

Justice for April Wilkens: A Call to Action

We, the undersigned organizations and community leaders, denounce the Tulsa County District Court’s recent decision denying relief to survivor **April Wilkens** under the Oklahoma Survivors’ Act.

April has spent **27 years in prison** for defending herself against her abusive fiancé. Her case is emblematic of the very circumstances that led the Oklahoma Legislature to pass the Survivors’ Act in 2024: to recognize that prolonged domestic violence can be a substantial contributing factor in the circumstances leading to criminal convictions.

Despite overwhelming evidence—including testimony from a federal judge, expert witnesses on domestic violence, and decades of documentation of abuse—the court disregarded this truth and denied April’s rightful path to resentencing. This ruling is not only a personal tragedy for April, but a chilling signal to all survivors across Oklahoma: the justice system still refuses to believe them.

Our Call to Action

We call on Oklahoma leaders—legislators, prosecutors, and judges—to act with courage and compassion. Survivors cannot wait another 27 years.

- **To the Courts:** Follow the law as written. The Survivors’ Act demands full and fair consideration of survivor testimony and evidence.
- **To the Legislature:** Exercise your oversight authority to ensure the Survivors’ Act is applied justly and consistently, and strengthen it where courts have failed survivors.
- **To the Community:** Stand with April and other survivors by speaking out, amplifying their voices, and demanding justice.

Survivors deserve safety, dignity, and freedom. April deserves her second chance.

Together, we urge every Oklahoman who believes in fairness to raise their voice. Call your legislators. Write to your local papers. Share April’s story. This ruling is not the final word—and we will not stop until survivors are heard, believed, and free.

Signed,

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Former Mayor of Tulsa

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