

## **STATEMENT FROM DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR AUSTIN HARROUFF:**

### **CBS Interview of Austin Harrouff Shows Harrouff's Deteriorating Mental Health**

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – The legal defense team representing 19-year old Austin Harrouff says a video-recorded interview between their client and CBS television personality Phillip McGraw, known to audiences as Dr. Phil, represents “just one of many pieces of evidence demonstrating the deterioration of Austin’s mental health.” The video “shows Austin when he was in a vulnerable state, recovering from acute medical and psychological trauma in the sanctity of his hospital room,” attorney Nellie King said. Although defense counsel agrees with the trial court's ruling that nothing in the video clip provided is prejudicial to Austin Harrouff, “sensationalizing the details of this case pre-trial does nothing to advance justice in the courtroom,” King said. “Nor does this pre-trial discovery information help those suffering from this tragedy, including the family members of Mr. Stevens and Ms. Mischcon,” she added. The circumstances of how Harrouff came to be videotaped in the hospital, while under guard by Martin County Sheriff’s Deputies, and without the knowledge of lawyers representing him, is still under investigation.

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