

# NEWSLETTER

## EMERGING SOLIDARITY

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- You will read the stories of others enduring this sentence.
- You will also be notified and educated of changes and updates on legislation on Felony murder

Right now, in Pennsylvania, around 1,100 people are serving life without parole for felony murder condemned to die in prison for a death they did not commit or intend. Many were young when they were sentenced, some just teenagers.

**Felony Murder is cruel and unjust.**

ABOLISH  
FELONY  
MURDER NOW!

# Life Without Parole: A Sentence of Hopelessness and Injustice

Imagine being told, at 18 or 20 years old, that you will die in prison—no matter how much you grow, change, or redeem yourself. You will never hug your mother outside prison walls or celebrate a birthday as a free person. This is the cruel reality of life without parole (LWOP)—a sentence that denies redemption, destroys families, and serves no true purpose in a just society.

## A Sentence Without Hope

LWOP is often called “death by incarceration.” It strips away any chance of release, even for those who never killed anyone. Many sentenced to LWOP were young, caught in circumstances beyond their control—poverty, peer pressure, or the felony murder rule, which punishes people for murders they didn’t commit.

## The Human Cost

Those serving LWOP are more than their worst mistakes. They are sons, daughters, parents, and friends—people who have spent decades reflecting and changing, yet remain locked away with no hope of a second chance. Their families suffer too—children grow up with only prison visits, parents die without ever seeing their loved ones free.

## Justice Must Include Mercy

Punishment should be fair. LWOP says, “You are irredeemable,” yet countless incarcerated individuals have proven otherwise. Other countries recognize this, allowing review after 15–25 years because people can change. The U.S. must do the same.

## A System That Must Change

Thousands are serving LWOP under outdated laws that ignore human potential. Second chances matter. Judges should have discretion. Parole opportunities should exist.

## A Call to Action

Ending LWOP is about justice, mercy, and the belief that no life should be thrown away. It’s time to push for reform and remind the system that people are more than their past.

No one should be sentenced to die in a prison cell without hope.



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# A Call for Justice: Abolishing Pennsylvania's Felony Murder Rule

The felony murder rule is one of the most unjust and outdated doctrines in the American legal system. In Pennsylvania, this law allows individuals to be sentenced to life without parole for a murder they did not commit, intend, or even foresee. It disproportionately punishes those who were merely present during a crime, fails to deter crime, and contributes to mass incarceration. It is time for Pennsylvania to abolish this archaic rule and embrace a justice system that truly serves fairness and rehabilitation.

## What is the Felony Murder Rule?

Under Pennsylvania law, a person can be convicted of second-degree murder if a death occurs during the commission of certain felonies—such as robbery, burglary, or kidnapping—regardless of their actual role in the killing. This means that even if someone did not pull the trigger, or was unaware that a co-defendant was armed, they can still be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

## Why the Felony Murder Rule Fails to Deter Crime

Supporters of the felony murder rule argue that it deters crime by discouraging individuals from participating in felonies where someone might get killed. However, research and real-world cases show otherwise:

**Lack of Intent:** The rule punishes people who never intended to commit murder. Most individuals caught in felony murder cases are often young, underprivileged, or coerced into criminal activity without fully understanding the consequences.

**No Preventative Effect:** Studies indicate that extreme sentencing does not deter crime.

**Unfair Sentencing:** Those convicted under this rule receive the same life sentence as the actual killer, eliminating any distinction between major and minor participants in a crime.

## The Human Cost: Lives Wasted Behind Bars

Pennsylvania has one of the highest rates of life-without-parole sentences in the country, and many of these cases involve felony murder convictions. The rule disproportionately impacts marginalized communities, particularly Black and brown individuals, who are overrepresented in the prison system.

Many individuals serving life for felony murder were teenagers or young adults at the time of their crime. They have since demonstrated rehabilitation, remorse, and personal growth, yet remain condemned to die in prison. The felony murder rule denies them the opportunity for redemption.

## A Growing Movement for Reform

States across the country are re-evaluating and reforming their felony murder laws. In recent years:

California passed a law limiting felony murder convictions to those who intended to kill or played a major role in the homicide.

Illinois restricted its use to prevent unjust life sentences.

Other states, including Massachusetts and Michigan, have seen growing movements pushing for reform.

Pennsylvania must follow suit. Legislative efforts have been introduced, but more public pressure and advocacy are needed to push lawmakers to take action.

## Abolishing Felony Murder: A Step Toward Justice

Ending the felony murder rule in Pennsylvania would not mean letting dangerous criminals walk free. Instead, it would ensure that punishment fits the crime. Those involved in felonies where a death occurs should be held accountable based on their actual actions and intent, not a blanket rule that disregards individual circumstances.

Justice should not be about vengeance but fairness, rehabilitation, and second chances. Pennsylvania must end felony murder convictions and provide pathways for those unjustly sentenced to seek relief.

## How You Can Help

Contact your legislators and urge them to support reform efforts.

Support advocacy organizations working to end extreme sentencing laws.

Raise awareness by sharing the stories of those impacted by felony murder convictions.

**RISE UP AND  
REFORM!**



The time for change is now. Pennsylvania must take a stand against unjust sentencing and move toward a legal system that prioritizes true justice.

# Buried Alive: The Injustice of Life Without Parole for Felony Murder in Pennsylvania

Right now, in Pennsylvania, around 1,100 people are serving life without parole for felony murder condemned to die in prison for a death they did not commit or intend. Many were young when they were sentenced, some just teenagers, caught in a system that does not distinguish between those who pulled the trigger and those who were simply present.

For them, hope is a fading memory. They wake up every day knowing they will never hold their loved ones outside prison walls, never have a chance to show the world they have changed. Families suffer alongside them mothers and fathers grow old waiting for a justice system that will never reconsider, children visit prison instead of playing in their parents' arms.

Even more devastating, about 70% of those serving this sentence are Black and Brown, a reflection of a system that punishes some communities more harshly than others. Pennsylvania remains one of the few states that still enforces mandatory life sentences for felony murder, refusing to recognize that justice should be about more than punishment it should be about fairness, redemption, and second chances.

It is time to end this cruel and senseless practice. No one should be sentenced to die behind bars for a crime they did not commit.



*freedom*

STAND UP FOR CHANGE

*use  
your  
voice*

Advocate for the  
repeal of felony  
murder laws"

**Felony Murder is cruel and unjust!**

**It needs to be abolished.**

**WE DEMAND  
REFORM**



**COMING SOON**  
*freedom*

*Rise  
WITH  
Purpose*

**PENNSYLVANIA THIS SENTENCE IS  
CRUEL UNJUST AND UNFAIR**

**ABOLISH  
FELONY  
MURDER NOW!!!**

*never  
give  
up*



# YOUR LOVED ONE NEEDS YOUR VOICE

A D V O C A T E

FOR YOUR LOVED ONE



BE THE VOICE OF

**CHANGE**



*Action  
Creates  
Change*





# BREAKING NEWS



**CONVICTED:**

Former  
Philadelphia police  
detective Frank  
Jastrzembski



**CONVICTED:**

Former  
Philadelphia police  
detective Manuel  
Santiago



**ACQUITTED:**

Retired  
Philadelphia  
homicide detective  
Martin Devlin

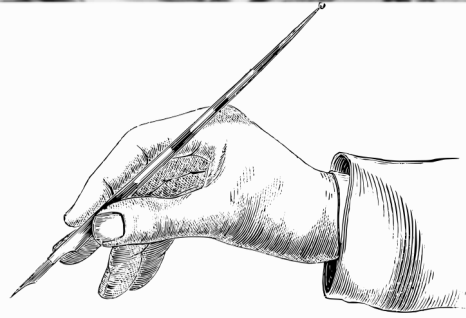


**Former Philadelphia Homicide  
Detectives charged with False  
Swearing and Perjury**

*Emerging Solidarity*

*Emerging Solidarity*

# EMERGING SOLIDARITY



## EDITOR'S NOTE:

We hope that you have gained some valuable information and a sense of empowerment from our website and newsletter. Our mission is to advocate for freedom and to educate our loved ones on how to do the same. We invite you to fully utilize our site, and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out via our website chat. Our site administrator will get back to you at their earliest convenience. Stay Empowered!

**-EMERGING SOLIDARITY**

*We will always fight for our loved one and yours as well.*

