



May 9, 2019

Robert Foster, Esq
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Neptune, NJ 07753
Phone: (201) 207-3500

Social Worker:	Tracey Fernandez, LSW
Contact:	(732) 720-9192

RE: Miguel Luis Rivas-Lopez (10/07/1979)

Mr. Foster,

Persuant to your request, I have conducted a retention evaluation on the above named defendant as well as interviewed the subsequent collateral members supplied to Homestead Medical Experts. The person(s) interviewed in this process are listed below. Additionally, supporting documentation has been reviewed and attached.

<u>People Interviewed:</u>		
Defendant: Miguel Rivas-Lopez Address: 123 Michaels Road City/State/Zip: Colts Neck, NJ 07722 Phone: (345) 228-1629	Collateral: Holly White Relationship: Wife Address: 123 Michaels Road City/State/Zip: Colts Neck, NJ 07722 Phone: (853) 321-9930	Collateral: Joan Fallon Relationship: Employer Address: 60 Oaktree Road City/State/Zip: Colts Neck, NJ 07722 Phone: (732) 890-8865
Collateral: Brett Fallon Relationship: Employer Address: 60 Oaktree Road City/State/Zip: Colts Neck, NJ 07722 Phone: (201) 618-7281	Collateral: Charles Brown Relationship: Colleague/Friend Address: 92 Jones Road City/State/Zip: Monroe, NJ 07727 Phone: (732) 776-0096	Collateral: Janet Randolph Relationship: Former Employer/Friend Address: 40 Pettigree Way City/State/Zip: Colts Neck, NJ 07722 Phone: (609) 915-3444
Collateral: Melissa Rizzo Relationship: Professional/Friend Address: 15 Stallion Drive City/State/Zip: Tinton Falls, NJ 07724 Phone: (201) 229-9080	Collateral: Estefani Hernandez Relationship: Childhood Friend Address: 49 Salem Avenue City/State/Zip: Neptune, NJ 07753 Phone: (732) 9896-1239	Collateral: Claudia Salcedo-Cepedo Relationship: Goddaughter Address: 49 Salem Avenue City/State/Zip: Neptune, NJ 07753 Phone: (201) 459-9304

Retention Interview:

An initial face-to-face interview was performed on 5/05/2019 beginning at approximately 4:00pm in the conference room at the Law Office of Rockford, Johnson, & Smith, P.A. located at 56 Main Street, Neptune, NJ

07753. The total interview time was 105 minutes. The parties present during the initial interview were the defendant's wife, Holly White, the defendant's employers, Brett and Joan Kalka and this writer, Tracey Fernandez, LSW. During the initial interview, this writer had the opportunity to speak briefly with the defendant via telephone.

Multiple phone interviews were conducted with Holly Bennet following the initial face-to-face interview. On 5/07/2019, this writer conducted face to face interviews with the defendant's childhood friend and neighbor of 29 years, Estefani Hernandez, the defendant's goddaughter, Claudia Salcedo-Cepedo, the defendant's half-sister, Yulisa Medina and the defendant's wife, Holly White. Estefani Hernandez and Claudia Salcedo-Cepedo both primarily speak Spanish therefore, Holly White and Yulisa Medina translated for this writer when necessary. Additional individual interviews were conducted by this writer with:

Charles Brown	5/07/2019	Telephone Interview	25 Minutes
Janet Randolph	5/07/2019	Telephone Interview	36 Minutes
Melissa Rizzo	5/07/2019	Telephone Interview	28 Minutes
Yulisa Medina	5/07/2019	Face to Face Interview	45 Minutes
Estefani Hernandez	5/07/2019	Face to Face Interview	45 Minutes
Claudia Salcedo-Cepedo	5/07/2019	Face to Face Interview	45 Minutes
Brett Fallon	5/08/2019	Telephone Interview	35 Minutes
Joan Fallon	5/08/2019	Telephone Interview	45 Minutes
Judith Tuccio	5/08/2019	Telephone Interview	25 Minutes
Charles Brown (2 nd Interview)	5/08/2019	Telephone Interview	30 Minutes

Narrative:

Demographics/Identifying Data

The defendant, Miguel Luis Rivas-Lopez is a 39 year old Hispanic male. He was born in Veracruz, Mexico on October 7, 1979 to Iris Sanchez and Pablo Perez. Miguel was raised by his maternal grandparents. The defendant came to the United States in November 2000. He obtained his Permanent Residency/Green Card on 07/09/2015. He has 2 younger half-sisters. He is married with 3 biological children. The defendant is employed full-time with Fallon Nursery/Glendoria Acres for the last 12 year. In addition to his full-time job, Miguel has several clients in the equestrian community. Mr. Rivas-Lopez resides at 123 Michaels Road in Colts Neck, NJ with his wife and 3 children.

Presenting Problem:

Mr. Rivas-Lopez has been charged with 2 counts of aggravated sexual assault and 1 count of child endangerment. The defendant was arrested on May 19, 2019 by the NJ State Police. Mr. Rivas-Lopez was transferred to Monmouth County Correctional Institute at 1 Waterworks Road, Freehold, NJ where he is currently detained.

Family Relationships:

Mr. Rivas-Lopez is very family oriented and has close connections to his immediate and extended family. Miguel is the only biological child born to Pablo Perez and Iris Sanchez. Pablo Perez was never involved in the defendant's

life. When Miguel was approximately 10 months old, he went to live with his maternal grandparents, Carlos Gonzalez-Abreu and Camila Luna-Castillo who raised him as their son. Carlos and Camila are identified on Miguel's birth certificate as his parents. The defendant has two younger half-sisters, Yulisa Medina, 34 and Vanessa Medina, 29 born to the defendant's biological mother, Iris Sanchez and stepfather Joaquin Medina.

In November 2000, the defendant emigrated to the United States to work and help his grandparents financially. Miguel lived and worked briefly in Texas before moving to New Jersey in 2001 for a better opportunity. He began working for Janet Randolph at Shady Acres Farm, where he met his now wife, Holly White. The couple have 3 children together, Gabriella Sanchez 15, Carlos Sanchez 10, and Daniel Sanchez 5. Miguel and Holly married on June 8, 2013. The defendant is described by his family, friends, colleagues, past and present employers as a devoted, loving and attentive family man who never misses an opportunity to be with his family.

Miguel is described by his wife Holly as a loving, caring and affectionate husband and father. "He is my rock. He is very supportive of me and our kids." Holly stated.

This writer spoke with Janet Randolph, owner of Shady Acres Farm and former employer of the defendant. Janet stated she has known the defendant for over 17 years. She stated initially Miguel was her employee but became a dear friend. Janet stated, "Miguel has a strong sense of family and morality." Mrs. Randolph further stated the defendant's number 1 priority is his family.

This writer interviewed Charles Brown, a friend and colleague of the defendant for over 6 years, who stated, "Miguel never misses a chance to attend an event for his kids." Mr. Brown stated, "If Miguel isn't working, he is with his family. He brings his kids to the farm often to hang out. He absolutely adores them."

This writer spoke with Miguel's current employer, Joan Fallon who stated the defendant "lives for his family." Joan told this writer that she spends more time with Miguel than she does with her family due to the nature of their work. Joan and her husband, Brett are the godparents of the defendant's oldest son, Carlos. Joan stated that the defendant attends his children's school functions, such as Parent-Teacher Conferences, Halloween parades, concerts and plays, and chaperones class trips. "Miguel works extremely hard to provide for his family. He takes them to the movies, the beach, parties and on family vacations."

Trudy Tuccio was the defendant's daughter, Gabriella's 3rd grade art teacher and is now one of the defendant's clients. Mrs. Tuccio stated, "Miguel is a very involved father. He is very caring and wants his children to succeed. Nothing is more important to Miguel than his family."

Physical/Medical History:

The defendant is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs approximately 160 pounds. He is in good physical health. The defendant has no biological/medical issues and no history of major illnesses or hospitalizations. He has no history of developmental issues in childhood and takes no medications.

Educational/Intellectual History:

Mr. Rivas-Lopez graduated from High School in Mexico in 2000. He was reportedly a very good student, excelling specifically in mathematics. This writer had the opportunity to interview Estefani Hernandez, a close family friend of over 27 years and former neighbor (in Mexico) of the defendant; Claudia Salcedo-Cepedo, Miguel's goddaughter; Yulisa Medina, Miguel's half-sister who flew to NJ from Texas; and the defendant's wife Holly. Estefani stated that Miguel is smart and received certificates for academic achievements in school. She further stated that the defendant had many friends in school, never got into trouble, played soccer and always maintained

a calm and kind demeanor. This information was confirmed by the defendant's sister, Yulisa and goddaughter, Claudia.

After graduating High School, the defendant enrolled in a program that allowed him to teach math to disadvantaged children in underdeveloped towns in Mexico over a designated period and in return would receive financial assistance for college. The defendant told this writer in a telephone interview that he did not complete the program because his grandparents needed financial help prompting the defendant to forfeit the program and his college plans to come to the United States to work. This information was confirmed by Yulisa Medina, Estefani Hernandez and Vanessa Salcedo-Cepedo in a face to face interview.

Employment/Vocational History

As previously stated, the defendant began working for Janet Randolph in 2001 at Shady Acres Farm. Mrs. Randolph owns Shady Acres Farm with her husband, she is a former teacher and the President of the NJ Agricultural Experimental Project for Middlesex County. During a phone interview, Mrs. Randolph described the defendant as good willed, dependable, respectful and bright. "Miguel is highly motivated and motivates others around him," Mrs. Randolph stated, "He takes advantage of every opportunity available to him to learn and grow.

He is also the first to offer help to anyone and gets along with everyone." In 2003, the defendant moved to Texas with his wife and daughter, Gabriella for a few years before returning to NJ in 2007. Upon his return to NJ, Miguel sought out Janet for re-employment. Mrs. Randolph stated she did not have any employment opportunities to offer Mr. Rivas-Lopez but knew how valuable and hard-working he is and referred the defendant to Brett and Joan Fallon. "Though he no longer works for me, he has remained a dear friend of mine. Whenever I call him for help, he comes and helps me; as a friend, with no expectation of payment. That's just how he is."

The defendant has been employed full-time by Brett and Joan Fallon at Fallon Nursery/Glendola Acres for 12 years. Brett Fallon informed this writer that Miguel manages the Fallon's horse farm. Brett explained the defendant has a tremendous amount of responsibility. The defendant works 7 days a week from 7:00am until 5:00pm at the Fallon's horse farm, then has a break until 8pm when he does night checks on the horses. Brett stated the defendant is reliable and trustworthy. He stated he has never had an issue or concern with Miguel in the 12 years Miguel has been employed by the Fallon's. "I trust him implicitly, he's always at work unless his children have an event or function. I wish I had 50 guys like Miguel. He is smart, driven, responsible and has a great driving record." Mr. Fallon stated, "I have 60 employees working for me and Miguel is my top employee." Brett shared that he tried to encourage Miguel to work in his Nursery rather than his horse farm, however Miguel chose not to. "He is passionate about horses and loyal to his clients," Brett said of the defendant.

Mr. Fallon stated that Miguel is more than just an employee, he is family. Brett sponsored Miguel for his green card. "There are not many people I would stick my neck out for like that," Brett said about sponsoring the defendant, "But Miguel is a great man with integrity. Even if he wasn't working for me, I would sponsor him."

In a separate individual interview with Joan Fallon, she stated, "Miguel is really a Jack of all trades. If there is something he doesn't know how to do or fix, he will learn." Joan described the defendant as flexible, knowledgeable, responsible and trustworthy.

In addition to his full-time job, the defendant has several other clients he works for. Before going to the Fallon's at 7:00am, the defendant tends to several other clients' horses nearby. He gets up at 3:10am to feed and care for over 100 horses 7 days a week. During his lunch break and between 5:00pm and 8:00pm, the defendant works with several other clients and their horses. Some of the services he provides include driving, shoeing, exercising,

grooming, riding, and showing clients' horses. Miguel also accompanies his employers and other clients to horse shows and transports clients' horses via truck and trailer to shows and other events.

Melissa Rizzo is one of the defendant's clients interviewed by this writer. Melissa stated the defendant goes above and beyond for his clients. Melissa stated Miguel is reliable, dependable, respectful and knowledgeable.

Social History:

Though the defendant has a very busy work schedule, he has developed strong social support networks with the individuals in the equestrian communities he works in.

Legal History:

Prior to his recent arrest, the defendant has no known legal history. There have been no DUI charges. He has never been arrested or charged with a crime or offense.

Psychological/Psychiatric History:

The defendant has no history of psychological or psychiatric issues. Throughout the interview process, each collateral contact reported that Miguel is a very pleasant, funny, well-mannered and always has a smile on his face. The defendant is described to be even tempered and easy to get along with.

Substance Abuse Behaviors/History:

The defendant has no current or past reported substance abuse behaviors.

Spiritual/Cultural Awareness:

Miguel identifies as Catholic and celebrates Catholic traditions. The defendant is described as spiritual with a strong belief in God and sense of morality.

Summary of positive factors for court:

- The defendant has strong family ties.
- The defendant has no previous legal issues and has never been in trouble with the law.
- The defendant is a devoted father and family man.
- The defendant has a solid support network amongst family, friends, and his professional community.
- The defendant has an impeccable professional reputation and has consistently maintained gainful employment.
- The defendant has a full-time job that he has had for over 12 years with strong relationships with his employers, clients, colleagues and other professionals in his field. The defendant's employer is supportive of defendant and indicates the defendant has job security.
- The defendant is financial stable and responsible.
- The defendant has a valid Permanent Resident/Green Card to live and work in the United States.

Signature:

/s Tracey Fernandez

Tracey A. Fernandez, LSW