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9 September 2015

Mr S Stockman  
105 Sydney Court  
Gateshead  
Tyne and Wear

Dear Stephen

**RE: Gateshead Magistrates Court**  
**9<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

I write further in this matter and write further to your attendance firstly on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September and again back at Court on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September when you initially appeared for trial in relation to breach of a restraining order. The injured party Kelly Gowland turned up and wanted to proceed with the case but we were able to resolve matters with you pleading guilty but on a limited basis. That basis of plea acknowledged the fact that there had been no threatening, insulting or abusive texts and that some of the texts were justified as they were dealing with the question of contact and some of them were reasonable in that you were both discussing every day domestic issues. However, you did accept that on some occasions particularly on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April and the 21<sup>st</sup> of April you sent texts that were not necessary and the prosecution accepted the basis of that plea.

At Court on the 9<sup>th</sup> I was able to persuade the Court to see this as falling into the bottom end of the range in the lowest category of offending however Courts do take breaches of restraining orders seriously. I had asked the Court to consider sentencing you outside of the guidelines to allow you to be a rehabilitated person more quickly however the Court would not go that far and instead fined you but as I say this has to be seen as a fairly reasonable outcome. The Court did accept that there had been no threat and that the discussions were in the main of a domestic nature however they fined you £170.00, ordered you to pay prosecution costs of £85.00 and a victim surcharge of £20.00 which comes to a total of £275.00. You have agreed to repay this at the rate of £40.00 per calendar month.

Again though I asked the Court to consider that a restraining order was not necessary or appropriate the Court did make one largely I think on the wishes of Miss Gowland however they have limited it to six months only and it provides for you to not to have any contact at all with Kerry Gowland save for the purposes of child contact. There is of course every risk that you are being set up to fail again and all I can say is that I must urge you to not do anything that puts you at risk of further arrest and charge. The Court will treat things more seriously next time and of course it will only have a further adverse effect on your ability to continue in your line of work.

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Therefore my advice is that you be strict and ensure that you limit contact only to text messages where there is evidence as to what you have said and to ensure that it relates to just matters of contact. I also enclose a typed copy of that basis of plea along with my handwritten version just in case it comes in handy if and when you have to ever account to your licensing body following this conviction. I do think there is every chance that anybody looking at it will see it for what it is and nothing more serious than that.

In terms of funding you had the benefit of a legal aid order and there will be no costs for you to pay in relation to our representation and enclose a letter which explains our firms file closing procedures.

Please contact me if you have any further questions about your case and how it is funded and please contact our David Peel in the Family Department should you want to take some advice in relation to financial matters.

Yours sincerely

LAMBERT TAYLOR & GREGORY

  
T.A.W. Gregory

**GATESHEAD MAGISTRATES COURT**

**REGINA**

**-v-**

**STEPHEN STOCKMAN**

**BASIS OF PLEA**

The Defendant pleads guilty to breach of a restraining order on the basis that:

1. The order was a 3 month order to run from the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2015. To the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2015.
2. The order provided for contact in relation to issues involving the parties children.
3. The injured party initiated that communication dealing with other domestic issues such as financial issues, handing over the Defendant's passport and Argos card; offering to drop off items of furniture to allow the Defendant to furnish his new property and wanting to meet the Defendant in order to view that property.
4. The Defendant contends that the majority of his admitted text messages were reasonable and in response to messages from the IP.
5. The Defendant admits by his guilty plea that some texts and in particular texts on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2015 and the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2015 when in particular he discovered that the IP had formed a new relationship were reasonable or necessary.
6. None of his or indeed any of the text messages were threatening, insulting or abusive.