

11-18-13

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to my pending release from prison and how I got to this point of my life. I will try my best to give who ever is reading this a idea of not only who I was, who I am, but also who I want to be.

At the age of 16 I participated in some horrific crimes. First a murder in R.I. and then a shooting and numerous robberies in Connecticut. I was under the influence (alcohol and marijuana) of not only chemical substances but a co-dependent that had control of me as well. This state of course was never an excuse for my actions. I had many choices in my life and at that age many of the were primarily selfish. That selfish mentality is what had me to that fatal night. I attended over 25 many parties, but this one was different. This one had guns and a Satanic co-dependent with an agenda. I was a follower growing up and when things started to go wrong in my life (adoptive parents moving, bad grades, ineligible for sports,

all that was wrong. Instead of searching for good people who could give me direction and guidance to be better, I would find the bad: who would encourage me to be like them. My co-defendant was this person. So with someone who at the time, I thought shared a common amount of misunderstanding and betrayal, I would become a criminal.

My lawyer will provide documentation in reports to the specifics of my case but all of this criminal behavior happened in approximately an hour. About as much time as it takes to take a test, finish a class, get through practice, watch a show on TV, or any of the many other things a teenage does everyday. This was how fast I was not only deemed a criminal, it was how fast I had victimized many people, including myself. This was never my intent but if my intentions at the time were based on the selfish, altruistic characteristics that I pride myself on today, who knows.

At the age of 16, because of the severity of my actions, I was removed out of juvenile court and sentenced to 60 years with 40 years to serve and 20 years suspended/probation. Four years later I was sentenced in a Connecticut Court to 7 years consecutive for

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The crimes that occurred there. This is the sentence that I am currently serving. It didn't take long for me to realize that, although I had been involved in criminal behavior, I didn't possess a criminal mind set. I started going to school (C.G.E.D., Community College) and continued to play sports and stay active. I also started to find those good people again and over time I didn't selfishly throw them aside. Being surrounded by what was now constant negativity and pressure, would have a different effect on me. My focus would change to wanting to be better. I would learn about respect, not only for myself, but for those around me. And when I finally discovered I could be better, I was no longer a follower, I started to lead. I would get involved in programs in prison designed for community out-reach. One involving mentoring local school children (S.C.O.R.E. Special Community Outreach Education) through Public Speaking and another involved

training - service dogs for people with disabilities (NEADS, New England assistance dogs services). These programs enabled me to become human in prison, encouraging me to make not only a difference in my life, but in others as well. This is the person I am now. I continued my education and graduated with my B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies (Adams State University). The emphasis of the curriculum consisting of Sociology and legal studies. I would study a lot about why individuals like myself get caught up in really unfortunate situations and what can be done to prevent similar cases. I would also learn a lot about humanity and society and all the interrelated factors that come with life. At this time I was going through the parole process in R.I. and gaining an enormous amount of humility and empathy. And when I was eventually paroled, it would be the first time in a while that I would think of myself, not egotistically, but proud proud of the person I had become and the person I would be. I am one of the lucky ones. In 1992 I was one of many juvenile delinquents and not even one in a thousand.



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A lot of these kids were given up.  
 They would continue to follow and live  
 with a false persona that having  
 the courage to be better, or to be that  
 just not knowing how. As a child  
 I was given enough moral support  
 to understand but a lot of kids  
 don't really get it. They are an unfortunate  
 product of their environments and  
 socialized under such. And growing  
 up in prison is no easy task either.  
 Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

*[Signature]*  
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