The Story of David John Burtt

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MI VS. DAVID JOHN BURTT, CASE #18-000579-FC

BACKGROUND

In March of 2018 David Burtt was charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct by his cousin, [redacted] for sexual touching which occurred when they were both very young. In February of 2019 David accepted a plea deal rather than go to trial and risk a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years up to life in prison. He is now serving a sentence of 10-20 years.

CHILDHOOD

David Burtt grew up in Lodi Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan. He was born on November 15th, 1992 to Peggy and Al Burtt as the 7th of 8 children. The family homeschooled David and his siblings at their rural residence where David first developed a love for nature and God's creation. He enjoys all variety of animal life which started when he was young. On the property where David grew up there were woods filled with creatures which he would catch and study. Some of David's childhood pets included a Chinese Water Dragon, a type of lizard which he purchased by saving his allowance money. David was also very attached to a pet duck he named Oliver. David's father raised dogs and as a result David naturally has a strong attachment to canines. The list of animals could go on and on.

Growing up David and his family attended Ann Arbor Baptist Church. Many of his Sunday mornings and evenings as well as Wednesday nights were spent attending church functions. His interactions with his extended family including his cousin [redacted] occurred mainly at Ann Arbor Baptist Church.

In 2010 when David was 16-years-old he moved in with his aunt and uncle due to mounting emotional and physical stress and abuse within his family. At this point his mother and younger brother Phil fled his father, the source of the stress, to move to another state for protection. David sought refuge within the safety his uncle's household as they were fellow church-goers and close family. This allowed David to remain in the Ann Arbor area and attempt to enter college and pursue higher education.

College Years

In 2010 and into 2011 while living with his aunt and uncle, David worked hard as a laborer in a landscaping business along with his two cousins John Jr. & Jeremy Burtt. At night he, John and Jeremy began studying for entry into Washtenaw Community College. This routine went on during the summer months of 2011 and finally in the fall of that year David was accepted into WCC. Also, that fall David moved in with his maternal grandmother, Lois Gardner, who lives in Ann Arbor.

During these years David's routine was to wake every weekday morning by 7:00 AM so he could be at work in Belleville by 8:00 AM. He would then finish work by 4:30 and head to WCC to start class by 5:00 PM. He would attend 4 hours of classes before returning home to his grandmother's house in Ann Arbor. This routine lasted 2 ½ years until he finally finished his studies at WCC graduating with an Associate degree in Accounting in 2015.

David then chose to continue his education at Eastern Michigan University in pursuit of a degree in Accounting. Working hard throughout his entire college career, David paid for his own education from his earnings and supplemented his tuition through student loans. It all finally came to fruition when David graduated in 2017 with his Bachelor's degree in Accounting Information Systems.

Later Years

After graduating from EMU David quickly found work in his field of study. Working for years even before graduation with the CFO of Bank Supplies, Inc. David secured a position at the Belleville, MI headquarters starting at first as a Marketing Intern during his time at WCC and then finally in a full-time capacity with his recently earned degree in Accounting Information Systems from EMU.

He combined his curiosity of computer networking technology and his college degree to work in a Technical Support role for ParishSOFT, and Ann Arbor based software company. The Director of Operations came to recognize David's professional skills and dedication to the role and company. As a result, David was quickly promoted to Team Lead even though he was the youngest member of the group.

In 2014 David met Makena LeRolland-Wagner while attending WCC. By 2015 David and Makena began dating and the thought of marriage entered David's mind. David approached Makena's father in 2017 to seek permission to marry Makena. He then proposed to Makena in the fall of 2017.

By March of 2018 [redacted] had gone to the police to complain of sexual molestation by David when they were younger. David responded to the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Deputy request for an interview. During this interview, David admitted to inappropriate sexual touching which occurred between David and [redacted] when they were both minors.

David was formally charged with four counts of CSC in May of 2018. He married Makena in June of 2018 with the full knowledge and blessings of Makena's entire family and with support and celebration of many of his siblings and mother and father. On February 8th David was remanded to the Washtenaw County Jail after accepting a plea deal to serve a minimum of 10 years up to a maximum of 20 years for his involvement in the inappropriate behaviors between he and his cousin [redacted]