

From: [McLeod, Carol <Carol.McLeod@maine.gov>](mailto:McLeod.Carol@maine.gov)
To: [Gina Turcotte](mailto:Gina.Turcotte)
Date: 11/15/2007 8:11:48 AM
Subject: RE: Gina Turcotte

Wow....you should be a writer. Thank you for that news worthy letter and I wish you all the luck in the world. Please be sure to keep me informed if you should move and what your plans are when your FML runs out the end of December. If you have not secured employment by the middle of December you will be eligible to reapply for FML starting 01/01/2008. And as you know, if you do secure employment you must notify me.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Gina Turcotte [mailto:mortalsage@astound.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2007 1:55 AM
To: Kirchner, Diane; Carrier, Laurie; Cameron, Betty; Moody, Melissa; Wilkins, Melissa; Berube, Autumn; Belka, Tyler; Rocque, Cindy; McLeod, Carol
Subject: Gina Turcotte

I am hoping you all get this email because my previous email addresses got filtered at the state firewall... gimme a quick shout so I know you've received it, k?? ☺ And Miss Carol, because I know you will receive it, if anyone does not would you be so kind as to forward a copy to them, please?? Thank you much!! (also, Miss Carol... would you get a copy of this to Mr. O'Connell as he signed the wonderful "be happy" card that the OUI unit sent out and I believe he told me he does not have an email account... so I cannot send this to him.... thank you, dear!! ☺)

Firstly, and most importantly, I am so sorry I am not there... for all the various reasons I want and enjoy being there... Honestly, I have had to choose consciously to NOT think about DMV and all it means to me because I have been so torn apart with excited grief that if I factor DMV into my equation I would still be in Maine, doing the same thing I have always done to simply try to survive.... I am devastated by not only what happened to my car and my home but also by what the residual experiences are/were going to be if I had chosen to stay in Maine without wheels or money to buy another set of good ones... but, nonetheless, I am devastated that I am here writing this to you and not there doing what I love and am good at... helping people... ☺

as I told you earlier the insurance company determined that the final payoff was \$2,669.45 for my beloved Celica... Coupling that with my paycheck and other bits of money scattered about, my daughter and I quickly brainstormed through our various options, no matter how crazy they may have sounded at that moment... we didn't care; we were delirious about what we were going to do because we knew we had a very small window of time in which to do it... so we brainstormed... a LOT... and this is what we came up with...

To settle, for a temporary period of emotional rehabilitation, in Walnut Creek, California... the trip here was movie-worthy, to say the least, especially considering I was able to manipulate Life in such a way that I was able to get all 6 of my cats on the plane with me, in 3 extra seats I had to purchase, never to leave my side for the entire trip... it was a trip indeed!! I have an entire movie mapped out in my head about it all... maybe I'll get to see it on the Big Screen someday... lol ☺

Nonetheless, whence we got here to San Francisco in the morning on 10/23 we rented a minivan from the airport and drove our cats and our luggage to Berkeley, California where I rented a hotel room for 10 days in central Berkeley where one of the hotel office clerks was a Fryeburg, Maine civilian escapee from about 10 years ago... he had also escaped from Maine to Berkeley Cali and still hasn't returned... I am not sure if that will be my story though...

So, no, I did not tell them I had 6 cats with me; that would be total destruction of my grand scheme to keep my expenses low... ☺ I did happen to mention, after I had been at the hotel for 3 or 4 days, that I had "a cat" with me but I didn't enlighten them any more than they needed to be... they never noticed that there were 6 cats coming and going from my hotel room door... lol go figure!! ☺ I chose this particular hotel because they advertised themselves to be "pet friendly" which they were and didn't charge me any surcharges for "my cat"... lol I'm so bad... ☺

So, while I resided at my little Spanish-style hotel I surfed the internet and made contacts via craigslist.org about various places to live, etc etc etc... also, the way life is out here is that people are always giving their stuff away – either they put their old (or new unwanted) TV on their curb with a FREE sign posted on it for ANYONE to take away or they publish a free classified ad on craigslist.org for anyone who might want what they don't... it's amazing what one can acquire in material items out here with absolutely NO MONEY... it blows the mind!!

So, as I stayed in my hotel and my money dwindled, my panic and depression set in... and then desperation followed closely behind... I have ridden the entire spectrum of emotions between September 26 and now, November 14, 2007 and I fear that the roller coaster has not yet come to the end... but I am prepared for whatever Life challenges me with as I don't really have much choice but to handle each isolated moment as best I'm able despite exterior circumstances or provocateurs...

I don't know how long I will be here or where I will end up next but I want you all to know that I MISS YOU FROM THE ABSOLUTE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!!!! ☺ All I know right now is my ONLY OBJECTIVE is to SURVIVE... whether that means leaving the state of Maine in order to do it or not... I must survive.. and right now that need has driven me to Walnut Creek, California...

My doctors would say that this is a "manic phase" and although I believe that partially to be true I know how much meticulous thought I have put into this nomadic venture and why... because my daughter needs a chance to access resources for survival and growth that are not available in Maine, and never will be, unfortunately, I guess you could say that I have come to California in my attempt to save my daughter's life, notwithstanding saving my own in the interim... and that is basically what I'm trying to do... give each of us the opportunity to survive, at the least, and possibly, just quite possibly, we will have experiences that will propel us well along the path of growth, success and happiness.. we might even make enough money and skills to be able to come back to Maine and "more than survive" ... I don't know...

What I do know though is that I am here, for the interim, and need to create some semblance of comfort for myself and my daughter. My cats have already fallen into their comfort zone, except for my 19lb. cat who has disappeared into my neighborhood and has not yet returned... I am trying not to freak out and am doing quite well... but I am working very hard at this particular accomplishment until I get myself a set of wheels, finally ... it has been a very long emotional journey as well as financially draining for not only me but both sets of my parents back home in Maine... this entire experience with the storm has disrupted and exacerbated the emotional stability of myself, my daughter as well as many people within my close network of loved ones, some of those being you guys... ☺ I am so sorry that I am not able to be there to do my job... I miss my job, my peers, my customers... I miss it all...

I might be back, but that is still an unknown variable... right now I need to create a zone of comfort for my daughter and myself so we can heal from everything that has just happened to us...

After I pull myself together I will write more...

Until then,

You all are always in my thoughts... I send you positive energy!!!

Gina ☺