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25 26 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SPOKANE

In re:

SIRINYA SURINA,

Petitioner,

Case No. 17-3-01817-0

and

AARON SURINA,

**Declaration of Alyssa Surina** 

Respondent.

*I Declare:* My name is Alyssa Surina. I am Aaron's younger sister. I visit Aaron and Sirinya once or twice a year for about a week each time. I also keep in touch weekly with Aaron by text and phone.

Throughout their marriage, the only positive sentiments Sirinya express about Aaron were on social media, after he gave her money and gifts. She posted pictures of rolls of cash with captions stating, "I love my husband." Otherwise, she seemed to just put up with Aaron, overwhelmed by her life in the U.S. In conversations I witnessed between her and Aaron, she was unhinged and aggressive. Sirinya has always been sweet toward me, and I have come to care for her a great deal, so it is painful to see her struggle and never adapt to her life here.

Aaron and Sirinya differ in opinion on parenting norms and standards but she does not respect Aaron's role and won't cooperate. They have huge disagreements about child safety and health. Aaron always thinks about the boys' needs, while Sirinya seems focused on her own survival. Sirinya only spoke in Thai to David and undermined Aaron's authority as a parent by lashing out at him when he interacted with the boys.

In August 2016, I repeatedly witnessed David go to the bathroom outside, exposing himself in

Declaration of Alyssa Surina - Page 1

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front of adults and children. Sirinya seemed to encourage this, even though Aaron said it wasn't appropriate and he was concerned about David exposing himself at preschool that fall. She seemed to feel attacked by Aaron's interference in her domain and said he was making a big deal out of nothing.

During a park visit, they also disagreed about David's eating habits. Aaron wanted David to eat with others at mealtimes, but Sirinya was evasive and uninterested in talking about it. Aaron was careful not to override her parenting or send David mixed signals, and instead brought his concerns to her directly. Sirinya responded, "Leave him alone. You are not a good parent. You don't know what is best for my son." Aaron was visibly hurt, and I was shocked at her bizarre reaction.

I spoke with Aaron July 28th, and was distressed by how hurt he was after a fight with Sirinya. I urged him to divorce her for his own health and safety, but he told me he was worried that Sirinya would not be able to support herself. He put her security and well-being in front of his own happiness and security. I called my mother the next day and asked her to go visit him to help him get a divorce lawyer.

While I did not witness Sirinya physically assault Aaron, I did observe unrestrained emotional abuse toward him that affected the children's moods, especially David's. I read Sirinya's account of their marriage but it does not represent reality. Their 2013 Thai ceremony came across as an unsuitably lavish, theatrical event at Aaron's expense, rather than a celebration of their union. I was left at the airport in Bangkok with no directions and Aaron was shamed and made to look like an idiot in front of everyone.

Aaron is a loving and dedicated father, who is always providing adventures and opportunities for his sons. The boys clearly love him and have fun with him. I hope Aaron can continue to develop his positive relationship with his boys, and hope he finally plays a primary role in deciding their future.

Declaration of Alyssa Surina - Page 2

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1	I declare under penalty of perjury und	er the laws of th	ne state of V	Vashington th	at the foregoing is t	rue and
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Declaration of Alyssa Surina - Page 3

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## 2 3 4 Superior Court, State of Washington, County of Spokane 5 In re: 6 No. 17-3-01817-0 SIRINYA SURINA, 7 Petitioner, **GR 17 AFFIDAVIT RE:** 8 **EMAILED MATERIALS** and 9 AARON SURINA, Respondent. 10 STATE OF WASHINGTON )ss. 11 County of Spokane 12 I, Elizabeth Petrik, am the person who received the attached signature page from Alyssa Surina 13 via email. I have examined the Declaration of Alyssa Surina, to which it was attached, which is complete and legible, and consists of 4 pages including the affidavit page. I have confirmed that this document was 14 signed by Alyssa Surina and emailed to our office. 15 16 ELIZABETH PETRI 17 Legal Assistant 422 W. Riverside, Ste. 920 18 Spokane, WA 99201 Phone number: 509-624-1380 Fax: 509-747-6724 19 I certify that I have satisfactory evidence that Elizabeth Petrik is the person who appeared before me and 20 signed said document as her free and voluntary act in my presence. Dated this September 14, 2017. 21 22 DARLA M. O CONNOR DARLA M. O'CONNOR 23 **NOTARY PUBLIC** TATE OF WASHINGTON NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State

of Washington, residing at Spokane.

My Commission expires: 3/9

GR 17 AFFIDAVIT

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COMMISSION EXPIRES

MARCH 9, 2020