

Dear Senators,

Please pass SB0516 Correctional Services – Murder – Diminution Credits (Geraldine's Law)

Who knew that in Maryland, if an incarcerated offender works 2 part-time jobs a day, in the Department of Corrections, instead of one fulltime job, they can earn twice the amount of diminution credits? This explained why McDonald Abraham III, convicted of 2nd degree murder, and illegal use of a handgun, had his release date changed five times over his last two years of incarceration. My family believes that this is ridiculous, and another slap in the face by our Justice System.

McDonald Abraham, convicted of paying for our daughter Stacey's murder, was released from the DOC on October 19, 2019, after serving 10 years and 10 days, of his 15-20 years sentence. His release date changed 5 times during his last year of incarceration, moving up 5 different times. Two years ago, we were told the release date was February 2020. And, what is the first thing he had done? He had his video impact statement that we made, and was accepted by the defense and the judge, sealed. We were never notified. How was this allowed to happen???

Our daughter Stacey Lynne Seaton was murdered on June 1, 2005. Shot in the back of the head, in Bowie, Md in a Murder for Hire, she was left to die all alone, to be found by her 16-year old best friend. Only 18 days from her 18th birthday, Stacey was stalked for a week, not only by the people looking to kill her, but also by the person who testified for paying for her murder.

In a case where everyone knew who was responsible for having Stacey killed, my family was ruthlessly mocked by Abraham, for our efforts to get Justice. The pain of waiting over 4 years for an arrest, was matched only by the pain of the comments McDonald Abraham made electronically on an electronic guest book. Comments such as "Gale, you're a fat, lazy, welfare mom", "Stacey was a drug dealing runaway prostitute, and society is better off that she's dead", and "The police are busy solving real crime" are just several of the painful comments Abraham made. These comments were tracked to computers used in his parents' house and work, where Abraham sometimes helped his father.

In 2011, Florida arrested Jarvis Tyler, for the manufacturing and distribution of Crystal Methamphetamines, and handgun violation. They took his DNA, and submitted it into CODIS, and it came back to a match of the DNA on a cigarette butt that was flicked at Stacey's head. Jarvis Tyler was extradited to Maryland, where Abraham promptly agreed to testify against him, in exchange for an extremely lenient sentence (30 years for murder, 20 years for handgun violation). After parole and diminution credits were applied, that meant Abraham was eligible for parole at 7 ½ years.

Jarvis Tyler immediately offered to plead guilty in exchange for a 40-year sentence, and the willingness to testify against 3 other co-conspirators. Until.... His defense attorney listened to a

recording of Abraham, incarcerated, and another co-conspirator, discussing the “really sweet deal Abraham got to testify against Jarvis Tyler. Then Tyler changed his mind and wanted the same “really sweet deal.”

Which is the best option for sentencing a man charged with accepting \$400 in cash, and \$200 in marijuana to kill a 17-year old? We believe Life Without Parole is appropriate. According to Abraham’s testimony, Jarvis tried to back out, so Abraham threatened him. Abraham reminded him he already got the money and gun, but Tyler wouldn’t get the drugs, “until it was done.” Well, it was done – at 2:57 p.m. on June 1st, 2005.

....Our choices for Tyler were, go to trial, with the only physical evidence being DNA on a cigarette butt next to Stacey’s head, or give him the same lenient sentence for murdering a 17-year old pregnant girl. We went to trial, where Jarvis Tyler was found Not Guilty, within an hour – largely because the jurors did not either like or believe Abraham. Tyler walked, even though the only defense offered by his attorney, was proven to be a lie.

Abraham was the only person, of at least 5 people involved in Stacey’s murder. And, due to the lenient sentencing conditions, he received 15-50 years, which we were unaware meant 15 years, take away half of that, for parole, and diminution credits applied ahead of time. He was eligible for parole at 7 1/1 years.

Abraham was denied parole, due to his refusal to accept responsibility for Stacey’s death, and for the heinousness of the crime. His parole testimony included “routinely having sex with 13 and 14-year olds” as his alibi was “having sex” with a just turned 14-year old girl.

Now he’s out, living in my city, and I believe it’s just a matter of time, before he’s reincarcerated, as he refuses to take responsibility for his actions.

Please ensure convicted murderers serve the sentence they receive, it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Gale & Michael Seaton