

Beatrice V. Lopez
1181 E. Oriole Ct.
Hernando, FL. 34442

December 29, 2012

Captain Wayne Taylor
Troop C. Commander – North Carolina Highway Patrol
1831 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

Dear Sir:

Recently my family and I have had reason to be extremely grateful to one of your Troopers. Trooper Jack Thorpe went above and beyond the call of duty in the rescue of my niece Diana Lloyd.

Diana has a history of schizophrenia, and unfortunately, she denies her condition and therefore does not receive any mental health care. She usually resides with my 94 year old mother in Inverness Florida. However, she had spent the night of Dec. 16 with her brother Daniel, also in Inverness. She left Daniel's house the evening of Dec. 17, it was thought, to return to her grandmother's house. She never returned. We knew that her car was stuffed with plastic bags containing her belongings because that's where she likes to keep them. We also knew that Diana fantasizes about returning to a perfect life that she thinks she had in Pennsylvania twenty years ago. We were frantic with worry. Diana doesn't have money, doesn't have a cell phone, and doesn't use a computer. She is generally a recluse. She is usually a gentle person but she can become verbally agitated. She has frequent conversations with people no one else can see.

Mid day Tuesday Dec. 18 I received a call from Trooper Thorpe notifying me that he had found Diana at a rest stop near mile marker 98 on interstate 95 in North Carolina. He reassured me that she wasn't injured, but that her 2003 Toyota had sustained front end damage and a tire blow out. He also questioned me about her mental state because he was witnessing her aberrant behavior. After Trooper Thorpe assessed the situation, he told me that he was calling EMS. I was extremely grateful that he did so because Diana was in no condition to make any decisions, and she was stranded in a potentially dangerous situation.

Diana was transported to Johnston Medical Center in Smithfield for evaluation and management. Elaine, the hospital social worker, called and told me that the doctor would be calling to inform us of Diana's condition. This never happened. At 11:31 am Wednesday Dec.19, Elaine called to tell me that it had been determined that Diana was neither suicidal nor homicidal, and therefore, would be discharged as soon as possible. The family should come now to claim her. I explained that our present circumstances precluded this action, but that we could come Friday, Dec 20. Dec. 19. at 3:41 pm Elaine called back to tell me that a Greyhound bus ticket had been purchased for Diana and that she would be departing Smithfield at 5 pm Dec. 19 and traveling via Fayetteville to Orlando to Ocala Florida. The bus would arrive Dec. 20 at 1:20 pm. At 6:00 pm Elaine informed me that Diana had refused to get on the bus and would be staying at the hospital. I informed Trooper Thorpe of what was happening.

It would have been so dangerous for a person in Diana's state to travel on a bus with strangers. She could have disembarked at any time or her behavior could have triggered negative reactions among the bus travelers. Trooper Thorpe was always concerned about her safety. He strongly encouraged the hospital administration to also be concerned about her safety.

I stayed in Florida to care for my father-in-law who has Alzheimer's disease. My husband Manny and my nephew Daniel traveled to NC. Diana's car had been towed to a safe place. They put the car on a trailer and then went to the hospital to reclaim Diana.

Our family received a very special Christmas present thanks to Trooper Thorpe. Diana was returned alive and physically well. Trooper Thorp is an invaluable asset to the North Carolina Highway Patrol. He is truly a dedicated Trooper.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beatrice V. Lopez". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Beatrice V. Lopez