

The Pumpkin Patch Lie:

One day before Halloween 2011, Emmett and I did a family ritual, going to the Glenn Memorial UMC Pumpkin Patch on Emory's campus to buy pumpkins to carve our jack-o-lanterns. We'd gone here since he was an infant, all four of us. Cheri had come over the previous weekend and wanted to reconcile. So, Emmett was feeling a little more settled emotionally regarding having two homes and that his parents had separated, but were still with each other every day and through the night. He woke up to both of us in the same home, though two different homes as described in my other post. We were NOT separated during this photo. I worked as a photojournalist for 14 years prior to changing careers and took, and take, thousands of images. That day we sat in the Patch, I opened my camera to take a portrait of both of us. Emmett grabbed my chin playfully saying, "Dad! Make a tough face!" He then pushed my "tough face" toward the camera I held and he made his "tough face". We spent most of our time laughing, playing, reading, making art, hiking, biking...all day, every day—LOVE. He's 5 ½ in the photograph.

The sheer volume of or the dark motives of how these moments were turned around by his mom are almost uncountable. I start with this one and will list others later; each with proof countering the lie. The damage was that the allegation was included in a document provided to the Guardian ad Litem, who my lawyer asked for, by Cheri about two weeks after calls the GAL made to my lawyer and to Cheri who was Pro Se in March 2014. Here are the details of that significant phone call:

The second week of March 2014, the GAL, Nora Kalb-Bushfield, told my lawyer, who then called me with the great news, and Cheri that, "after nearly two years total of successful coparenting, things had gone so well, and there hadn't been any conflict, that she was going to write her final report for the custody trial." She was, "only going to recommend that we keep the same coparenting schedule—5/5/2/2". Cheri saw that as a LOSS. The truth is she no longer was interested in coparenting and accelerated her use of our son as a weapon against the custody process and his dad, me. Here's the excerpt from her list of false allegations; again, not one of the seven pages of allegations had EVER been brought up to the GAL or the family judge in the 2.5 years since I moved Emmett and I out in 2011, creating peace in our lives for the first time in years. She used the wrong date in her haste to gaslight.

