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Message

It appears that there is a systemic problem within Missaukee County, and it would seem that it is a problem that has existed for well over the past 20 years. I sat in one of those court rooms roughly 20 years ago for a similar proceeding. This case did not involve a teacher though, a person that should have been extensively vetted and subject to extreme scrutiny. In the case of my child, it was merely a step parent, who was employed by a local camp. Those details are not entirely necessary all these years later, however as the judge prepares to sentence this predator, the community as a whole needs to be both vigilant and demanding. In my child's case the sentence was 15 - 30 and from the experience of being a childhood victim myself in an entirely different county, I can tell you that the sentence in these kinds of cases NEVER EVER meets the requirements to satisfy the life lasting damage that has occurred. Rarely is justice ever metered out by the so called justice system. As near as I can tell, the justice system is just a flawed piece of the county's revenue generation machine that cares less about the victims and their lifelong path to healing(that almost never happens). In a perfect world, crimes like this would not exist, nor would they be normalized to the point that sentencing guidelines for the crimes even exist. Yes, you read that correctly. This is a crime that has been normalized by the penal code itself. It has existed for at least the last 50 years and as stated, the punishment never comes close to equaling the damage done to the victim /s.

My presence and voice inside a court room would not have the impact that this letter itself may. You see, I was a young lad of perhaps 7 years of age when Hell came knocking. I spent most of my childhood in and out of trouble for which I am responsible. In 1997 I finally got in trouble serious enough to nearly end up in prison myself for crimes of dishonesty, related to supporting a drug and alcohol addiction that I had developed as a result of trying to cope and contain the urge to somehow hunt down my abuser.

In 2007, my mother died with so many unanswered questions, and still blaming herself for things she could have never truly known, because it was simply not something that was discussed in the mainstream, and furthermore same gender abuse was largely unthought of at that time. My abuser has since died of natural causes of course. I almost threw my life away as a means of trying to cope with all of the haunting thoughts, the self doubt, the self blame, and the haunting images that even to this day creep up from time to time. Fact of the matter is this judge should sentence this clown to no less than 30 years and no more than natural life because that is the duration of the damage done to the victims.

If someone is going to speak within the proceedings on the day of sentence, while the abuser deserves the full weight and impact, the system itself is far from innocent in all of it, from the School that hired him and placed him in a trusted position of authority over children, to the social worker that not only failed the victim /s, right on to the very judicial system overseeing the proceeding that is taking place, and even the state who establishes the unrealistic guidelines pertaining to a lifetime of damage and trauma that the victim will survive, if they should be so fortunate. In my personal case, I am the last living victim of my abuser, Many simply went the way of self anesthetizing or medicating by any means possible until there was simply nothing left to medicate.

I hope and pray that this judge passes a sentence that actually somewhat serves the victims both investigated and dismissed.

The road ahead is bumpy and long, but it is navigable,