

DEAR JUDGE LARSEN

I'VE STRUGGLED WITH WRITING THIS LETTER, MY PLEA FOR MERCY. HOWEVER, I JUST LEARNED THAT MY EX-HUSBAND WAS FOUND DECEASED ON STEPS BEHIND HIS HOUSE. ALTHOUGH WE DIVORCED MANY YEARS AGO, WE REMAINED FRIENDS. THIS WAS MY ONLY MARRIAGE AND TWO BOYS WERE BORN TO US, MY ONLY CHILDREN. THEY ARE GROWN WITH 2 CHILDREN EACH, THREE GIRLS AND THE YOUNGEST IS ZANDER ENOCH, AGE 7. THERE WILL BE NO MORE GRANDCHILDREN AND ZANDER IS VERY SPECIAL TO ME. HE'S SMART, GOOD LOOKING & MY ONLY GRANSON 😊

THE DEATH OF MY EX-HUSBAND REALLY REMINDS ME OF MY IMMORTALITY. I'LL BE 59 IN DECEMBER. MY PARENTS & BROTHER DIED AT (60 MOM) (63 DAD) (63 BROTHER). THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE LEFT ARE MY SONS & THEIR FAMILY. MY DAYS ARE COUNTING DOWN AND I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO NOT DIE IN JAIL, THAT REALLY SCARES ME. ALSO, I'VE LIVED THIS HUMBLE, 1 BEDROOM HOUSE FOR TWELVE YEARS. I MOVED TO INDEPENDENCE IN JANUARY 2000 TO FREE MYSELF FROM AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP, AND LIFESTYLE. I CAN COUNT ON ONE HAND THE POSSESSIONS I BROUGHT WITH ME, BUT I STAYED EMPLOYED, SHOPPED AT THRIFT STORES AND RODE THE BUS FOR ABOUT FOUR YEARS. NOW, THIS HUMBLE HOUSE HAS BECOME MY HOME WHERE I PLANNED ON LIVING UNTIL MY DEATH. I AM SO AFRAID OF LOSING MY HOME, JOB, DOG, FAMILY & CHURCH. STARTING OVER, AFTER DOING SO WELL HERE, IS HARD TO COMPREHEND. I'M TOO OLD. I'M WONDERING WHAT WOULD BECOME OF ME, IF I HAVE TO GO TO JAIL, THEN TRY TO START OVER. PLEASE CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE TO MY SENTENCE. YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW SORRY I AM FOR MAKING THE CHOICE TO SELL MARIJUANA. IT WAS VERY FOOLISH AND I DIDN'T

REALLY THINK IT THROUGH. AT THAT TIME I HAD GOTTEN VERY ILL. I COULDN'T EAT & THE THOUGHT OF FOOD MADE ME FROWN FROM NAUSEA. I LOST ALMOST 40 POUNDS, HAD NO ENERGY AND LOST MY JOB. I LIVE ALONE SO THERE WAS NO OTHER INCOME. I WAS SO ILL I COULDN'T WORK, OR EVEN LOOK FOR WORK, THEREFORE I DIDN'T QUALIFY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT OR ANY ASSISTANCE OTHER THAN HOSPITAL DISCOUNT. IT TOOK MANY MEDICAL TEST BEFORE I WAS DIAGNOSED. ONCE I STARTED ON THE RIGHT MEDS I SLOWLY GOT BETTER. WHEN MY LEGAL ISSUES CAME ABOUT, I WAS CLOSE TO BEING WEENED OFF MEDICATION AND READY TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT.

I'VE BEEN EMPLOYED FOR TWO YEARS NOW, WITH THE SAME COMPANY. I CLEAN AND PAINT APARTMENTS AND CONDOS, TO MAKE THEM READY FOR NEW TENNANTS. I HAVE NOT HAD ANY POSITIVE DRUG TESTS. I AM VERY ACTIVE IN CHURCH AND I'M FOCUSING ON STARTING AN ADDICTIONS RECOVERY GROUP WITH GUIDENCE FROM MY PASTOR.

I KNOW I WAS ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE LAW AND NOT A POSITIVE MEMBER OF SOCIETY. I AM GUILTY. I'M NOT THE SAME WOMAN TODAY, I KNOW THAT I CAN BE AN ASSET TO MY COMMUNITY, CHURCH & JOB. ACTUALLY I AM NOW. INCARCERATION COST THE GOVERNMENT A LOT OF MONEY. I ASK YOU TO PLEASE CONSIDER ANOTHER AVENUE OF PUNISHMENT FOR ME. I DON'T EVER WANT TO GO BACK MY OLD LIFESTYLE. I'VE RECEIVED ENOUGH EXPERIENCE WITH BAD CHOICES AND TAKING SHORT CUTS. TIME IS TOO PRECIOUS TO WASTE. THANK YOU FOR THE TIME YOU HAVE TAKEN TO READ THIS.

Sincerely
M. Charlene Dartson



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