



## STATEMENT OF TEQUILA SNOW

MY NAME IS TEQUILA SNOW AND I AM THE MOTHER OF GERALD, JUNIOR. AFTER FIVE VERY LONG YEARS, I AM RELIEVED THAT THE LAWSUIT ON BEHALF OF MY SON IS FINALLY OVER. WE HAVE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS DAY AND, EVEN THOUGH GERALD JUNIOR CANNOT TALK IN THE SAME WAY AS ALL OF US AND WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO TALK IN THE SAME WAY AS ALL OF US, I WANTED HIS VOICE TO BE HEARD.

THE JURY HEARD HIS VOICE AND TODAY WE WERE ABLE TO SEND A MESSAGE TO WEST SUBURBAN MEDICAL CENTER THROUGH THE VOICE OF THE JURY. TWELVE MEN AND WOMEN TOOK A MONTH OUT OF THEIR BUSY LIVES TO HEAR ALL OF THE EVIDENCE THAT LED TO LITTLE GERALD JUNIOR'S LIFE BEING CHANGED FOREVER BY THE UTTER NEGLIGENCE OF MEDICAL PEOPLE WHO JUST DIDN'T DO THEIR JOBS. I DIDN'T THINK THAT THE NURSES AND PEOPLE WHO WORK AT HOSPITALS DIDN'T CARE. I THOUGHT THEY WERE THERE TO SAVE LIVES. INSTEAD THEY RUINED THE WONDERFUL FAMILY THAT I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO WITH THE BIRTH OF GERALD JUNIOR FIVE YEARS AGO. INSTEAD, I STAYED WITH HIM AT HOME FOR FOUR YEARS TAKING CARE OF HIM ROUND THE CLOCK UNTIL I WAS UNABLE TO DO SO ANY MORE. HE NOW WILL BE ABLE TO COME BACK TO LIVE WITH ME AT HOME WHERE I CAN GET THE LIFETIME CARE THAT HE REQUIRES.

I WANT TO THANK THE JURY FOR LISTENING TO WHAT REALLY HAPPENED. I ALSO WANT TO THANK MY LAWYERS – KEITH HEBEISEN, SARAH KING, BRAD COSGROVE, CHUCK HASKINS AND THE ENTIRE STAFF AT CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES – WHO HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY THESE PAST FIVE YEARS TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE FOR MY LITTLE BOY. I ONLY WISH THAT ONE DAY HE WOULD UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING THAT EVERYONE HAS DONE TO HELP HIM. SOMEHOW I THINK THAT DEEP DOWN INSIDE – WHEN GERALD JUNIOR IS A LITTLE OLDER --HE WILL KNOW THAT THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE WHO LOVED HIM AND WANTED HIM TO HAVE THE BEST CARE POSSIBLE BECAUSE HE DID NOTHING WRONG.

I SAT FOR FIVE YEARS AS I TRUSTED MY LAWYERS AT CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES TO DO THE RIGHT THING. I SAT THROUGH THE MONTH-LONG TRIAL THAT WAS SO DIFFICULT FOR ME TO HEAR ABOUT ALL THE PREVENTABLE MISTAKES THAT HAPPENED. I HEARD HOW THE MEDICAL PERSONNEL VIEWED MY SON AS A NUMBER. HE DIDN'T EVEN SEEM LIKE A PERSON TO THEM. HE IS ALL I HAVE AND I'VE GOT TO GO TO HIM NOW AND TELL HIM THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT.