

Chapter 3.14 Billy's Relationship With His Son

Billy's son Kip was born in 1988, and although Billy was not married to Kip's mother, he was involved in his care until the mother left town with him at age 6 months. Kip began living with Billy off and on when he was 3 or 4 years of age. Billy legally obtained full custody of Kip when he was 10 years old. Billy became very dependent on Kip, because he was the person who could calm him down when he had a panic attack, which happened almost every night. Billy felt more anxious when Kip was not around, and Kip stayed home to take care of his father. This severely limited Kip's activities outside of school hours. He did not have a chance to play with his friends, etc. Billy had panic attacks in stores and therefore Kip had to do the shopping. Beginning at age 12, Kip drove Billy to the hospital numerous times when he was having a panic attack.

Kip was used to having a lot of responsibility and also considerable control. When Billy no longer had panic attacks and was not anxious, he began to assume responsibilities as Kip's father, and gave consequences, and eventually stuck to the consequences. There was a period of tremendous upheaval as their relationship changed.

I think once Kip felt sure his father was going to be okay, he got a job out of state doing hurricane cleanup. Their relationship now is positive and mutually supportive. Kip worked long hours and became proficient as a heavy equipment operator. He quit that job and has not gotten another one. He also has created a web site, which can be seen upon entering Kip Capshaw on a search engine.