

December 28, 1977

Dear Dad:

How are you? Did you have a nice Christmas? How's Adrianna and the baby? We are all fine here, missing you alot.

I am writing to you now because you once told us that whenever we had a problem to let you know.

Dad, as you must know by now, I am separated from Carlos. It was the worst marriage that anyone could have. I have been very unlucky with these kinds of things or very stupid I guess. Anyway I wanted to know if you could help me.

I am trying very hard to go back to school, but I just can't find a way to do it. Nobody will help me financially or any other way. My mother said that she can't because she is already helping Lourdes and Mario. She is also paying for Orly's College, car, insurance, clothes, and every thing he asks her for. It's always when I ask, that I get a no!

I don't have anybody that I can get anything from. My Grandmother Cuca hardly has any money to eat with so I can't ask her for it. And my other Grandmother I know won't give it to me. She never did like me. Anyway Dad, I was wondering if you could get somebody to help me like you did for Vivian. If I just could get somebody to help me a little bit, I could go back to school. I have a car to pay for and a tuition. My car is costing me between insurance and car payment around \$200.00 a month. I can always get a cheaper car but I do need a car to get to school.

I was talking to Mr. Greenspan and decided to take up Court Reporting on his advice. Court Reporting is a full time student course, and you have to take the classes during the day. There are no night courses. The only place that has it is North Dade College Campus. That is very far from my house, that is why I say I am going to need a car. Mr. Greenspan has a job for me as a court reporter when I graduate. They start paying from \$300.00 to \$600.00 a week. They make alot of money and it's only 2 years in North Dade full time.

Dad, I really need to do something with my life. I can't keep making this miserable amount of money that I am making now for the rest of my life, and if I don't start now, I will never get the chance to start. After I graduate, I would keep on going to school at night and work as a court reporter during the day. I would keep going at night to get more credits and to better myself. But without somebody's help, I can never do it.

I want to start next semester. My tuition is probably going to cost me around \$200.00 a semester also (every 3 months approximately).

If there is anyone at all that you know that can help me, please Dad ask them to. I'm really trying to go back to school. It is most important for me now.

My mother won't help me, but then again there is only one person that she really cares about and gives everything to, and we all know who that is.

Dad, I am asking you this as a daughter. And also as someone who is really trying to put back together her life. If you can't help me, I will understand. But Dad, please try like if you were doing it for Vivian and Lourdes.

Please try to give me an answer right away, and let me know what you can do for me. I need to know right away, so that I can start next semester.

Thank you Dad for everything that you might be able to do for me, and I hope that you really have a nice new year.

I love you.

Your daughter,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chiqui".

Chiqui