

Noah Plaisance



Noah Plaisance was born on June 23, 1999, as a normal and healthy child. At five months of age he began having severe seizures and was taken to various doctors. After a series of tests, doctors found nothing and told Noah's parents to take him home, love him, and make him as comfortable as possible. Noah began to regress and slowly lost his ability to do the things a typical five-month old child could do. Noah could no longer eat, laugh, make noises, or walk in a walker. He also lost all muscle tone in his body. Doctors predicted Noah would not live to see his first birthday.

At age one, Noah was brought to Children's Hospital in New Orleans, LA, for a total of twenty-one days. Doctors said Noah's brain was not functioning properly. He lost the ability to eat on his own, which required a feeding tube to be attached to him to keep nutrients in his body. He also could not be placed in a sitting position due to not being able to swallow. Noah had his saliva glands removed for the reason that he would tend to choke on his own saliva. Different samples of Noah's muscles, tissue, and blood were sent across the world to various places for lab testing with every result returning normal. Doctors told Craig and Nelly that Noah was tested for every condition known in the medical world and nothing

pertaining to his illness could be found—it was a dead end for the Plaisance family.

Noah was later brought to a holistic specialist in Baton Rouge, LA, named Dr. Cave. She made much progress with his condition using special treatments. These treatments helped to flush some of the heavy metals out from Noah's blood. He began to make noises, laugh, and suck his thumb. Noah could be placed in a sitting position and developed hand and eye coordination. He could swallow a little and began trying to say the word "mom." Although Noah still required to be fed through a feeding tube every four hours, he was able to sit up with assistance, and on Thanksgiving Day he began to eat again, progressing slowly. Treatments with Dr. Cave ceased due to an increase in daily seizures. Insurance did not cover majority of Dr. Cave's treatments and also did not cover any of his medication required for the treatments.

Noah's condition appears to be related to the vaccinations given to him as an infant. Today, Noah is still not able to crawl, walk, speak, eat, or sit up on his own. Being that Noah's condition is very rare and having no official diagnosis, there is no help available through any agencies to help offset some of the large medical bills that are daily being encountered. Because it is such an unusual situation, many people do not understand the expenses that come along with caring for Noah.

I, Craig Plaisance, have been working in the oilfield from 1985 to present day. From 1990 to 1991, I worked for L&M Botruc. I worked as a deckhand before becoming a licensed chief engineer. From 1991 to 1993, I worked for TRICO Marine as a chief engineer. In 1993, I went back to L&M Botruc until 2000. In 2000, I began working for Edison Chouest Offshore as a chief engineer on the M/V C-Commander. As my son's condition worsened and he was in and out of the hospital, I stayed on the vessel trying to make ends meet. When I was informed that Noah had stopped eating and needed a feeding port I was working offshore and went home; I was told he might not live. After the surgery I went back offshore to finish my hitch when upon crew change I was informed that Noah was still in the hospital and I was to be dropped off there instead going home. When I walked into the hospital room my wife, Nelly, said that the company I worked for wanted me to call in. The first thing any mariner would think is that they needed me back offshore, but they told me that I would not be going back offshore. I asked "Why? I need this job." They answered, "Upper management has made a decision to move you to the Training Center so you can be with your family in your time of need." After the call I looked over at my wife and saw that she was crying. "Why are you crying?" I questioned her, and she replied, "They called me a few days ago and told me before you"—they were tears of joy. In 2000, I had moved to the Training Center as a training instructor and in 2003 I was promoted to training manager. In 2006, I was given the added title of licensing manager, which is where I stand today.

My wife worked in the oilfield business for L&M Botruc. She was an AB/Cook for a few years but later stopped to have our two children. Both my parents work for L&M Botruc to this day. My older brother works for Galliano Tugs as a captain, while my younger brother works for North American Fabricators (Edison Chouest Offshore), as a foreman (builds OSV's for the oilfield). My father-in-law works on an inshore tug that supplies inshore rigs. *continued on next page...*

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The hardest part of this situation is not knowing what tomorrow will bring emotionally as well as financially. Noah goes through countless treatments and health struggles and, as a parent, it is very difficult to watch him as he is helpless each day knowing that I have no power to change any of that for him. It seems that every time we get well balanced both emotionally and financially, something awful happens and it causes us to go backward once again.

I recall bringing Noah to the hospital in the middle of the night due to complications and having my daughter, Maci, ask me, "Daddy, is Noah dying? Will you bring him back?" What answer could I possibly have given my daughter to reassure her that her brother would be fine when I myself did not know the answer to her question. Maci is now thirteen years of age and has been a great help to our family with Noah's illness. I sometimes feel Maci's childhood was taken away because she had to help out with her brother and experience things that other children did not have to go through.

There is so much more to this story than meets the eye. I truly wish everyone could experience our situation to better understand how it is to want nothing but happiness and health for your child and be helpless in reaching that goal due to an unstoppable illness that has no cure. Noah has changed many lives and has led us to so many wonderful people it is simply unbelievable. We have learned much throughout the years and we believe that Noah was sent to us for a specific reason but we do not yet know what that reason is. I would rather lose everything that I have before giving up on Noah. As long as Noah has a fight left in him, we shall fight with him for a better life no matter what we must do.

Thank you for your time,
Craig, Nelly, Maci, & Noah Plaisance