

Terry Bryant Accident & Injury Law - Scholarship Application Essay by Madison Miller

December 2, 2017 was a beautiful, cool and sunny day. It was a Saturday and the events that would unfold would change my life forever. I spent the morning with my family visiting an historic farm (Wunderlich Farm) enjoying the history of Klein, Texas where I have lived my entire life. We learned what life was like in the 1800's when German immigrants settled and farmed this area. Life has drastically changed since the 1800's but everyday dangers have always been a matter of life or death. Today, vehicles are necessary to get around Texas but we often forget the dangers a 2-ton car can cause.

After touring Wunderlich Farm, I dropped my brothers off at home because I had to meet a friend and pick up my scientific calculator he had borrowed so I could complete my homework over the weekend. I was to meet him at his dad's house in Pinehurst which is a rural suburb about 20 minutes north of where I live. I was unfamiliar with the area but felt confident about meeting him because I was using google maps on my phone to direct me. I was instructed to turn left and cross over Highway 249 into the subdivision but I didn't realize I was turning into oncoming traffic at this particular intersection. I did look both ways but when I started to cross the highway, a car whizzed in front of my eyes and I knew others

would certainly to follow. At that moment, a pick-up truck slammed into the back of my car at approximately 60 miles an hour and my car turned in circles 3 times before it came to a stop. All of the glass in the back windshield and rear windows shattered. The back of my car had crumpled in and I was in shock not knowing what to do. Looking back now, I was so thankful I had already dropped off my 2 brothers and they were not in the backseat which was now destroyed.

I was able to walk away from the wreck but was in utter shock not knowing the fate of the others in the pick-up truck. Was this accident my fault? How could it have been avoided? What if I had been killed and my parents had no idea where I was? All I know was that I had my entire life ahead of me. I was a senior and waiting to hear from colleges to determine where I will go after graduate from Klein High School. Fortunately, no one was killed nor seriously injured. This wreck made me realize how easily we can get distracted by all the gadgets that are supposed to help us and make life easier. It was not my time to die.

Exactly 2 weeks after the wreck, I was accepted into all of the colleges I had applied. This was a real and present sign that I do have purpose and must utilize what time I have on Earth to help others and make a difference. My wreck on December 2nd was a real wake-up call. I will never look at driving the same way again and now see how many things distract us from focusing on driving: our phones (even if out of sight), the radio, passengers, other drivers, the scenery, etc,

It would be an absolute honor to receive the Terry Bryant Law Firm's scholarship to assist with the cost of attending Texas A&M University in the fall. As a lifelong Klein, TX resident, I have been blessed with an exemplary education and the resources necessary to pursue a college degree. I am a living example of Klein ISD's "Promise to Purpose" commitment. My purpose now is to utilize my education and talents so that I may better the lives of others. Music has always been a defining element of who I am since learning to play the piano 10 years ago. I use my musical ability and my love of service to unite communities in unique ways.

One of the most beautiful things I have encountered about music is the way in which it affects others, whether young or old. A piece of music can bring tears to our eyes, a smile to our lips, and every emotion in between. I often play the piano at my job where I supervise elementary children every day in their after-school program. The music engages the children and truly brings them together.

Since 9th grade, I have volunteered at the Autumn Leaves memory care residential facility with my Junior Guild service organization. Sadly, Hurricane Harvey devastated Autumn Leaves in August. Thankfully, the residents were all safe but were displaced to a sister facility in Katy. We regularly visited the residents and assisted during special events. I loved playing their beautiful grand piano and the director noticed how happy and relaxed my music made the residents

feel. It really warmed my heart to know that my love of music could have a positive and calming effect on those suffering from memory loss.

I really miss visiting with the Autumn Leaves residents and have been researching memory care facilities near Texas A&M University. I discovered the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) offers opportunities for teens to provide awareness and grass roots outreach efforts within the community through their Teens Chapters. However, there are currently no chapters in Texas. I am in the process of founding an AFA Teens Chapter at Texas A&M University to help raise awareness of the effects of Alzheimer's disease and find outreach opportunities while I'm at college. Music incorporated with service is an integral part of my identity and gives me purpose. I look forward to continuing this important cause in the Bryan/College Station area by recruiting other like-minded peers who want to raise awareness about Alzheimer's and help find a cure for this deadly disease.

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