

1. I am C.L. and I am 12 years old in 7th grade. My favorite subject in school is Spanish, and I want to be a photographer and an artist.
2. I love gaming and drawing, especially sketching people. I like to hang out with friends and play with my cousins. I especially like swimming. My dad used to take us to swim on our birthdays.
3. I love that we are a big family! My family is very nice and kind. We stand up for each other. Help each other. We always support and love our family.
4. When my dad was around, everything was fun. Now, growing up without my dad, everything is different. My birthday is coming up in March, but it's different without seeing Dad. It's not even Christmas anymore without being able to see Dad. How can we celebrate holidays without our full family? Without my dad, there are no holidays really. It's not the same.
5. Everything changed when my dad went to jail — every single thing. Going to school is totally different now. I think about my dad while I'm in class. My dad used to wake us up and get us up to go. He used to be the one to get us going outside. My dad used to take us everywhere like vacations and to water parks. Now everyone just sits at home on their phones. My family just doesn't spend as much time together anymore. My dad kept us united. My younger siblings argue more because my dad isn't here. My dad kept the peace and discipline. He kept us off television. My siblings used to have their own stuff and didn't have to fight over it because my dad would get them everything they need but now, when something breaks, we can't buy new things and they have to share everything and fight over stuff.
6. It means so much to us that we can't visit him in person. Sitting on the phone is so different from talking in person. When you're talking to someone in person, you can actually feel them. On the phone, you're so far away from each other. It feels completely different than being in person.

7. The one time in the last 14 months we got to visit my dad in person as part of a special program, I thought it was going to be long and fun, but it was only fun and not long enough. We played Uno, he brought us snacks, we talked, made jokes, he gave us hot cheetos and cookies. It was really good to just be around him. But we wished we could do it again soon. It's not enough for our relationship. It would be so great if we could go see him often.

8. I've talked to my lawyers about what it means to be part of a class action.

I want to help other kids like me see their parents, because parents is everything to me and other kids and with out our parent lots of things change.

3/7/2024



(C.L.)