

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2017

S. Jason Whatley, Attorney at Law, on behalf of the Anthony Thomas Family.

The outpouring of love and support from the public for Elizabeth Thomas has been overwhelming. While she was missing, the public prayed and remained vigilant, while law enforcement and the media did their respective jobs of tirelessly searching and keeping this story at the forefront of the public's thoughts, thus leading to Elizabeth's rescue. The family owes each group, law enforcement, the media, and the public, a debt of gratitude that cannot be repaid.

It is for those combined reasons that the family felt compelled to offer a few interviews after Elizabeth's return, these in recognition that, at this point, the love and concern for the well-being of this child has grown to include millions of people.

But now the family wishes to step back and will not be offering interviews for now. It is time to focus only on Elizabeth and her recovery, which could easily take an extended period of time. While the family wants sincerely to keep those who have grown to care for Elizabeth informed, at this time they must ask for privacy as they navigate these very important next few weeks and even months.

During this respite, the family asks for your continued prayers, because of which Elizabeth is home and because of which she will recover. We also ask that you pray for the Cummins family. They too are dealing with extreme loss and sadness. The members of both families mourn that this horrific ordeal ever happened.

May God bless Elizabeth, our families, and our community as we face what lies ahead.