



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
KENTUCKY COURT OF APPEALS
5TH APPELLATE DISTRICT, DIVISION 2

GLENN E. ACREE
CHIEF JUDGE

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September 25, 2014

Re: Thank You So Much

Dear Mister or Madam Clerk,

Attached is a copy of a letter I wrote many years ago to the family of an organ donor. You see, I am the recipient – the beneficiary – of his gift of sight. Because you played a role, I wanted to share it with you.

About twenty five years ago, I began losing my vision. While never totally blind, my vision had deteriorated so that my life had thoroughly changed. Practicing law was more difficult than ever. Seeing clearly the details in the faces of my loved ones was merely a memory. I can't begin to tell you the number of little challenges that surprised me on a regular basis.

But then, eye surgery returned my sight to me. I have thanked the family of the organ donor. Now it's time to thank you.

Because one of you, sometime in the past, asked a young man about being an organ donor, he said yes. It would not have happened without you. So, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And while I'm in the mode, let me thank you for asking the donor who, one day in the future will say yes. And, because you asked, some day after that, a person on dialysis, or dying of heart disease, or who is struggling with blindness will be given a great gift.

Please keep asking. Please. And thanks, so much, again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Acree".

Glenn Acree

Dear Family,

I hope you don't mind me addressing you in such a familiar way. But I don't know what else to call you. I know so little about you. All I know is you are grieving now for your son.

It will not be enough for me to say to you how sorry I am for your loss. Such words of sympathy, no matter how well intended, do so little to ease the pain of losing a child.

However, I would like to express, in addition to my great sympathy, my great gratitude. Today, thanks to your son's gift, I can see. Because I'm seeing through his eyes.

For the first time, I can see clearly the details of my own young son's face, the curl of his smile, and the twinkle in his eye. And I have your son to thank for that.

I'm sure that even this thanks will do little to ease your pain. I just wanted you to know how well I understand that I can never repay the gift your son has given me.

God Bless you all.

Gene