



## **Why did you gamble?**

When Stephen was asked this question in an interview he frankly had no answer. He honestly couldn't come up with a reasonable explanation. We talked and pondered about that issue and in Chapter 32 of the book we talk about how people self-medicate to relieve internal pain. Gambling is one of those tools that people use to alleviate interior pain.

## **Did you see your husband's life deteriorating?**

No, there wasn't any indication to me except that he spent too much time watching sporting events. I had no idea the amount of gambling he was doing.

## **Did you ever know the amount of money he bet?**

No, because I told him I didn't want to know. However, in an interview after the original book was published we were asked that question and I said it didn't make any difference now because gambling was the furthest concept from Stephen's mind – of that I was sure. So I said sure you can talk about it in the interview. He told the interviewer that he bet \$5,000 per game – every day and that there were a lot of games on any given evening. You can do the math...it was a lot of money!

## **What type business was your husband in?**

Stephen had a real estate investment firm selling raw land for appreciation. He sold units of participation in a piece of raw land, and he looked to sell the land at a higher price so that all of the investors would make a good return on their investment. The legal document used was called a private placement offering which could have up to 24-units of participation under the Georgia Security laws in the 1970's.

## **Did your husband intend to break the law?**

He was making so much money legitimately that it never would have occurred to him to do something illegal. His actions were not premeditated – things he did were illegal and criminal but not intentional. If Stephen were here today, he would tell you that he earned the right to go to prison. He was utterly transparent in his telling of the story.

## **Did the lack of intention play into his prison sentence?**

No, absolutely not, he received a very stiff sentence of two 4-year sentences running consecutively plus 5-years' probation after the 8-years served.

## **Were you a religious family? How would you describe your life prior to your husband's legal problems?**

We were not religious at all! Stephen was Jewish and I identified as an Episcopalian but I had been a "belonger", not a believer. We didn't think about God but I am sure we used His name inappropriately. We, as a couple, were a strong unit totally self-confident and full of self-importance.

## **When did your life begin falling apart?**

Interestingly, I could say I began to have twinges of unrest during my pregnancy. Everything was great – we had lots of money, position, and possessions. I was totally loved by Stephen. We wanted for nothing by this point, but I kept bringing the subject up to Stephen that I felt empty. We had achieved so much but I felt "Is this all there is?" There was something missing but I had no idea what. Success was not delivering as I had expected it to do. Blake was born in February of 1974 and two months later Stephen was made aware that his attorneys had not filed the annual 6-J exemptions for his private placement land offerings. They forgot and now as of 1974 there was no savings clause that allowed one to pay a fine or fee or back date a document. The private placement offering without the exemptions now became a full-blown security offering. There was no way to fix the problem and so the problems began in earnest.