



LAWTON CHILES
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

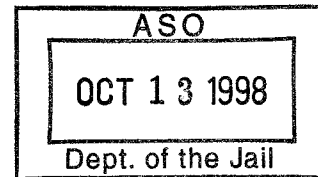
Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

October 5, 1998

OCT 08 1998

Mr. John B. Brown
20 Forth Court
Mossneuk
East Kilbride G75-8XE
Scotland, United Kingdom



Dear John:

Thank you for your recent correspondence about your loved one who is facing criminal charges. I understand the pain friends and family must experience in these situations.

As Governor, however, I have no ability to intervene. The decision to charge is made by the federal prosecutor, an official not under my control. Whether to charge is based on the quantity and quality of the evidence of criminal activity the prosecutor possesses.

However, I would like to thank you for your kind words commending the Alachua County Jail employees. I am glad to hear their kindness and dedication, during such a heart-wrenching situation for your son and family, was so well received.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

LAWTON CHILES

LC/hml/rlm

✓ cc: Captain Robert Chapman and Staff
Alachua County Jail
Post Office Box 1210
Gainesville, Florida 32602

To: Due: 10/12/98

John Buchanan Brown
20 Forth Court
Mossneuk
East Kilbride
G75 8XE
SCOTLAND, U.K.

Ref: JL05
Ref:

International Telephone No: 011 44 1355 246917
International Fax No: 011 44 1355 230929

15th September, 1998

Dear Sir,

My son, John Alexander Brown, is presently held in Alachua County Jail in Gainesville, Florida. He is a British citizen and has been charged with robbing the Campus Federal Credit Union Bank in Gainesville on the 5th August 1998. John has never denied the charges against him and has worked in complete harmony with the authorities since his arrest. He is presently awaiting the beginning of the legal processes and has been charged under Federal Law.

My wife and I have been over to Gainesville and have had discussions with his Attorney, Mr. Craig Crawford, Federal Defender, Gainesville, to try and ascertain the extent of the penalties which John might face after his trial. Due to John's acceptance of his full responsibility for the crime he will not face a normal trial by jury but will instead be sentenced after three hearings according to normal U.S.A. legal procedures. He is unfortunately, looking at a long prison sentence for his stupidity.

On our visit to Gainesville my wife and I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and sympathy shown to us and our son by all members of the establishment in Florida. In particular the treatment which we received from Captain Robert Chapman and all of his staff in Alachua County Jail, Gainesville merits some kind of response on our behalf. We came over to Florida unsure of what kind of reception to expect from the people of your state who, we felt, had every right to feel aggrieved at the behaviour of our son who, whilst a visitor in your community, had committed this stupid act. Instead of resentment and aggression we received only kindness, understanding and an overwhelming sympathy the likes of which we never expected. We have both been heartened and lifted by the humanity shown by the ordinary people of Florida towards us in this most distressing time. Whilst we were in your beautiful State we shed many tears of gratitude over the treatment which we received. The plight of our son and the pain felt by our family was eased somewhat by the pure kindness which we were shown.

I assume that as Governor of the State of Florida you are ultimately responsible for the running of Alachua County Jail in Gainesville and as such I felt we had to impress on you the excellent way which we were treated by Captain Robert Chapman and all of his staff. You must be proud to be ultimately in charge of such a dedicated body of people who put kindness and humanity first in their priorities when dealing with the public.

Whilst our son John has behaved stupidly and to our shame now faces the full weight of the law for his misdemeanours he has never until this time been anything other than the perfect son to us. Never giving us any problems and never before having been in any trouble with the law whatsoever. It is all the more traumatic for us to be facing this dilemma and the whole family is in a state of shock. After graduating from Caledonia University, Glasgow in June of 1998 John decided to take time out before pursuing his career and have a sabbatical in America. He enjoyed three months in Florida and on his return to Scotland decided to return to Florida for another few weeks before pursuing job interviews which were to start in August of this year. It was during these few weeks in Florida that he was mugged and robbed of all his money and found himself in desperate straights. Instead of telephoning home and getting help he seems to have become more and more desperate resulting in this terrible mess which he now finds himself in. It is heartbreaking to see such a fine young man make such a mess of his life, not to mention the consequential affect his actions have had on the rest of the family. Our only hope is that the Federal Authorities will show as much understanding of his plight as has been shown by everyone else who has come into contact with him since this terrible incident. We pray that American justice will be tempered with understanding and mercy for our son. He is not a criminal, only a confused boy who panicked when he found himself alone and penniless many thousands of miles from home.

Please accept this letter as a token of the gratitude felt by myself and my family for the way in which the State of Florida has cared for my son and his family throughout our ordeal. You are truly kind and gracious people and I cannot praise the treatment we have received from Captain Robert Chapman and his staff in Alachua County Jail, Gainesville enough. We only pray that we can have our son home in the bosom of his loving family as soon possible, where we can care for him.

Yours sincerely,

John Buchanan Brown

John Buchanan Brown