

Raymond [REDACTED] 5



January 14, 2021

Re: Adoption Reference Letter for the Kings

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this adoption reference letter in unequivocal support of Seamus and Kate King as parents. I have known Seamus for twenty years, first meeting as freshmen in college in 2001, becoming roommates through college and into our early adult life. We have spent considerable time together, including as travel and camping companions, working on home construction projects, and served as groomsmen in our respective weddings. I met Kate when she started dating Seamus ten years ago. My wife and I have remained close friends with the Kings, and that is why we chose Seamus to be the godfather of our first child. I wholeheartedly support the Kings as parents for the reasons herein.

Where to begin? In short, Seamus and Kate, independently, share amazing qualities of character that are ideal for parenthood, including compassion, joy, humility, curiosity, and calm temperament. Moreover, their marriage and life together is filled with love, warmth, endless laughter, and adventure.

My family has spent considerable time with the Kings, and they have a wonderful relationship with my four year old daughter (the pandemic has precluded our ability to gather and spend time with our one year old). In all our time spent together, they always show love, compassion, empathy, and knowledge with my children. I recall my daughter comfortably snuggling up between them on a couch one afternoon, and, as best as a three year old could, explain the details of the cartoon she was watching on her tablet—I watched humorously as Seamus and Kate tried to listen with keen and earnest attention. I know that the Kings spend time with other friends' children, and are naturally talented in understanding and communicating patiently with little ones.

One of Seamus' great characteristics is patience. I think if Seamus had not decided to go into the exciting world of insurance, he would have made a wonderful educator. Over the course of a winter in 2002, Seamus taught myself and a few friends how to snowboard and ski in a harsh New England winter—not an easy task for a nineteen year old. I would note that I was a portly, graceless teenager that had never snowboarded before. Throughout our informal lessons, Seamus taught with ease, patience, and kindness, all qualities that I try to demonstrate when teaching my own children.

Seamus and Kate are compassionate, caring, and altruistic. When they lived in Boston, they were heavily involved with a nonprofit organization, Youth Enrichment Services for Boston Kids (YES), where they volunteered time and money. Seamus would spend evenings and weekends traveling with YES participants, providing adventures and opportunities for children,

including instruction on winter sports. The Kings were also adamant about getting their friends involved in the program, and my wife and I have donated money to the organization on their behalf. I recall Seamus enthusiastically (sometimes ad nauseam) explaining, in detail, the logistics and planning of YES events.

Seamus and Kate are kind, generous, and humble. They are naturally charismatic people, and people often find themselves drawn to them just after brief interactions. Their vast amount of friends is indicative of these characteristics. They make friends easily, and maintain relationships with people from every circumstance of life, from childhood friends, college roommates, and coworkers throughout their careers. They are well traveled, highly educated, and open to all cultures and beliefs.

Seamus and Kate have wonderful families, and through our friendship I have gotten to know their parents and siblings. Spend any significant time with their relatives and one instantly becomes drawn in, treated as a long-lost family member. Their interactions with their families are patently demonstrative of the loving environment that Seamus and Kate will raise their children in.

If I were to be asked if Seamus had any flaws, I would only say that his diet would be a great match to any child, as he shares my children's preferential culinary palate of pizza, chicken nuggets, and ketchup on everything.

Although I know that finances are not a necessary requirement for parenthood, Seamus and Kate have successful and fulfilling careers in their professional fields. This has allowed them to have an optimal work-life balance, ideal for raising a family. They are financially secure and prosperous. They own their home and have purchased multiple properties over the years. Not only are they well off, but they are also financially savvy. I recall when Seamus graduated college, he was gifted a sum of money from his parents due to significant college tuition savings. Rather than purchasing a car or spending the money on things that any newly graduated college student desires, he purchased his first home and began renting rooms to other students. They are generally conservative with their finances, but are overly generous to their family and friends. Their children will be well-cared for and tastefully spoiled.

In sum, this letter is but a brief glimpse into the beautiful lives of Seamus and Kate King. I have the utmost confidence in their ability and passion to create, nurture, and educate a future full of hope, compassion, kindness, and love. I am deeply humbled by their request, and fully recommend and support their intentions in becoming parents. I already know that their children will be thrilled to call them mom and dad. My family and I are very much looking forward to meeting Seamus and Kate's children.

A brief background about myself and my family. My wife and I have been married for ten years, and we have two children, a four year old daughter and a one year old son. We have biracial children, as I am an immigrant from China, and my wife is of Irish-German American descent. Hypothetically, if something were to happen to my wife and I, I am confident in stating that the Kings would be wonderful parents to our own children. Lastly, although I am writing this letter in my personal capacity, professionally, I am a member of the Connecticut bar, and work as an attorney for a federal agency. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you for reading.

Sincerely yours,

1/14/21

Raymond [REDACTED], Esq.