

HB0043: Criminal Procedure – Plea Agreement Terms and the Violence Prevention Initiative Criteria

Please support HB0043. In 2005, my daughter Stacey Lynne Seaton, 17, was brutally murdered in a Solicitation for Murder. After being lured to the park in our neighborhood, by someone she considered to be a friend, the “friend” shot her in the back of the head and left her to die all alone. Stacey’s 16-year old best friend found her, and her mother called the police. After four different lead investigators, and over 4 years later, we finally had our first arrest, McDonald Abraham III. He was arrested simply because he couldn’t keep his mouth shut. His vile and juvenile postings on the website I established to collect evidence, was his undoing, and one of his postings, with a gun in his pocket, was used to get him to plead guilty for a 30-year sentence for second degree murder, and a 20-year sentence for illegal use of a handgun violation. As everyone knows, the credit system is complicated. But Abraham knew it well.

Stacey was murdered, because someone set up a drug theft of Abraham, and then blamed it on Stacey, so Abraham would kill her. While Abraham acknowledged that Stacey did not set him up, nor steal from him, nor knew anything about a robbery happening, he maintained he didn’t have that information in hand, when he “had it done.” Still no remorse, just excuses, because, “I only paid for her death.”

We were told Abraham received a 15 to 50 years sentence. We made the mistake of “assuming” that meant he would serve a minimum of 15 years, and if he misbehaved, he could serve up to 50 years. Then we received a letter from the state, advising us that Abraham would be released no later than the 15-year mark, and his parole eligibility date was April 2017 – 7 ½ years after arrest.

Abraham was denied parole, for failure to take responsibility for Stacey’s murder, maintaining he “only paid for it.,” and for the brutality of the murder. Yet, his testimony was that he deliberately selected someone who needed drugs, was homeless, jobless, and living in his girlfriend’s car. When the shooter tried to back out of killing Stacey, Abraham threatened him, and reminded him he had been paid, and he wouldn’t get the drugs until “he got it done.” The shooter was around 5’8 and 150 pounds, to Abrahams 6’4, 240 pounds. Between the time of Abraham’s parole hearing, in April 2017, and three months ago, in October 2019, we received notification from the state that his sentence had been reduced 5 more times, because he knew how to accumulate additional credits behind bars. We have lived on eggshells since October.

Abraham is now 35, young enough to reestablish his criminal enterprise of drug-dealing and gun-running. If he had been required to serve at least the 15-year agreed to timeframe, he would not have been released for another 4 ½ years. The anxiety of not knowing when he was to be released, or when I will run into him in Bowie is a burden that I care with me daily. Please, don’t make others go through this, the stress of . As an aside, the shooter, who was found not guilty at trial, had offered to plead guilty for a 40-year sentence, and testify against three other

co-conspirators, until he found out that Abraham was going to be eligible for parole at 7 ½ years. Then HE wanted to be eligible for parole at 7 ½ years. We didn't want to send the wrong message, so he was taken to trial. He was found Not Guilty.

Please support HB0043, and let violent offenders know that the plea deal they commit to, is the time they will serve. Thank you,

Gale Seaton,

Stacey's mom