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November 2, 2022

RE: *Lloyd v. Wilson*, 2022-DR-37-9

Dear Kimberly and Marshall:

I have completed my preliminary *Guardian ad Litem* investigation in the above captioned case. Below, I detail whom I interviewed, documentation I reviewed, and the conclusions from that investigation.

PERSONS INTERVIEWED:

1. James Lloyd
2. Mindy Lloyd
3. Kendra Wilson
4. Cindy Wilson
5. K.L.W. (2020)
6. Whitney Blalock
7. Lt. Southern

DOCUMENTATION REVIEWED:

1. All pleadings filed in the case, including all documentation

2. Notarized but unfiled affidavit of Tyler Atkinson from July 29, 2020
3. Pictures provided by Kendra Wilson from visitation
4. Video of visitation exchange provided by Kendra Wilson
5. Texts between Kendra Wilson and James Lloyd provided by Kendra Wilson

CONCLUSIONS:

1. I have no concerns with James Lloyd exercising liberal visitation with the minor child. There is nothing to indicate he is a danger to the minor child, and they appear to be growing their bond as visits continue. While Kendra has provided pictures purportedly showing the minor child appearing unhappy after visits, the pictures appear to show a child that is merely tired after a long day of activity.
2. I do recommend James Lloyd respect the boundaries that Kendra communicates. James is extremely passionate and cares deeply about his granddaughter. This sometimes leads him to forcefully take actions which he believes is in her best interest, such as providing money and gifts over the protest of Kendra. I do not observe any ill will from James; however, I do recommend he not insist upon providing money and gifts to Kendra when she has expressed that they make her uncomfortable.
3. I have no concerns about Whitney Blalock having contact with the minor child. She has a stable job, lives with her parents, and has no DSS or criminal history. She is not seeking any sort of independent visitation, only to be allowed to be around when James exercises his visitation. Under these circumstances, I have no concerns with her being present. Should she seek to overstep and seek to assert herself in a motherly role, of which there is no current evidence, my opinion could change.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns about my investigation or conclusions.

Sincerely,



Greg R. Steele, Esq.

cc: Anna Ford (via email: aford@kimberlydunham.com); Juli Ward (via email: runjulirun@aol.com).

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE FAMILY COURT
COUNTY OF OCONEE) 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
)
James Lloyd,)
)
Plaintiff,) PRELIMINARY GUARDIAN
) AD LITEM REPORT
)
vs.)
)
Kendra Leigh Wilson,)
)
Defendant.) Docket No: 2022-DR-37-9

MINOR CHILDREN: K.L.W. (2020)

PERSONS INTERVIEWED:

1. Whitney Blalock
2. James Lloyd
3. Mindy Lloyd
4. Kendra Leigh Wilson
5. Cindy Wilson
6. K.L.W.
7. Lt. Scott Southern
8. Lana Burdette

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:

1. All pleadings, affidavits, and Orders filed.
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4. Pictures provided by Kendra Wilson from visitation
5. Video of visitation exchange provided by Kendra Wilson
6. Texts between Kendra Wilson and James Lloyd provided by Kendra Wilson

SUMMARY:

1. James Lloyd filed this action for grandparent visitation on January 12, 2022 along with a Motion for Temporary Relief. A temporary hearing was held before the Honorable Karen F. Ballenger on March 23, 2022, and a Temporary Order was signed by Judge Ballenger on April 18, 2022. The Order granted James Lloyd a phased in visitation schedule beginning with a few hours with Kendra Wilson present and expanding to every other Saturday visitation from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The Order also appointed the undersigned as Guardian *ad Litem* and ordered the Guardian ad Litem to meet with Whitney Blalock to assess any concerns with her. If the Guardian ad Litem had no concerns with Whitney, there was to be no restrictions on her being present during James's visitation.

2. On May 5, 2022, I met with Whitney Blalock per the Temporary Order in my office. She reported that she had previously dated Connor, James Lloyd's son in 2019 but they broke up. Connor subsequently dated Kendra and she became pregnant with K.L.W. Kendra broke off her relationship with Connor in March 2020, and he reached back out to Whitney at that time. They started dating again and became engaged in February 2021. She reported she was never around K.L.W. when Connor began visitation with her because Kendra did not want her around K.L.W. Whitney alleged that Kendra had no reason to not allow Whitney around K.L.W. other than she was upset that Connor and Whitney were engaged. Whitney reported no criminal or DSS history, living with her parents in Rutherford County, NC, and working in marketing for an in home doctor.

3. Having met with Whitney, I e-mailed the attorneys on May 6, 2022, indicating I have no concerns with her, and I have no objection to her being present during parts of James's visitation with K.L.W. Kendra's counsel expressed concerns that Whitney, as Connor's former fiancée, is attempting to assert herself into the role of mother in K.L.W.'s life. I indicated there were no signs of that at present, but that I would continue to monitor the situation and if she began to overstep and attempt to replace Kendra in her motherly role, that would give me cause for concern.

4. On June 9, 2022, I interviewed Kendra Wilson in my office. She had K.L.W. with her, and I observed a strong mother-daughter bond between them. K.L.W. was somewhat cranky, but she clearly was close to her mother. Kendra reported she and K.L.W. live with her mother, Cindy, and that while she uses a Juul, it is never around K.L.W.

Kendra indicated that she has no issue with James and his family having visitation and in fact had offered visitation multiple times. However, she thought Judge Brown's standard visitation is "too much" for a grandparent and would restrict her flexibility as a parent, but James would settle for nothing less. In addition, Kendra indicated that James never reached out to her to get any sort of visitation scheduled. Finally, Kendra reported the only reason she had objections to Connor having visitation was that he had raped and beat her, and she was afraid to turn her daughter over to an abuser.

Kendra expressed multiple concerns about visitation with the Lloyds. As an initial matter, she indicated K.L.W. fears males, which could lead to issues with K.L.W. visiting with James. She further indicated that James's wife, Mindy, has health issues from breast cancer and that all James's time, energy, and attention is devoted to her. She expressed fear that he would neglect K.L.W. during visitation because he had to care for his wife, and there was only a possibility that James's son and daughter could help with her. Indeed, she stated, "It's hard for a man to handle a child alone."

Kendra indicated that the Lloyds do not provide K.L.W. with proper food when she goes to their house for visits and that she is "starving" when she returns home. She also reported James will not have K.L.W. nap at his house which messes up her sleep schedule. She also expressed concerns that James videos K.L.W. too much and posts too much about her on social media. She indicated that James goes over the top to try to buy K.L.W.'s affection. Finally, she expressed concerns that James is trying to encourage Whitney Blalock to be a "replacement mother" for K.L.W.

Kendra also expressed situations in which James has made her uncomfortable. She reported he has attempted to insert himself as a "replacement father" for K.L.W. and tried to force her into a having a more intimate relationship with him than she feels comfortable with. She also

reported him over-showering K.L.W. with gifts and financial support even over her objections. For example, he will insist she take toys from him back to her house with K.L.W. or insist she keep gift cards that she tries to give back.

5. At my meeting with Kendra, she provided me with what purportedly was an affidavit from Tyler Atkinson, Connor's ex-wife. The affidavit was signed and notarized, but Kendra indicated it had never been filed with the Court. In the affidavit, Tyler alleged Connor was physically and sexually abusive toward her as well as severely controlling. Tyler also alleged that James Lloyd had been physically violent toward Mindy, his wife, and that Mindy has a drinking problem. I asked Kendra if she could put me in contact with Tyler so that I could discuss these allegations, but Kendra said she did not have current contact information for Tyler.

6. On June 9, 2022, I also interviewed Cindy Wilson, Kendra's mother, in my office. She indicated that she had never been formally introduced to the Lloyds but that James had refused to shake their hands at the hearing. She reported Kendra offering visitation multiple times to James but him refusing and instead filing this action. She indicated that James told them he is a "pro" at litigation and would win in Court.

Cindy reported that James is very focused on money and will try to provide monetarily for K.L.W. over Kendra's objection. She also reported that James has made Kendra uncomfortable, stating to Kendra on the phone once, "I want us to raise K.L.W. together. I want to be K.L.W.'s father." Finally, Cindy reported concerns about the health of James's wife Mindy. She indicated that Mindy has health issues, and she is concerned that James will not be able to take care of Mindy and K.L.W. at the same time, particularly overnight.

7. On June 14, 2022, I interviewed James and Mindy Lloyd in my office. He reported that he had no contact from Kendra after Connor's death until he started reaching out to try to see K.L.W. He requested staged in visits, with the idea that he ultimately wanted as much visitation as Connor would have had prior to his death. He stated that he sent Christmas presents to Kendra's house for K.L.W., and Kendra responded by thanking him and inviting him for a visit with K.L.W. However, James did not believe the sincerity of her offers.

James reported that visitation have gone well since the Court ordered the phased in schedule. He indicated that K.L.W. has had a ball, and that initially Kendra had been cooperative. However, he reported that Kendra has cooled in her communication with him since I approved Whitney Blalock to have contact with K.L.W. James denied encouraging K.L.W. to see Whitney as a replacement mother, indicating she is more like "Aunt Whitney," and stating, "Whiney needs this because it is all she has left of Connor."

James admitted that he had a past domestic violence charge against his ex-wife to which he pled no contest. He reported another incident where he was angry that his ex-wife was having an affair, and he was arrested and spent 3 nights in jail, but no charges were ever pressed. He and Mindy both denied that Mindy's health would prevent meaningful visits. Indeed, Mindy reported her breast cancer being in remission and only having one reconstructive surgery left. Indeed, Mindy did not appear to be in poor health during our interview. James did admit to attempting to provide financially for K.L.W., but he indicated he did so out of concern for his granddaughter, not to make Kendra feel uncomfortable or inadequate.

James only expressed a few concerns about Kendra. He reported that he was concerned that Kendra's mother's health prevented her from helping Kendra with K.L.W. Second, he expressed concerns about Kendra's financial stability.

8. On June 21, 2022, I spoke with Lt. Scott Southern, who is the lead investigator on the murder of Connor Lloyd. He reported that as part of his investigation, he had spoken with James Lloyd and had no concerns regarding him. He also reported that no firm suspect had emerged as part of the investigation. I asked him if he had contact information for Tyler Atkinson, as I was hoping to speak to her; he indicated he did not and that when he had last spoken with her she wanted to keep her distance from the whole situation.

9. On July 15, 2022, I interviewed Kendra Wilson again in my office. She expressed concerns again about James taking actions that make her uncomfortable, such as trying to do things with just her and K.L.W. with no one else. She also played two videos for me that she recorded at visitation exchanges. In one, James attempts to give her a \$100 gift card. She states it is too generous and tries to return it. James forcefully insists she keep it, throwing into the dash

of her car. In the second, there is only sound and not video. James takes what can be heard is a loud in breath and then exclaimed about how he loves the smell of children and how it keeps him young. According to Kendra, James was sniffing Kendra's bottom during this exclamation. Finally, Kendra expressed K.L.W. coming back from visits "sad" and showed me one picture in which K.L.W. appeared to have a slightly leaky wet diaper at the visitation exchange.

10. On July 21, 2022, I spoke with Lana Burdette on the phone. Lana reported being a close friend of Kendra's, and she indicated that she witnessed many interactions between Kendra and K.L.W. as well as several between Kendra and James. Lana repeated many of the same incidents and opinions Kendra did, indicating that James's interactions with K.L.W. were "creepy." She was particularly troubled by the video incident Kendra showed me in which James sniffed K.L.W. and with James trying to get Kendra to do something alone with him and K.L.W. Finally, she indicated that Kendra is an excellent and devoted mother, and she saw no issues with her parenting.

11. Throughout the litigation, Kendra regularly sent me before and after picture of K.L.W. during her weekend visitations with James. One did show K.L.W. with a wet diaper, but most showed her eager at the beginning of the visit and tired and sometimes crying at the end of the visit. The pictures revealed no notable concerns with K.L.W.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. I have no concerns with James Lloyd exercising reasonable, liberal visitation with K.L.W. While Kendra has provided pictures purportedly showing the minor child appearing unhappy after visits, the pictures appear to show a child that is merely tired after a long day of activity. Moreover, the other concerns that Kendra has raised appear to at most point to James overexpressing his excitement at seeing his granddaughter or forcefully exercising attempts to provide support for her. There is nothing to indicate he is a danger to the K.L.W., and they appear to be growing their bond as visits continue.

Counsel for James has expressed his desire to have *Judge Brown's Standard Visitation*. I have no concerns with this schedule. However, to directly recommend this or any other visitation schedule without instruction from the Court oversteps my role as Guardian *ad Litem*. Therefore,

I leave any all decisions regarding custody and visitation in the purview of the Court where it belongs.

2. I recommend James Lloyd respect the boundaries that Kendra communicates. James is extremely passionate and cares deeply about his granddaughter. This sometimes leads him to forcefully take actions which he believes is in her best interest, such as providing money and gifts over the protest of Kendra. I do not observe any ill will from James; however, I do recommend he not insist upon providing money and gifts to Kendra or suggesting they engage in activities regarding K.L.W. together when she has expressed that they make her uncomfortable.

3. I have no concerns about Whitney Blalock having contact with K.L.W. She has a stable job, lives with her parents, and has no DSS or criminal history. She is not seeking any sort of independent visitation, only to be allowed to be around when James exercises his visitation. Under these circumstances, I have no concerns with her being present. Should she seek to overstep and seek to assert herself in a motherly role, of which there is no current evidence, my opinion could change.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg R. Steele
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November 14, 2022
Anderson, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE FAMILY COURT
COUNTY OF OCONEE) 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
)
James Lloyd,)
)
Plaintiff,) FINAL GUARDIAN
) AD LITEM REPORT
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vs.)
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Kendra Leigh Wilson,)
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Defendant.) Docket No: 2022-DR-37-9

MINOR CHILDREN: K.L.W. (2020)

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5. Video and sound recordings of visitation exchanges provided by Kendra Wilson
6. Texts between Kendra Wilson and James Lloyd provided by Kendra Wilson

SUMMARY:

James Lloyd filed this action for grandparent visitation on January 12, 2022 along with a Motion for Temporary Relief. A temporary hearing was held before the Honorable Karen F. Ballenger on March 23, 2022, and a Temporary Order was signed by Judge Ballenger on April 18, 2022. The Order granted James Lloyd a phased in visitation schedule beginning with a few hours with Kendra Wilson present and expanding to every other Saturday visitation from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The Order also appointed the undersigned as Guardian *ad Litem* and ordered the Guardian ad Litem to meet with Whitney Blalock to assess any concerns with her. If the Guardian ad Litem had no concerns with Whitney, there was to be no restrictions on her being present during James's visitation.

The Court subsequently held a second temporary hearing on November 14, 2022. The undersigned submitted a written preliminary report at that hearing. Judge Phillips signed a Second Temporary Order on December 7, 2022, which kept custody and visitation the same as in the First Temporary Order.

The Court held a hearing on Kendra Wilson's Motion to Dismiss on December 15, 2024. The Court denied the motion at that time but indicated the Motion could be renewed at trial if supported by the evidence at that time.

Kendra Wilson

On June 9, 2022, I conducted my initial interview of Kendra Wilson in my office. She had K.L.W. with her, and I observed a strong mother-daughter bond between them. K.L.W. was somewhat cranky, but she clearly was close to her mother. Kendra reported she and K.L.W. live with her mother, Cindy, and that while she uses a Juul, it is never around K.L.W.

Kendra indicated that she has no issue with James and his family having visitation and in fact had offered visitation multiple times. However, she thought Judge Brown's standard visitation is "too much" for a grandparent and would restrict her flexibility as a parent, but James would settle for nothing less. In addition, Kendra indicated that James never reached out to her to get any sort of visitation scheduled. Finally, Kendra reported the only reason she had objections

to Connor having visitation was that he had raped and beat her, and she was afraid to turn her daughter over to an abuser.

Kendra expressed multiple concerns about visitation with the Lloyds. As an initial matter, she indicated K.L.W. fears males, which could lead to issues with K.L.W. visiting with James. She further indicated that James's wife, Mindy, has health issues from breast cancer and that all James's time, energy, and attention is devoted to her. She expressed fear that he would neglect K.L.W. during visitation because he had to care for his wife, and there was only a possibility that James's son and daughter could help with her. Indeed, she stated, "It's hard for a man to handle a child alone."

Kendra indicated that the Lloyds do not provide K.L.W. with proper food when she goes to their house for visits and that she is "starving" when she returns home. She also reported James will not have K.L.W. nap at his house which messes up her sleep schedule. She also expressed concerns that James videos K.L.W. too much and posts too much about her on social media. She indicated that James goes over the top to try to buy K.L.W.'s affection. Finally, she expressed concerns that James is trying to encourage Whitney Blalock to be a "replacement mother" for K.L.W.

Kendra also expressed situations in which James has made her uncomfortable. She reported he has attempted to insert himself as a "replacement father" for K.L.W. and tried to force her into a having a more intimate relationship with him than she feels comfortable with. She also reported him over-showering K.L.W. with gifts and financial support even over her objections. For example, he will insist she take toys from him back to her house with K.L.W. or insist she keep gift cards that she tries to give back.

On July 15, 2022, I interviewed Kendra Wilson again in my office. She expressed concerns again about James taking actions that make her uncomfortable, such as trying to do things with just her and K.L.W. with no one else. She also played two videos for me that she recorded at visitation exchanges. In one, James attempts to give her a \$100 gift card. She states it is too generous and tries to return it. James forcefully insists she keep it, throwing into the dash of her car. In the second, there is only sound and not video. James takes what can be heard is a loud in

breath and then exclaimed about how he loves the smell of children and how it keeps him young. According to Kendra, James was sniffing Kendra's bottom during this exclamation. Finally, Kendra expressed K.L.W. coming back from visits "sad" and showed me one picture in which K.L.W. appeared to have a slightly leaky wet diaper at the visitation exchange.

When visits first began, Kendra regularly sent me before and after picture of K.L.W. during her weekend visitations with James. One did show K.L.W. with a wet diaper, but most showed her eager at the beginning of the visit and tired and sometimes crying at the end of the visit. The pictures revealed no notable concerns with K.L.W.

After these first few interviews, I have met with Kendra multiple times. As visitations became more regular and routine, many of Kendra's concerns were alleviated. She reported that K.L.W. seemed to enjoy visits and was well-bonded to James. She repeatedly stated that she wished the Court case would just go away so that they could work out visitation between themselves; she would not keep K.L.W. from spending time with her grandfathers. Her primary concerns surrounded James's boundaries and her allegations that he would overstep his role as grandparent and try to encroach upon her role as mother.

Cindy Wilson

On June 9, 2022, I also interviewed Cindy Wilson, Kendra's mother, in my office. She indicated that she had never been formally introduced to the Lloyds but that James had refused to shake their hands at the hearing. She reported Kendra offering visitation multiple times to James but him refusing and instead filing this action. She indicated that James told them he is a "pro" at litigation and would win in Court.

Cindy reported that James is very focused on money and will try to provide monetarily for K.L.W. over Kendra's objection. She also reported that James has made Kendra uncomfortable, stating to Kendra on the phone once, "I want us to raise K.L.W. together. I want to be K.L.W.'s father." Finally, Cindy reported concerns about the health of James's wife Mindy. She indicated that Mindy has health issues, and she is concerned that James will not be able to take care of Mindy and K.L.W. at the same time, particularly overnight.

Cindy has come to the other meetings I have had with Kendra, and like Kendra, has indicated that visitations have gone increasingly well. She also reported that she is the primary caregiver for K.L.W. when Kendra is at work.

James and Mindy Lloyd

On June 14, 2022, I interviewed James and Mindy Lloyd in my office. He reported that he had no contact from Kendra after Connor's death until he started reaching out to try to see K.L.W. He requested staged in visits, with the idea that he ultimately wanted as much visitation as Connor would have had prior to his death. He stated that he sent Christmas presents to Kendra's house for K.L.W., and Kendra responded by thanking him and inviting him for a visit with K.L.W. However, James did not believe the sincerity of her offers.

James reported that visitation have gone well since the Court ordered the phased in schedule. He indicated that K.L.W. has had a ball, and that initially Kendra had been cooperative. However, he reported that Kendra has cooled in her communication with him since I approved Whitney Blalock to have contact with K.L.W. James denied encouraging K.L.W. to see Whitney as a replacement mother, indicating she is more like "Aunt Whitney," and stating, "Whiney needs this because it is all she has left of Connor." As the case progressed, James notified me that Whitney no longer attended visits after they had had a falling out over her failure to respect James's boundaries.

James admitted that he had a past domestic violence charge against his ex-wife to which he pled no contest. He reported another incident where he was angry that his ex-wife was having an affair, and he was arrested and spent 3 nights in jail, but no charges were ever pressed. He and Mindy both denied that Mindy's health would prevent meaningful visits. Indeed, Mindy reported her breast cancer being in remission and only having one reconstructive surgery left. Indeed, Mindy did not appear to be in poor health during our interview. James did admit to attempting to provide financially for K.L.W., but he indicated he did so out of concern for his granddaughter, not to make Kendra feel uncomfortable or inadequate.

James only expressed a few concerns about Kendra. He reported that he was concerned that Kendra's mother's health prevented her from helping Kendra with K.L.W. Second, he expressed concerns about Kendra's financial stability.

I met with James and Mindy one additional time in August 2024 prior to the issuance of this Report. They reported visits going well, and they showed me numerous videos and pictures of K.L.W. enjoying her time with them. James's primary concern was that if no set visitation time was ordered for him, Kendra would not voluntarily provide time for him to spend with K.L.W. He relayed several instances of asking for additional time or attempting to reschedule time that Kendra did not respond to as support for his claim. James also indicated that he would like more time with K.L.W., including overnights, as his current schedule feels extremely brief.

Affidavit of Tyler Atkinson

At my initial meeting with Kendra, she provided me with what purportedly was an affidavit from Tyler Atkinson, Connor's ex-wife. The affidavit was signed and notarized, but Kendra indicated it had never been filed with the Court. In the affidavit, Tyler alleged Connor was physically and sexually abusive toward her as well as severely controlling. Tyler also alleged that James Lloyd had been physically violent toward Mindy, his wife, and that Mindy has a drinking problem. I asked Kendra if she could put me in contact with Tyler so that I could discuss these allegations, but Kendra said she did not have current contact information for Tyler.

Scott Southern

On June 21, 2022, I spoke with Lt. Scott Southern, who is the lead investigator on the murder of Connor Lloyd. He reported that as part of his investigation, he had spoken with James Lloyd and had no concerns regarding him. He also reported that no firm suspect had emerged as part of the investigation. I asked him if he had contact information for Tyler Atkinson, as I was hoping to speak to her; he indicated he did not and that when he had last spoken with her she wanted to keep her distance from the whole situation.

Lana Burdette

On July 21, 2022, I spoke with Lana Burdette on the phone. Lana reported being a close friend of Kendra's, and she indicated that she witnessed many interactions between Kendra and

K.L.W. as well as several between Kendra and James. Lana repeated many of the same incidents and opinions Kendra did, indicating that James's interactions with K.L.W. were "creepy." She was particularly troubled by the video incident Kendra showed me in which James sniffed K.L.W. and with James trying to get Kendra to do something alone with him and K.L.W. Finally, she indicated that Kendra is an excellent and devoted mother, and she saw no issues with her parenting.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. I have no concerns with James Lloyd exercising reasonable, liberal visitation with K.L.W. At this point, everyone appears to agree that James should remain an important part of K.L.W.'s life. Any argument comes down to the frequency with which visitation is court-ordered.

Kendra maintains that she wishes James would just drop the Court action, and that if he did, she would never keep K.L.W. from him. James reports concerns that if his visitation is not protected by Court order, Kendra will withhold all visitation from him. To this point, the parties have almost exclusively stuck to the Court-ordered schedule with a few exceptions.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg R. Steele
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August 15, 2024
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