

June 14, 2006

To South Carolina Real Estate Commission:

I would like this chance to explain the circumstances that led to my incarceration 20 years ago when I was a fifteen year old child. While the offense was my fault and I took full responsibility for this unfortunate incident, the fact that this was the only illegal incidence in my life, the very distant date that this happened and what I have done with my life afterwards should be a factor I respectfully ask that you take into consideration in your decision of granting me permission to take the South Carolina Real Estate exam.

On November 24th, 1986 I entered into a verbal argument with my girlfriend who was also 15 at the time over the fact that she was seeing someone else as well, which resulted in us going to my house three addresses down from hers in order to not have our business shouted out in the middle of the road. After a long discussion coming from two teenagers, final result was that the relationship had ended, but that we would remain friends. To show that this was the end of the situation as far as we were concerned, after our heated conversation, my dog managed to get out of the fence and the two of us ran around the neighborhood for 20 minutes before she caught him and returned my dog to the yard. At this time law enforcement arrived due to a call from her parents over the difficulty that they had been trying to call her and she had never answered the phone.

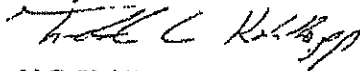
At this time, after admitting we had had a heated argument, they found that I possessed a firearm (for which I have never shot) that I carried at night as the Phoenix area of Arizona has a very high crime rate and I thought very juvenile-like that possession and no knowledge of how to use it would keep me safe by being able to flash it. Looking back, this was not my smartest thought as a teenager. Using it or not, possession of a firearm by a minor is a felony and with the argument with my girlfriend openly stated, I was charged with the felony of kidnapping due to the fact that I did have a firearm on me regardless that she didn't know it, and I had told her not to move while we talked this out.

At this time, Arizona was coming down very hard on minors and anything to do with firearms due to the heavy gang activity out there, and I received a sentence of 15 years for which I served every day, no parole required.

While serving my sentence, I received my G.E.D. and attended college whereby I received an Associates degree in Computer Science. Upon my release I went to work as a professional graphic designer, whereby my company was fully aware of the situation. My integrity, honesty and professionalism within their structure granted me promotions at a record pace, only leaving this company due to my desire to return to college for another degree and a wish to be more involved with marketing. I am currently a senior at University of South Carolina – Upstate finishing up a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration with honors, membership into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society which is granted to only the top 7 % in the country by invitation only, and Sigma Alpha Lambda Leadership and Honor society. This year while attending college, I also have been granted by the Federal Aviation Administration my private pilots license and currently working on my instrument/commercial ratings which I expect to achieve this next year.

I feel that my actions immediately after and ongoing this situation have shown my desire to follow the law and all guidelines, achieving more in an effort to give back for my juvenile and wrong actions as a child. I have worked very diligently for two decades to show my intent and ambition to do the right thing, and should you allow me to become a licensed Real Estate Professional, I promise to set an example in performing in a manner following all guidelines honorably of your commission. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely:



Todd C. Kohlhepp