

GERALD MALLOY
ATTORNEY AT LAW

108 CARGILL WAY
HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29550

TELEPHONE (843) 339-3000
FACSIMILE (843)332-4646

POST OFFICE BOX 1200
HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29551

EMAIL: GMALLOY@BELLSOUTH.NET

Statement on Behalf of the Reyes Family
From Gerald Malloy, Attorney

I entered a special appearance for the specific purpose of the bond hearing on behalf of the Reyes family following a tragic and deeply unfortunate incident that occurred Monday evening in the Shandon community of Columbia, South Carolina.

On Monday night, I received a text message from the Reyes family advising that a serious event had taken place involving their son and an innocent victim. In the days leading up to this incident, the young man had been experiencing significant mental health challenges. His medication had recently been changed, and he began suffering from episodes during which he believed someone was pursuing him. Fellow USC students who knew him well recognized something was different with the young man and encouraged him to seek counseling, and efforts were made to obtain assistance through the University of South Carolina. Unfortunately, they were unable to secure immediate help.

Concerned after speaking with him Monday afternoon, his parents and members of their faith community attempted to provide support. A pastor assisted in arranging for someone to drive him to a local support group meeting in Columbia. During this time, he remained in communication with his parents.

After being dropped off in the Shandon area, the young man called 911 seeking emergency assistance, expressing fear that someone was after him. It is our understanding that, during this mental health episode and while still on the phone with 911, he tragically misidentified an innocent passerby as the individual he feared. In that state, he attacked the individual with a knife.

Investigator McCoy of the Columbia Police Department conducted a thorough interview with the young man following the incident and was professional, informative and helpful throughout the process.

We are profoundly prayerful for the victim and his family. We understand that he is a caring member of the community and that prayerfully and hopefully he is expected to recover from his injuries. Neighbors intervened, and emergency responders transported him to the hospital. We continue to wish him healing and strength.

It is important to note that the parents and their son were in communication with emergency services before and during the incident, actively seeking help. Immediately following the event, the young man was taken into custody. A bond hearing was scheduled for the next morning at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center in Columbia, South Carolina.

Upon arrival at the facility, a member of the victim's family and the Reyes family spoke with one another, embracing and expressing mutual concern and goodwill despite the painful circumstances. This interaction was overseen by Inspector McCoy.

During the hearing, the Court was advised of the recent medication change and the severe mental health episode that had occurred. The Court carefully considered the facts and circumstances presented. The Reyes family advised—both directly and through counsel—that upon any release, their son would immediately be placed in an emergency facility for inpatient evaluation and treatment.

The request for a reasonable bond was made not to minimize the seriousness of the incident, but to ensure that appropriate mental health care could be secured and that the young man would not remain untreated and would not be returning to the Shandon community.

Since that time, and with the family's permission to share this information, we can confirm that the young man is currently at an inpatient facility receiving care for this mental health crisis and is following appropriate medical guidance.

The Reyes family has been residents and active citizens of South Carolina for fifteen years. They are devastated by what has occurred and remain deeply concerned for the victim and his family.

Mental health remains one of the most critical and challenging issues facing our communities. This case highlights the urgent need for accessible, timely intervention when families seek help in moments of crisis.

The bond hearing has understandably received attention. The Court heard all arguments and rendered a decision consistent with her authority and discretion under the law.

In closing, we ask particularly for continued prayers and healing for the innocent victim and his family, and for healing and proper treatment for the young man involved. This is a tragedy for all concerned, and we remain hopeful that the victim will make a full and healthy recovery, and that compassion, care, and appropriate treatment will guide the path forward.

Respectfully,



Gerald Malloy

Attorney at Law