

Deborah Del Mastro Martinez, CA

## The Worst Day of My Life 5/14/26

The day started with a phone call at 10:22 from 925-453-0742 which had no name. I answered and said Hello and a male voice said "Hello? Who is this?" And I said "Who is this?" and he said I have your daughter here, does she have panic attacks? Then he put her on the phone with her crying and panicking saying she was sorry Mom...IT WAS HER VOICE and then he got back on and said that he has 10 pounds of cocaine in his trunk and my daughter saw a deal go down and his boss told him to take her. Now he tells me that this is a Mexican drug cartel boss and he doesn't care who he kills, that he wants \$20K for my daughter and if not she can pay with what's between her legs.... I'm at the breakfast table, incredulous with my jaw dropped and I quickly got dressed and mouthed to my husband as I left "she's been kidnapped!" and I left the house, still on the phone with this criminal. Paul had no idea where I was going or what was going on, he could just tell that it was serious. The man was barking orders to me about having to have this money right away or his boss will do something with her, he told me to bring a phone charger or make sure my phone is charged because if we lose touch I won't see her again. He made demands for the next 5 ½ hours, first to send \$2000 by Western Union to Mexico (Maria Sanchez Gonzalez, Mexico, Mexico Federal District ) He wanted \$2500 and I told him that I didn't have it -just \$2000. He told me to go to Martinez Walmart and that's where I used Moneygram to send \$2000. I took a pic and texted him the receipt and then he said there was a problem with it and I'd have to resend it. I told him I do not have the money to do this and he told me that there was an error and I'd be reimbursed. Still didn't have the money. Then he wanted the other \$500 right now and I had it in another bank account. Then I found that I had locked my keys in the car at Walmart and had to call my husband to pick me up and he joined the nightmare, his bank accounts were in play and he ran me around to Pittsburg Walmart to Martinez twice. We were on the phone with this awful man the entire time - with him listening in for every sound, asking where I was and what was going on if I was silent, threatening my family's lives and telling me that he can sell my daughter right now. I tried Safeway for sending the \$500 and couldn't but Walgreens worked. He told me to not

talk during the time I was in the store and leave the phone on so he could hear everything that happened. I took a pic of the receipt and texted it to his phone, now a different number, all the time threatening me if I didn't hurry. He was going to drop off Sarah first at the Martinez Safeway, then the Pittsburg Walmart, then Lucky's in Martinez and then again Pittsburg Walmart where we finally ended up finishing the scam when he said "we've released your daughter at the front entrance of the store, call her" We were at the Walmart, I jumped out to get her and she wasn't there. Panicked, I called her and she answered quietly that she was at work and what's going on? I broke down and was so relieved that she was alright and furious that we had been scammed out of all that money and there was nothing to be done about it but report it. All of the transactions were Cash within 10 minutes or Cash pickup anywhere in Mexico so we knew all the money was gone. My husband sent \$1700, after my \$2500 and then when we were on the way to pick her up he demanded another \$2000 which we did not have. He bargained us down to what we did have - \$1200 and my husband, Paul Vincent Cicco, sent that too. All the while we had to be silent and on the phone with this guy. When he did speak he threatened harm to us and my daughter – saying that he had kids and he would kill everyone if his kids were at risk and his boss didn't care about anyone and would kill anyone who was in his way. He also talked many times about how he could sell Sarah for \$20 thousand dollars or she could pay her way in other ways, hinting that she would be sex trafficked. But he was doing us a favor because we were respectful of him.

He also had me talk with Sarah again, after we sent the \$1700, about 4 hours into the call and HER VOICE said very sadly "I'm so sorry Mom, I love you" After that another man's voice came on who was much more hard ass about everything – the enforcer – and threatened harm to us and Sarah if we didn't come up with more money, that's when we sent the last \$1200.

It was the worst day of my life. And Paul's too. Some people are so broken.