

May 5, 2020

I am writing this in hopes that the State of Michigan will further consider the SOR cruel and unusual punishment. And further admit that it is against the Constitution of the United convicted of murder registered sex offender. Since his conviction, our daily life is full of restrictions, prejudice, and a constant reminder of a crime that has a Never-ending punishment. A drug dealer can sell drugs, people can die and no one is ever held accountable. A person convicted of murder, does time, is released, without a registry. There needs to be a check and balance of a sex offender, considering there is only a 3-5 % reoffender rate.

Since the time of my husband's conviction, we lost our home, had to relocate. Thank goodness that employment was not hard when he was released because he went to work for family. How many other people have that privilege. There is slim to no chance for a person to gain employment after being a convicted sex offender. Thank goodness, my husband is of retirement age that he does not have to fight the employment hurdle. There is such a label and stigma of fear put into society for sex offenders. Today's laws have not caught up with the environment of young girls wanting to act like adults, without consequences.

We have lost many lifetime friendships because of the registry. No matter how many years of friendship, once you are labeled people always have doubt, and after a while it seems like they have drifted away all together. We are hardly ever included in social events anymore. People are afraid to invite us for fear of what the other guests might think. Since he is retired we would like to travel. Travel is hardly an option. We have a daughter that lives out of state. With we can go but with but with limited days. Each state has different guidelines and you must be careful to follow each state's guidelines. We would like to go to Europe, there are only a few countries that will allow a registrant to enter their country, but it is when we reenter the United States that scares us. We have heard horror story after horror story how they detain people, or take their passports to be reinstated with a "sex offender stamp." Do they have a stamp for murder's?

My husband comes from a very large family. They like to get together for picnics at local parks. Yes, we have been told that he can go, it is not considered loitering, but to never go to the public restroom himself for fear of altercation. Really?? That has made him so confused as to whether he should take the chance on joining his family. If someone recognized him all they would have to do is call and say he is loitering, or they feel threatened. And who do you think they Law Enforcement will side with?

California has a test that has guidelines as to what level of a threat an offender they are. Maybe Michigan could adapt this? Considering the "MeToo Movement" it seems like anyone's brother, father, or son is going to go down this rabbit hole sooner or later. I do not condone Sexual Assault, but I feel these laws really need to be re wrote.

Thank You for your time,
Maryann Saleh