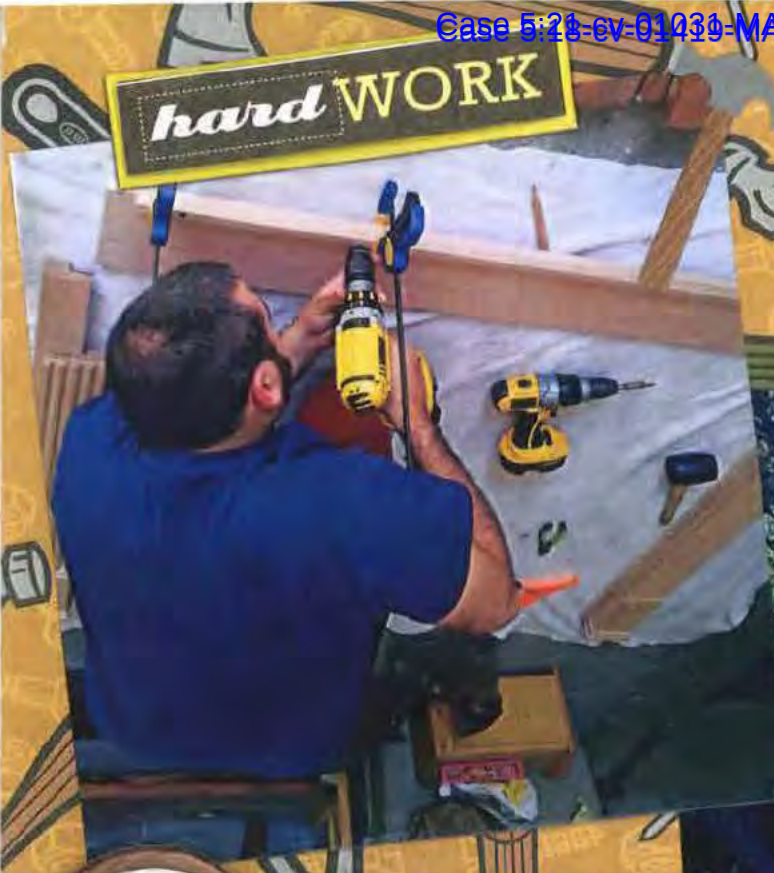
JEREMY

Happy Camper

HOLE IN ONE

HOME RENOVATION

LOVE TO CAMP



Meet Jeremy ...
 I grew up the younger of two children and come from a large and loving Italian family. I grew up with 4 cousins that are all around the same age who are all like brothers, and my aunts are like second moms to me. I would consider myself a great handy man and love to do projects around the house. Whether it's landscaping or installing a new deck I can do it all. I love to learn and push myself. I enjoy anything outdoors such as camping, hiking, and golfing.

I have a Bachelors Degree in History and Communications. I started working for a company as a mechanic when I graduated I was quickly promoted to a sales representative. I love my career and enjoy going to work every day.

Favorite Food: Steak
Favorite Music: Anything
Favorite Holiday: Christmas Eve (Family Traditions)
Favorite Movie: Iron Man
Favorite Sport to Watch: College Basketball
Hobbies: Working on old cars with his dad



say cheese!

COLOR ME RAD RUN W/ [redacted] & [redacted]



WEDDING

friends



best friends forever



WARRIOR DASH MUD RUN W/ [redacted]

special bond

13298

38355

lovely ladies



SLUMBER



JEREMY & I IN FLORIDA

us

GOLFING W/ MY SISTER



happy



sisters

friends

Meet Tara...

I grew up in a very large family. I am an only child to my mother but grew up with a half brother and sister. After my parents divorced and my mother remarried I gained 3 step sisters and 3 step brothers. My mom's side of the family is very large and she was one of nine children. Although getting around 100 family members together is tricky, we make sure to do it at least once a year at my grandma's house. She loves having a blended family and finds it a blessing and values the time together. I love camping, hiking, golfing and doing fun runs with my friends and family.

She has an Associate's Degree in Office Technology. She works for a company as an order analyst and customer care representative. She loves the company she works for because it feels like a small family owned business.

TARA

- Favorite Food: Prime Rib
- Favorite Music: I listen to it all
- Favorite Holiday: Christmas Eve
- Favorite Movie: Pretty Woman
- Favorite Sport to Watch: College Basketball
- Hobbies: Photography and fun runs

Preparing the Nursery

When the baby comes...

Tara will have maternity leave from work and extended time off. She also has the flexibility to work from home part time when the time is right to go back to work. Jeremy will also have a couple of weeks of time off as well to be home to help welcome home the baby. Both of our mothers will be taking time off to help us adjust and give a helping hand.

The nursery is set up and waiting. The nursery will be right across the hall from our master bedroom. We will be using the same gender neutral theme as we did for [REDACTED]. Since we were not specific on the gender because we will love a little boy or girl or both! The theme is Baby Bear by Carter's. We felt it would be nice to pass down the theme as a family tradition to the next addition to the family.



TARA'S



BROTHER



mom

stepdad



Mother



COUSINS



Jeremy, Tara



GRANDMOTHER

F A M I L Y

JEREMY'S



Easter at Mom and Dad's



New Kitchen Floor



Our Wedding



COUSINS



[Redacted] & Jeremy as kids on vacation



Aunt

ILLY

I fell in love with Tara for a lot of reasons. We enjoy all of the same activities and are always finishing each other's sentences. I love her laugh and also the way that she is so level headed in any situation. We both are very caring for our family members and would do anything for anybody at the drop of a hat. We both love pets and will always have dogs. We enjoy taking long road trips and can ride in a car for hours without even turning on the radio. We will laugh and make jokes like it's the first day we met. She fits into my family like she has been around forever. She is a great mother. She is caring and compassionate and children light up around her.



I fell in love with Jeremy for so many reasons. Where do I begin? He is my partner, my equal and my rock in life. He has such a huge heart it's a gift he shares with so many others. We enjoy so many of the same things that we are rarely apart for very long. He has an amazing sense of humor and makes me smile and laugh every day. Our connection is very deep and more often than not he can finish my sentences. Our family finds this uncanny on how often it really happens. He has had my heart since day one and continues to make me step back and think wow how did I get so lucky to find such a great person to share my life with! Watching him become a father has only made my love for him grow, he's a natural!





Our infertility and return to faith

Jeremy attended church regularly growing up as well as attending religious education classes. He went through his confirmation as well and religion was a regular part of his life. He also did a lot of volunteer work through the church serving meals at the Bingo hall, delivering Thanksgiving/Easter groceries to those less fortunate in the community, and helping as needed at other fundraising events for the church. When he went off to college religion played a smaller role but the community service stayed with him as he would always help those in need. Tara attended church regularly as a child also. The family would go every Sunday and was a large part of her life in her youth. As time went on attending church was less regular. Just after we began dating Tara was up front that she was unable to have children for health reasons but Jeremy knew where there was a will there was a way. Before we began this process we started attending church again to guide us through the emotional and stressful adoption journey. We pray daily and when we are in need of reassurance we leave that to our faith. We still do not attend church every week but go as often as we can. Everything in life happens for a reason which is why we are together and going through this exciting time together.



adventure

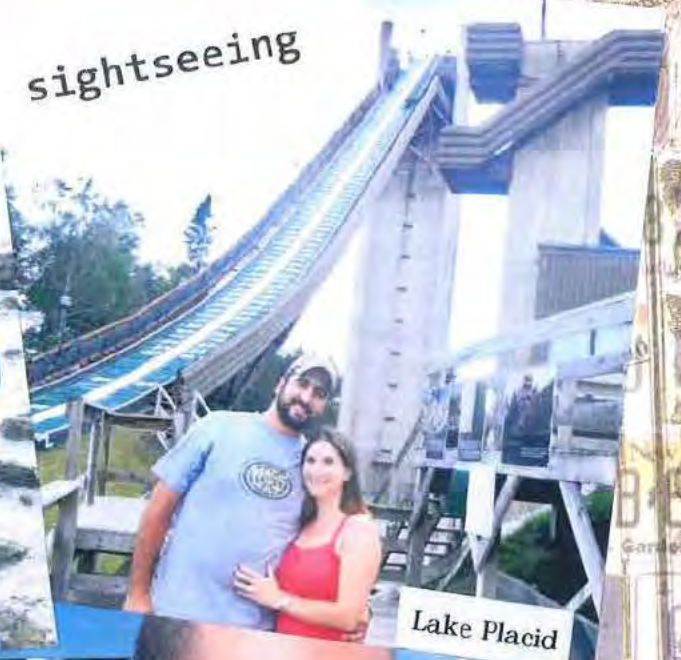
Our Vacation



Freeport, Bahamas



Nassau, Bahamas



sightseeing

Lake Placid



Jamesville



Old Forge



Key West



LITTLE WHITEFACE ELEV. 3678ft.



Aruba



TRAVEL





We truly appreciate you taking the time to look into our lives and the life that we will be able to provide for a child. We know this is an extremely difficult process for you as well, but know that this step will help fill a void in our lives that we cannot fill on our own. We know that we will make GREAT parents because of the way that our families have taught us to love and care for one another. We will have the support from our friends and family. All of our friends and family are beginning families and we will be able to raise our child with theirs and we can grow together, travel together, and experience the joys of parenthood together. We love our home and neighborhood because of the family friendly environment. The baby's grandparents will be there for us as a wonderful support. Our families traditions will be passed down and continue to hold our family together as Grandma [REDACTED] has shared with us.

Thank you ~

[Signature] + Sara



EXHIBIT 8

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NEW HOPE FAMILY SERVICES, INC.,

5:18-CV-1419 (MAD/TWD)

Plaintiff,

vs.

SHEILA J. POOLE, in her official capacity
as Acting Commissioner for the Office of
Children and Family Services for the State
of New York,

**AFFIDAVIT OF JUSTIN
BLEUER IN SUPPORT OF
NEW HOPE FAMILY
SERVICES' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

Defendant.

1. My name is Justin Bleuer.
2. I am above the age of 18, of sound mind, and I have personal knowledge of the facts explained in this document.
3. I grew up in western New York near Buffalo, the fifth of 14 kids. My parents adopted eleven of my brothers and sisters.
4. My parents adopted from all over the world, so I have siblings from the United States, Sierra Leone, Guatemala, Korea, and Liberia. Our friends used to joke that we were a "United Nations family."
5. Two of my siblings came to us through New Hope Family Services. That was over 20 years ago, but I still remember how different those adoption experiences were for our family. New Hope incorporated its Christian faith and values at every stage of each adoption. Christian faith was something that was important to my family growing up and remains important to me now that I am an adult and a pastor at a local church. Back then, New Hope's Christian focus made my family eager to work with them.

6. It was a blessing for me to grow up with adopted brothers and sisters. So I always desired to follow in my parents' footsteps and adopt. I had seen firsthand the positive impact adoption has on a family and the child that is brought into that family. When I met my wife, Annie, I was pleased to find out that she had the same desire to pursue adoption at some point in our marriage.

7. Annie and I got married in 2005 and by 2011 we had two kids of our own. Then in 2013 we lost a baby to miscarriage. That sparked something in both Annie and I to start thinking more seriously about adopting.

8. When Annie and I began to seriously consider adopting, we knew we wanted to work with New Hope. Through my parents, I had experience with adoption agencies. But I wanted our Christian faith to be an integral part of the process and so we went straight to New Hope.

9. At New Hope we found shared Christian values about the family, respect for life and care for orphans. New Hope's approach to adoption was anchored in the Bible. Prayer was included in meetings and at every step of the process. I saw the staff show true Christian love for the people they served – both birth parents, and adoptive parents. Staff walked with birth families through tough situations and decisions, while prayerfully preparing adopting families to bring a new child into their home. Everything was focused on Biblical teachings about hope, healing, the value of new life, the dignity of every person, and most importantly the gift of family.

10. Staff members told us right away that New Hope's primary goal is not to find children for families, but to serve the babies and mothers they work with to find each child a permanent, loving home that will fit their individual needs and situations.

11. New Hope's Christian faith was obvious to us when we adopted our baby girl. New Hope was working with a particular birth mother and our application moved quicker than most because we were willing to adopt a baby from a different race. She selected us to adopt her baby girl. We were thrilled. Then days before the birth, the birth mom decided she wanted an open adoption, rather than the semi-open one we had arranged. New Hope prayerfully walked both families through that process and we settled on an open adoption arrangement that has worked well for both families.

12. About the same time that the birth mom chose us to adopt her little girl, we found out that Annie was pregnant again. So in March 2014, we welcomed our then 3-day-old little girl into our home, and in July 2014 we had a baby boy.

13. Since then we have had another son, growing our family to five children.

14. As part of the process with New Hope, Annie and I created a family album. It was designed to help birth mothers get to know us as they tried to decide whether to place their baby with us. New Hope staff gave us advice about putting this book together and they reviewed and provided suggestions and edits before we

finalized the book. A true and correct copy of excerpts from that book are attached as Exhibit 1.

15. New Hope has continued to provide care for us, our birth mom, and our baby even after the adoption. They facilitated meetings for our family and the birth family. Initially, those meetings were at New Hope. They also facilitate ongoing correspondence between our family and our daughter's birth family. Every few months we send letters and pictures to New Hope and they provide those to our daughter's birth mom and dad. They will continue to do this for us until she is 18. New Hope is able to facilitate these meetings and correspondence so well because of the close relationship we, and our birth mom, have built with the New Hope staff, through the joys and challenges of the adoption process. It would be hard for us and our birth mom to replicate that with another agency.

16. Annie and I are aware of different adoption agencies, including secular ones. We chose to work with New Hope because it is different, the people there share our Christian views about what it means to be family. Because of that, Annie and I are open to adopting again, but we would only want to work with New Hope.

17. Similarly, we would not be comfortable adopting through New Hope if New Hope changed its Christian beliefs. If New Hope changes its religious beliefs about family, it could no longer provide the consistent Christian-based adoption experience that we and the birth mother we worked with enjoyed.

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I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

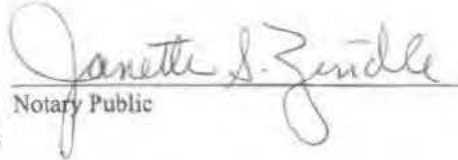
Executed this 30 day of November, 2018, at Greene New York.


Justin Bleuer

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF Chenango)

On the 30th day of November, 2018, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said state, personally appeared Justin Bleuer, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument, the person or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.

JANETTE S. ZINDLE
Notary Public, State of New York
Residing in Chenango County
My Commission Expires 5/15/2023


Notary Public

EXHIBIT

1



Thank you for reviewing our profile and meeting our family. We are excited to share our love with another child. We commend you for choosing life for your baby. We respect your tremendous courage and are praying for God's wisdom and strength for you!



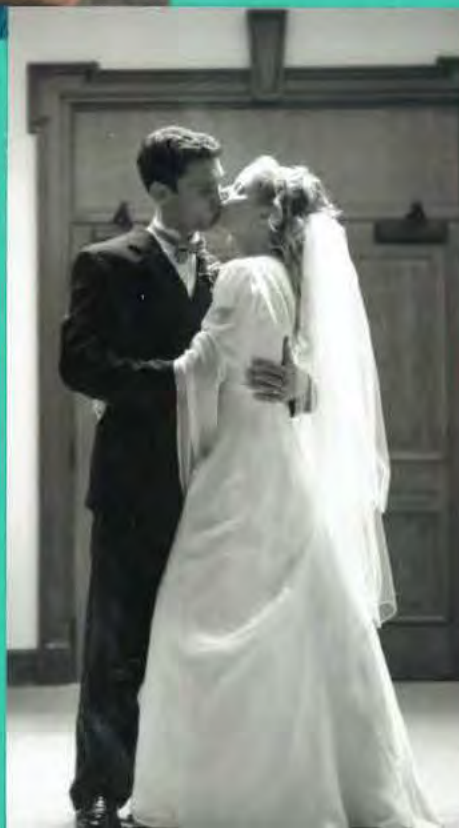
Our Family



Justin and Annie 2003

Justin and Annie's Story

Met at College~August 2001
Started Dating~February 2003
Engaged~November 2003
Married~May 21, 2005

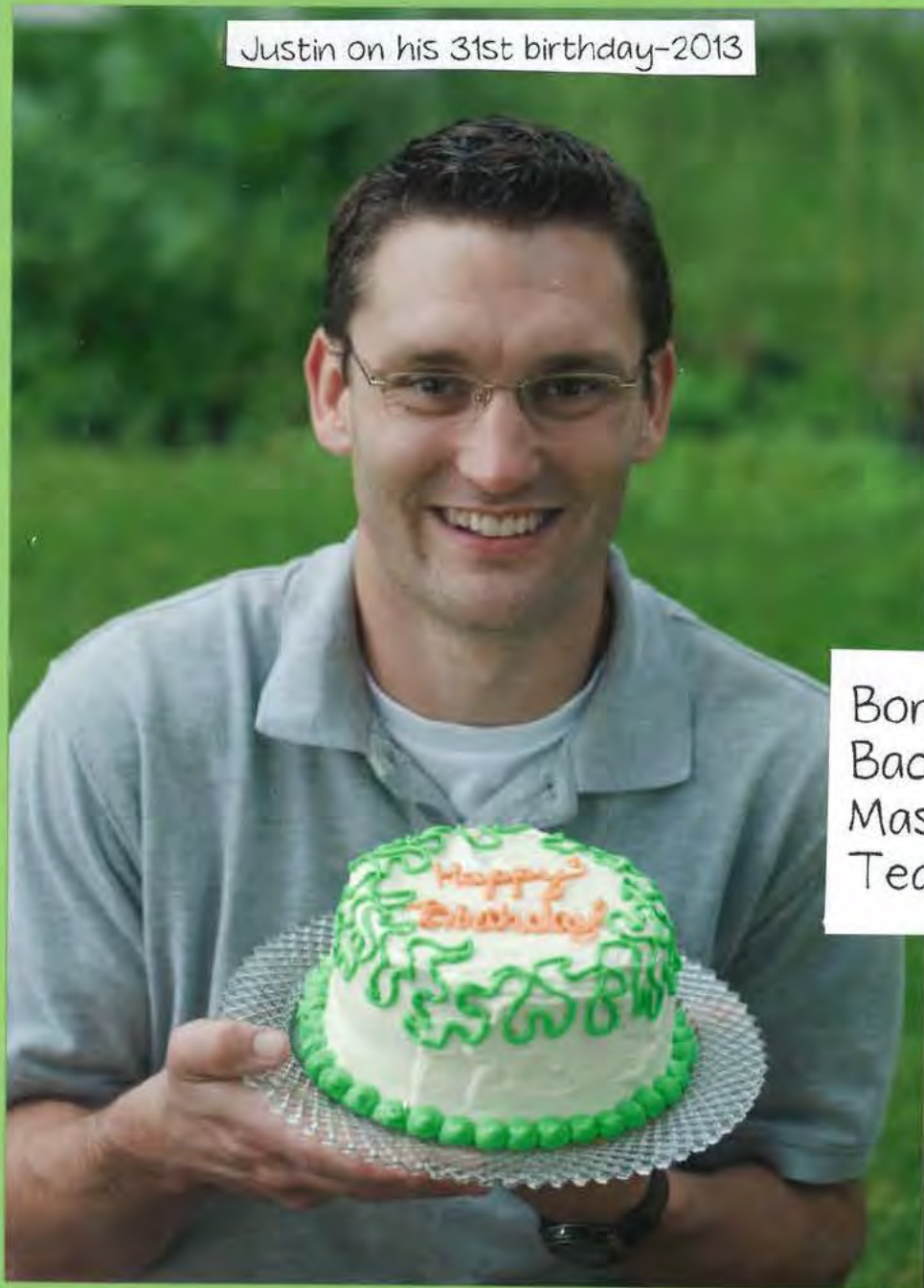


Our Wedding Day~May 21, 2005



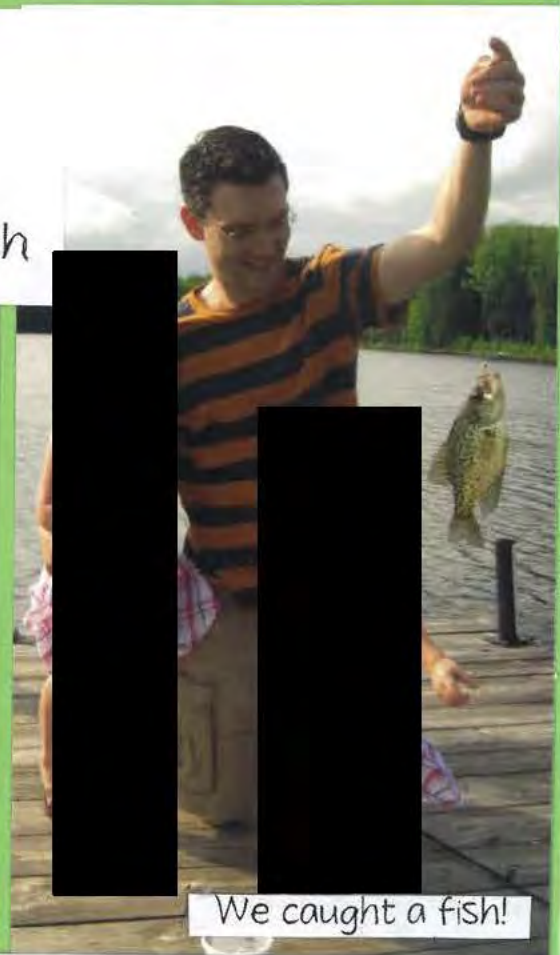
Meet Justin

Justin on his 31st birthday-2013



Making a snowman with [redacted] and [redacted]

Born [redacted]
Bachelors Degree completed
Masters Degree almost finished
Teaching Pastor at Christian Church



We caught a fish!

Justin, age 3, with his siblings.



Preaching on a Sunday morning

Justin likes:
time with his family
playing soccer
eating Skittles
reading
remote-control vehicles

Meet Annie

Born [REDACTED]
Two Associates Degrees completed
Professional Photographer



Annie at age 30~2013



Annie at age 5



Silly faces with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]



Fishing at the lake near our house

Annie likes:
time with her family
photography
reading
singing and music
the color blue
mashed potatoes
Hershey's chocolate



Photographing a wedding

Our Faith



and love listening to Daddy read their Action Bible at bedtime!

Justin's testimony:
I was four years old when an older sister had an asthma attack. I was so scared for her! I asked my oldest sister where she would go if she died and she explained to me that she'd go to heaven because she had asked Jesus to be her Savior. That very day I also asked Jesus to forgive me, and my life has never been the same. I am so grateful for His forgiveness!
I love serving at our church by teaching, training, and counseling. I love meeting with young couples and helping prepare them for marriage.

Annie's testimony:
I was about 8 years old when I asked Jesus to forgive my sins and chose to follow Him for the rest of my life. Since then, God has helped me become the person I am today, and I am eternally grateful for His mercy and grace. I love to serve at our church through singing, managing the library, and supporting Justin as a pastor's wife. I love being able to serve with him!

We feel that God has placed a desire for adoption in both our hearts and that He wants us to provide a safe and loving home for a child of His choosing.



Our church, which is very close to our home!



Justin's words about Annie:

Annie is so beautiful and fun. She's such a kind and thoughtful wife, and is also an excellent Mommy. Our girls adore her, and look forward to her songs and cuddles. She has so much love in her heart and would love to share it with another child.



Annie's words about Justin:

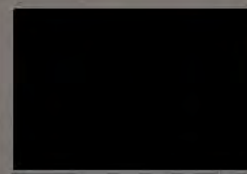
Justin is a sweet and kind husband, with strong character and a faithful heart. He



Thank you for viewing our profile!
We hope that you enjoyed meeting
our family. Please know that we are
praying for you and thank you for
choosing life!

Love,

Justin, Annie,



and

