

Statement by Tony Jones concerning allegations of abuse

For many years, I have attempted to respect the privacy of my ex-wife, Julie McMahon Jones, and our children by not responding to Julie's repeated allegations against me. A failed marriage is, I think by definition, the result of failure on multiple fronts. I have tried, for many years to admit both publicly and privately the ways in which I fell short as a partner in my marriage. However, after countless false accusations in public forums, I am compelled to respond.

For years, Julie has been posting online, even starting her own blogs about it (<http://narcisissiticpersonalitydisorderwrathandwreckage.wordpress.com> and <http://emergentcultsscandals.blogspot.com>). Her false, abusive, bullying, and harassing comments about me still reside on many blogs and on Facebook and Twitter. Recently, however, these lies and falsehoods have been amplified. The result has not only been increased personal attacks from strangers, but attacks against my friends and colleagues.

There has long been documentable proof of Julie's lies, and now the time has come for that documentable truth. I offer this response to every allegation that I know of.

Throughout this response, you will see reference to documents in brackets. Each of those documents exists and will be made public through legal channels. Many documents, like court orders and police reports, are already a matter of public record.

I will preface the point-by-point response by saying that for many years, I was in a deeply troubled marriage to Julie. I literally and actually have thousands of emails and text messages from Julie that are full of insults, obscenities, threats, and homophobic slurs toward me. You will find no such messages returned to her from me, and I sent her no such messages. We saw at least four different marriage counselors and also jointly attended a 6-week anger management course at our church in an attempt to deal with our constant arguing. In spite of that, our marriage did not survive.

I have never once physically assaulted Julie McMahon. I say this unequivocally, without reservation, and in the strongest possible terms. Any allegation to the contrary is a lie.

Further, I have never even spanked my children, much less abused them in any way. Any allegation to the contrary is a lie.

While I obviously made mistakes, as every spouse does, Julie's behavior grew increasingly erratic over time and continues to be highly erratic today. As recently as two days ago, she entered the sanctuary of my parents' church during the Sunday morning worship, verbally accosted them, and waved legal documents at them. She

then called the police and argued with an officer for nearly 20 minutes before leaving the premises.

As you will see in the narrative below, Julie has repeatedly used the police and child protective services in an effort to harass and intimidate me. She has never produced a single piece of documentary evidence to back up any of her claims, nor has any law enforcement officer, child protection case worker, guardian ad litem, or Family Court judge taken a single action against me. Each time, they have found her claims baseless, which they are.

Now I will respond to each allegation in turn:

Allegation: Julie has full custody of the children and Tony has the minimum allowable visitation accorded by state law.

Julie McMahon September 16, 2014 at 8:39 pm

My 3 kids are wonderful, brave and courageous. They live with me full time due to the discoveries in the custody evaluation and psych evals. MN law awarded the minimum visitation.

Julie McMahon September 25, 2014 at 6:55 pm

He has regular visitation. Originally he asked that I have sole legal and sole physical I countered with shared legal because kids need a dad. Yes, I agree it would appear differently. Skilled people can make things appear not what they are.

Documented Fact: Tony and Julie have joint legal custody, and Julie has “sole physical custody,” which in Minnesota means that Tony has less than 45% parenting time. Tony has the children every Tuesday night, every other weekend, for three weeks in the summer, and various holidays on rotation. Most years, it comes out to between 35% and 40% parenting time for Tony [Joint Marital Termination Agreement and Judgment and Decree of Dissolution, File 27-FA-08-5921, filed in Hennepin County on November 17, 2009].

Tony never asked that Julie would have sole legal and sole physical custody, and Julie will produce no evidence to that effect.

A guardian ad litem reported to the court that Tony and Julie should have joint legal and joint physical custody [Guardian Ad Litem Report, July 26, 2010].

Allegation: Tony retained a lawyer before Julie and planned a divorce.

Julie McMahon September 25, 2014 at 8:22 pm

Yes, Kate. I am beginning to think that some of them got played and were pawns in a strategic plan. Especially since it was discovered in a canceled check that a

lawyer was already retained when he made the group believe that he was doing everything in his power to save his marriage.

Documented Fact: Julie initiated the divorce.

On May 18, 2008, at 9:04am, Julie wrote Tony an email that reads,

Dear Tony,

I am separated from you. This is effective immediately and is considered valid according to Minnesota Law despite living in the same home. I am free to date this summer, as are you, but we cannot remarry another until a divorce is filed...I will have the kids stay with you at your parents house or cabin but you will no longer share my bed. You can set up a bed in the basement or couch...

God has called me away from you and your brand of following Jesus. We are, on all accounts, leading separate lives already. I really hope we can be friends one day and I hope you will forgive me but this is not a happy situation for any of us but I am going to shrivel up and die here if i don't get out as soon as possible. I have tried to exist on crumbs, partial truths, secrecy, neglect, control, after thoughts and critical judgements [sic] long enough...it is not working for me. I don't want to become like you and that is what I am currently doing just to get through the day. I am sorry. I have loved you imperfectly and fearfully and not at all how I imagined we could be together. You are good and you deserve happiness too. It just won't be with me. My heart said goodbye to you a long time ago and now we need to both take the action step of separation...

Goodbye, Tony. I am sorry for the ways in which I failed you and withdrew my heart from loving and giving with the full expression that I have as of September 2004.

I really do wish you all of the happiness and know that we will do our best to raise our children together but in our separate homes. Let us put them first and shield them from further damage. I promise to talk about your great qualities and keep my personal opinions to myself. The damage has already been done but we can now help the children heal.

Julie first threatened to divorce Tony in 2001 if Tony did not put a fence in their back yard. She threatened him with divorce dozens of times after that [email correspondence May 18, 2008; June 1, 2008; June 4, 2008; June 16, 2008; June 17, 2008; June 27, 2008; et al].

Julie contacted Karen Schreiber, Esq., of Lindquist & Vennum, PLLP, via email on July 21, 2008 [email correspondence, July 21, 2008]. On July 24, Julie wrote Tony an

email, copying her correspondence with Schreiber, adding, "Papers will be waiting for you" [email correspondence, July 24, 2008].

Tony met with a lawyer once for a consultation in June, 2008, to discuss Julie's threats of divorce. He retained that attorney in late August, 2008. Tony never threatened divorce until he ultimately served divorce papers on August 29, 2008.

On July 28, 2008, Julie wrote an email to Tony, Mark Scandrette, and Doug Pagitt entitled, "This is my attorney and I would like the name of yours ASAP-yes, it is inconvenient to get divorced and you may have to make it a priority;" the body of the email was a list of Karen Schreiber's credentials [email correspondence, July 28, 2008]. On July 30, 2008, Julie emailed Tony that she had divorce papers in front of her, drawn up by Karen Schreiber [email correspondence, July 30, 2008]. On August 3, Julie again sent an email to Tony with Karen Schreiber's credentials and wrote, "I am going for full custody, spousal support, restraining order for mental and emotional abuse and harassment of your cult members. Supervised visitation is what you can hope for" [email correspondence, August 3, 2008].

On July 28, 2008, Julie sent an email to Doug Pagitt stating that her lawyer had discovered that Tony, in fact, did *not* have a lawyer on retainer [email correspondence, July 28, 2008], yet she continues to claim online that Tony had a lawyer before she did.

Allegation: There was phone contact in phone records between Tony and Courtney Perry in May 2008.

Julie McMahon September 25, 2014 at 8:22 pm

It is very difficult to believe Danielle Shroyer (her pastor at Journey church) and the church where the dissertation was being written about, knew and observed nothing in those frequent trips to Dallas? If she had no idea, then I wish she should say so. I am not sure because only Brad is talking [...] Did you know there were daily phone calls between the two starting May 2008?

Documented Fact: Prior to September, 2008, Tony and Courtney were merely distant acquaintances, and they did not even have one another's phone numbers. Julie will not produce these phone records, because they do not exist. Any 214 area code calls from Tony's phone are to Danielle Shroyer or Brad Cecil or others involved in his 2008 book tour.

Julie was served with divorce papers on August 29, 2008. On September 3, 2008, Courtney was in Minneapolis, covering the Republican National Convention for the *Dallas Morning News*. Courtney had gotten Tony's phone number from an email, and she texted Tony to see if he happened to work in downtown Minneapolis. Tony was downtown at the time, having just been granted a harassment restraining order against Julie [Hennepin County Court File HA 27-CV-0821651]. Tony and Courtney

had lunch that day. They kept in touch that fall; they saw each other again for New Years Eve, 2008.

Courtney lived in Dallas until 2011, when she moved to Minnesota and she and Tony were married.

Allegation: Tony and Courtney were in a relationship before divorce papers were served, as proven by an email.

Julie McMahon September 15, 2014 at 8:58 am
I tried to "transcend" blogging with these people who "through hours of prayer and discernment" decided I was crazy while their crony was having an affair. Then when I had evidence sex emails.

Documented Fact: Tony served Julie with divorce papers in August, 2008. Those papers were filed September, 2008. Julie illegally entered Tony's rental home on December 27, 2008 and obtained an email written between Courtney and Tony on December 27, 2008 regarding Tony's flight to Dallas [email correspondence, December 27, 2008; Edina Police Report, December 27, 2008]. Tony and Courtney began communicating *after* Tony filed for divorce, and *after* he had moved out of the house with Julie. There was no relationship between Tony and Courtney prior to the divorce proceedings.

In a text message on August 22, 2009, months before the divorce was final, Julie texted Tony that she was dating someone [text message, August 22, 2009].

Allegation: Tony tore a ligament on Julie's shoulder in an act of abuse and has MRI to prove it.

Julie McMahon September 17, 2014 at 9:01 pm
I will show you the MRI with the Doctor notes and you can see the tear on the X-ray I have.

Documented Fact: On the night that Julie was served with divorce papers, she called 911 and attempted to have Tony arrested. The police report indicates no harm to Julie [Edina Police Case #08-002672].

Several days later, Julie went to the Edina Police station claiming "contusions" to her shoulder and again attempted to have Tony arrested. The police report makes no mention of an X-Ray or MRI, and no action was taken against Tony. No X-Ray or MRI has ever been produced in the child custody evaluation or in any subsequent court action.

Allegation: Tony is an abuser.

Twitter bio of JMac6301: A survivor of spiritual, physical [sic] and emotional abuse at the hands of a diagnosed narcissist. I believe in love, redemption and healing. Truth and justice.

Julie McMahon September 24, 2014 at 1:34 am

My abuser who had an inside as police chaplain for my city told police I had "split personality and would slip into other voices." A-maz-ing shameless lengths to discredit! Oh, I recognize what you are describing all too well.

Documented Fact: Tony never abused Julie. Tony never abused his children.

Abuse was never mentioned in any divorce settlement, mediation, custody, or financial discussions. Tony and Julie have had nearly a dozen appearances in Family Court, and never once has Julie or her attorney alleged abuse in any form.

Since the divorce, Julie has used allegations of abuse to threaten and intimidate Tony, and to drive a wedge between Tony and the children. She has made numerous false reports to law enforcement and child protection personnel. Some of those incidents include:

On the night that Julie was served with divorce papers, she called the police and attempted to get Tony arrested for pushing her. The police report states that there was no evidence of injury. The police officers suggested that Tony leave the house. Tony left the home [Edina Police Case #08-002672]. Julie then took the children to a family cabin in Wisconsin for two days.

Several days later, Julie went back to the police, again alleging a shoulder injury, and attempted to have Tony arrested.

When the police would not take action, Julie came to the home of Tony's parents several times. She banged on doors and windows, demanding to speak to Tony, and she called his phone dozens of times, threatening to ruin his life and career [Edina Police Case #08-002672, Officer's Supplemental Report]. On the advice of his attorney, Tony filed for and received a restraining order against Julie the following day [Hennepin County Court File HA 27-CV-0821651].

On June 12, 2009, Julie reported Tony as an abuser to the regional office of the Boy Scouts of America. Tony was serving as a Cub Scout den leader for their son's den. The Boy Scouts of America investigated Tony and allowed him to continue in leadership [email correspondence, June 12, 2009; June 15, 2009; June 27, 2009; June 29, 2009].

On June 19, 2009, while driving the children to the family lake cabin in Crow Wing Country, two deputies pulled Tony over. One made Tony stand with his hands on a squad car where the children could see him while the other got in Tony's car and

questioned the children about whether their father hit them or touched their genitals. Julie had called in a report of child endangerment. The deputies took no action [Crow Wing County Sheriff dispatch log].

On December 30, 2010, while at a waterpark with the children in Alexandria, Minnesota, a sheriff's deputy showed up and questioned Tony. Julie had called in a report of child endangerment. The police took no action [Douglas County Sheriff dispatch log].

Four times since the divorce, Julie has reported Tony to Hennepin County Child Protection [Case #214917089: September 11, 2008, SISS Intake #214879329; December 31, 2009, SISS Intake #259006841; May 1, 2011, SSIS Intake #263432344; October 25, 2011, SSIS Intake #271265352]. Each time, caseworkers pulled the children out of school and also interviewed Tony. Each of the cases was closed with no action taken and no support services recommended for the family.

Allegation: Tony is a “deadbeat dad” who does not pay child support.

Julie McMahon October 29, 2014 at 9:45 am

He has never once willingly given a penny for his kids but money has been pried from his cold hands through the county collections. His income streams are craftily covered up through his various and there are many revenue streams.

Documented Fact: Tony has overpaid child support to Julie and receives reimbursement checks every month from Hennepin County for that overpayment. Julie currently owes Tony \$2821.76 [Hennepin County Child Support Online, case 0015157632-01].

In 2013, Tony brought a motion before the Family Court, requesting a reduction in child support and spousal maintenance payments, based on ability to pay and loss of income. The Court found a clerical error in the original divorce decree [Joint Marital Termination Agreement and Judgment and Decree of Dissolution, File 27-FA-08-5921]. Tony was not represented by an attorney at the time of the initial divorce settlement. Julie's attorney, whether by error or design, incorrectly calculated Tony's support payments in the settlement. The Court ruled that the amounts ordered had been too high, and reduced payment amounts retroactively [Amended Findings of Fact and Order Regarding Modification of Spousal Maintenance and Child Support, File 27-FA-08-5921, filed January 16, 2013].

Julie challenged that ruling to the Minnesota State Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals ruled 3-0 in Tony's favor [File #A13-0482, filed March 3, 2014].

Hennepin County garnishes Tony's wages because Julie requested that action be taken, as can anyone in Hennepin County who receives child support.

Tony supplies his full federal and state tax returns to Julie, when requested, every other year, as required by Minnesota state law. He does not hide any income from Julie nor from the IRS.

Tony was audited by the IRS and the State of Minnesota for 2008, 2009, and 2010 because Julie had not claimed Tony's spousal maintenance payments as taxable income for those years. Through a long and arduous process, Tony showed proof of every payment, and both agencies ended the audit with no adjustment to Tony's tax liability [IRS Letter 3581, February 19, 2013; Minnesota Department of Revenue, Letter L1706357376, October 9, 2013].

Julie also owes Tony \$732.82 in fees from her loss in the Court of Appeals [Notice, Statement, and Claim of Costs and Disbursements Incurred By Prevailing Party, Minnesota Court of Appeals, Case A13-482, filed March 4, 2014].

Allegation: Tony orchestrated Julie's arrest.

Julie McMahon September 18, 2014 at 3:48 pm

Fast forward to June 2013. The children were having visitation with their dad. I had just recovered from a surgery. I asked if they could stay a day or two more, if I needed it, because I was not supposed to drive. I felt better the next day and asked for their return. He refused. I let it go....smelling the gas fumes from the gas lighting a mile away. The next morning, I asked for them to be returned immediately. Your visitation time is over and they have dental appointments. Before I left the house I called his cell phone and said, "I'm on my way. They have dental appointments." When I arrived 3 Edina police cop cars where there waiting. He was waiting with a recording in his hand and said, "Arrest her now she just called my cell." Officer Joy Frogadt, his friend from police chaplain days, and ride-a-longs, and chili fests was the arresting officer. I did not know it but I had violated the OFP from 6 months prior by calling his cell instead of internet communication. A humane cop there said, "Do you really want to do this in front of your kids?" All 3 kids watching in the window. "She broke the law, arrest her NOW. Do your job!" THAT is why he would like you all to google the public records....the arrest has been continued for over a year without conviction, because its bogus. The courts amended the OFP and that could never happen today.

Documented Fact: Tony did not orchestrate the arrest. This is a lie. Julie called the police, as both the police report and her own emails to Tony indicate. When she arrived at the house, she banged on the door and screamed that the police were on their way. Tony also called the police once the situation became frightening.

Julie had informed Tony that she was having surgery, would be on two weeks bedrest, and could not care for the children. She agreed to let Tony keep the children for those two weeks [Our Family Wizard messages, June 26, 2013]. She also communicated this through the children.

On June 28, 2013 at 6:59am, Julie called Tony's phone and said that she was coming over to get the children. She also sent Our Family Wizard messages at 6:55am, 7:09am, 7:25am, 7:30am, 7:51am, and 8:12am. In the 7:51am message, she wrote that she was calling the police. The police dispatch record shows that Julie called 911.

Tony responded to these messages with an Our Family Wizard message at 7:19am that reads, "Glad you're feeling better. I am taking [name redacted] to his dentist appointment in a few minutes. Then [name redacted] has soccer practice. I will bring the kids to you later this morning. [Name redacted] will ride his bike."

Julie then came to Tony's house, in violation of a harassment restraining order [Hennepin County Court File 27-CV-12-24195, filed December 7, 2012]. Julie banged on the door and screamed until the police arrived.

The police arrived, assessed the situation, and repeatedly asked Julie to leave the premises. Julie refused to leave and was arrested [Edina Police Report 13001399].

The children did not witness this incident. As soon as Julie showed up at the house, Courtney took two of the children to the basement office, turned on loud music, and let them play video games. The other child slept through the entire incident.

Julie was taken to Hennepin County Jail and processed. She was released later that day on bail. She is currently facing charges for this arrest.

On December 3, 2014, Tony was granted a new harassment restraining order against Julie [Hennepin County Court File 27-CV-12-24195].

Julie filed a harassment restraining order against Tony in late 2013 [Hennepin County Case #27-CO-13-8209]. That order was contested at a hearing on May 13, 2014 [court transcripts available], and that restraining was dismissed and vacated for lacking evidence and not meeting the legal burden of proof [Hennepin County Case #27-CO-13-8209, filed May 16, 2014].

Allegation: Tony had pre-planned to get custody of the children when Julie was arrested.

Julie McMahon September 18, 2014 at 3:48 pm

THE KICKER??? He had a pre written an Ex Parte Legal document in his hand asking the family courts to "Immediately change custody because their mother is in jail." This was written BEFORE I arrived to pick up my children. Bone chilling...I know! Sociopath behavior. Luckily, the wise judge saw straight through it immediately and with a red marker x'd it out and wrote DENIED.

Documented Fact: After Julie was arrested, Tony emailed his lawyer and asked for her advice [email correspondence, June 28, 2013]. She recommended that they petition the Family Court for an ex parte order giving Tony sole custody for 21 days. That motion was denied.

Allegation: Tony suffers from Narcissistic Personality Disorder, and that makes him unfit as a father and spiritual leader.

Julie McMahan September 18, 2014 at 3:48 pm

Cornerstone a battered women's shelter was called by him and he told them he needed this conviction because he and his wife do not feel safe. Further, the Edina prosecuting attorney told us he wrote her letters touting the "crazy campaign" and please help me I AM THE VICTIM. This very young advocate woman with presumably little experience with diagnosed narcissist, wrote a letter to the prosecuting attorney on his behalf stating you must convict because she is crazy....JUST because he said so.

Julie McMahan September 22, 2014 at 7:59 pm

I experienced first hand spiritual abuse cleverly orchestrated by a diagnosed narcissist.

Julie McMahan October 29, 2014 at 9:45 am

I was told early on when the self employed are also diagnosed narcissist...your basically screwed.

Documented Fact: As part of the divorce proceedings, Tony and Julie underwent psychological examinations. Tony was diagnosed with an Axis I diagnosis of NPD (DSM-IV 301.81). Tony took this diagnosis seriously and immediately commenced therapy. Tony is still under the care of the same therapist, and she has recently diagnosed him with Acute Stress Disorder (DSM-V 308.30). Tony took an anti-depressant, Wellbutrin, for a year during the divorce, but he is no longer taking any medication. Tony is voluntarily submitting himself for another psychological evaluation in 2015.

Julie received Axis I and Axis II diagnoses during the initial psychological evaluation. She was subsequently ordered by the Family Court to undergo individual therapy and dialectical behavioral therapy [Court Order, File 27-FA-08-5921, filed May 14, 2009].

When Julie was arrested on June 28, 2013, Tony was automatically assigned a victims' rights advocate at Cornerstone.

Allegation: Tony and Doug Pagitt concocted the categories of "legal wife" and "spiritual wife" in order to cover up Tony's affair.

Julie McMahon September 15, 2014 at 8:58 am

Then when I had evidence sex emails and a 22 page psychological evaluation to share with the 6 Emergent leaders who "discerned" my family needed to break up so he could be with his "spiritual wife" not 1 of those....NOT 1 wanted to "discern" that or anything else. Disgusting! Transcend that!

Documented Fact: There was no affair. Neither Tony nor Doug has ever used the category "spiritual wife" or "spiritual marriage."

Julie was the first to use the categories of "spiritual marriage" and "spiritual wife" [text messages, September 30, 2008, 10:24pm; October 1, 2008, 5:16am; Our Family Wizard messages, September 30, 2008, 11:41pm; October 1, 2008, 8:30pm; email, October 1, 8:05pm]. In those messages, she refers to herself as Tony's "spiritual wife," and asserts that they are still "spiritually married," even though legal divorce proceedings have commenced. In reference to her Catholic belief about marriage, Julie has often told Tony that they will always be "spiritually married."

Tony neither uses nor subscribes to the idea of "spiritual marriage." Doug and Tony have never spoken about "legal marriage" versus "spiritual marriage." Solomon's Porch as a church does not subscribe to these categories either. (Tony published an e-book essay on marriage, arguing on theological grounds that clergy should stop signing marriage licenses so that they would no longer serve as agents of the state; this is a traditional position taken by many Anabaptist and other clergy, and it is the pattern of marriage ceremonies in much of Europe.)

Julie fabricated these categories in the first month of the divorce proceedings, but she now brazenly attributes them to Tony.

Conclusion

Many others have been implicated by Julie McMahon Jones's online postings, including but not limited to Doug Pagitt, Mark Scandrette, Danielle Shroyer, Brad Cecil, Mike King, Brian McLaren and Phyllis Tickle. I will not speak for them. Each of the allegations that Julie has made against them is a lie, and they have ample documentary evidence to show that.

It makes me very unhappy to release this document. It is not something I ever thought I would have to do. But I am doing it now because the rumors, lies, and false allegations have become rampant. Even my own children have read terrible things about me on the Internet – falsehoods that will stay online indefinitely.

Abuse is a deadly serious issue. Many persons – especially women and children – have been abused. In my nearly two decades as a youth pastor and police chaplain, I witnessed many incidents of abuse, and I reported several to law enforcement.

When someone makes an allegation of abuse, that allegation should be taken seriously. Julie's allegations, like all allegations, should and must be taken seriously. But when these claims have no basis in fact and can be refuted with actual evidence, then those allegations should be dropped and stricken from the record. Every time someone falsely claims abuse, it harms actual victims.

To all the actual victims of abuse, please be assured that I know that the suffering I have endured over this controversy is nothing compared to the suffering that you have endured at the hands of real abusers.

For legal questions, please contact Simon J. Trautmann, Esq., 612-644-3837
For media questions, please contact Blois Olson, 612-276-1678