

Tuesday, March 2, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

Sharon Muse has been a close friend for twenty years. In the past few years my wife and I have walked with her through what has been an extremely difficult and disturbing journey as it relates to her kidnapping.

I have witnessed in Sharon both great fear and courage. On many occasions her fears related to her and her family's well being have been overwhelming and emotionally paralyzing. As a friend and pastor I have sought to offer counsel and prayers and believe it to be only God's grace that has given her the strength to continue in her personal and professional life.

It is my hope that her kidnapper will receive the maximum sentence of life in prison. His nine prior felony convictions combined with his kidnapping of Sharon is, I believe, sufficient reason for his permanent removal from society. While I pray God's forgiveness for Sharon's kidnapper, I am convinced that any future parole would not only cause great and undue stress on Sharon and her family, but would also provide opportunity for yet another violent crime.

Sincerely,

March 7, 2011

Judge Robert Johnson

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you regarding the sentencing of Frankie Covington who was found guilty of kidnapping Sharon Muse.

Sharon Muse is my little sister and I have watched with disgust the effect that this attack has had on her. Sharon is a wonderful person who has always lived life full of joy and happiness but this attack had profound changes on her. Sharon has been tormented by nightmares, is fearful to go out into public, and lives in complete fear that one day this man will be set free to try to finish the job that he started.

Sharon was visiting me in November 2009 for Thanksgiving when she received a phone call from a victim's advocacy group erroneously indicating that Covington had been released from prison. She immediately got on the computer and started booking airline tickets to a foreign country. She understands that if Covington is free then she is no longer safe.

In February 2010, I was visiting Sharon at her home. In the middle of the night I heard blood-curdling screams coming from her room. I grabbed my pistol and ran to her room and discovered that Sharon was having another nightmare of the kidnapping. These nightmares occur on a regular basis.

My plea to you is to put Frankie Covington away for the rest of his life. Covington blamed (and continues to blame) Sharon for being sent to jail back around 2001. After serving 5 years in jail he was released from jail on March 31, 2006. He waited all of SIX days to show up at her office, kidnapped her, forced her at knifepoint to drive into rural Bourbon County where he planned to rape and murder her. It is only by the grace of God that he was not able to complete his plan. If Covington ever gets out of jail in the future imagine how much rage he will have toward her and anyone else involved in his conviction. The man should not be set free and should remain in prison forever. Please do not give him the opportunity to hurt Sharon or anyone else again.

I attended Covington's trial in Bourbon County last month and there is one statement that sums up this situation for Sharon. Sharon told the jury, "When his sentence ends, that is when mine begins". Please send this man away for life and allow her to live her life with the peace of mind that this monster will never again be able to hurt her.

Honorable Judge Johnson

I have known Sharon Muse for several years, first as an employer and then as a friend. Sharon's character shines through in everything she does. She is a blessing and truly an inspiration to everyone around her with such integrity, joy, strength and generosity. The day that the Defendant attacked Sharon, her smile turned to sorrow, pain and fear. I am not going to pretend to understand the depth of what she experienced but to see her suffer has been difficult beyond words.

I write this letter as a plea to sentence the Defendant to life in prison and that he never be paroled. Regardless of how the sentencing goes, either the Defendant or Sharon will receive a life sentence. The Defendant plotted her murder for his imprisonment, simply because she refused to continue to represent him. This time, and justly so, it was by her strength and spirit that she fought to keep her life- despite the assault- and he is facing prison time again. If he does not get a life sentence, Sharon will be sentenced to a life of looking over her shoulder, wondering if that day will be the day he comes back, and with a vengeance. Fear is a terrible thing to live under, yet without the Defendant being locked up for life; Sharon will remain in fear for her life. Please have mercy on Sharon and give her the chance to heal and regain a life of normalcy.

Thank you for your time and consideration,