

December 5, 2015

Honorable Governor Nikki Haley,
Merry Christmas. My name is Anthony Childers. I am writing in hopes that you may be able to help my family and I. As you may have guessed, I am currently incarcerated with the Department of Corrections, housed at Tyger River in Spartanburg County. Please allow me to tell you about myself and my family. I am 34 years old, born and raised in Gaffney. I am a 2001 graduate of Spartanburg Technical College with a degree in electronics. I was a volunteer firefighter for 10 years, a medic with Upstate Carolina Medical Center for 5 years, and a Red Cross volunteer for 5 years. I hold an amateur radio license with the FCC and was an active member of the Cherokee County Emergency Services group. I also volunteered as a NOAA weather spotter when the need arose. All of this while operating my own business, ACE Electronics, serving our community and employing several citizens for nearly 8 years. Between my busy life, I have endured cancer twice, stage 2 in 2005 and stage 4 in 2012. I was placed on full disability in early 2013.

Governor, I have never been in trouble with the legal system except for 2 speeding infractions when I was in high school, and 2 seatbelt violations. As a matter of fact, I was registered with SLED, having a concealed weapons permit. To this very day I have NEVER tasted a single drop of alcohol, NEVER smoked a single cigarette, nor taken a single drug. I have never disgraced my body with any tattoos either. However, I made a terrible decision in late 2011 when at the age of 29, I had a one time intimate encounter with a 15 year old female. It was a stupid mistake on my part. Because of that choice, I lost everything I owned. This included my home, my business, my wife of 12 years, my freedom, and all the respect, trust, and relationships I had built in my activities I described above. When I was arrested I told the detectives the truth. I didn't waste their time, nor did I lie. I was raised to be honest. I have wonderful parents who taught me everything I needed to know in order to succeed in life. More than anything, I let my parents down. I have been incarcerated for 2 years and 3 months. I was on house arrest for 2 years prior to my court appearance, during which time I was fighting for my life from a hospital bed due to the stage 4 cancer. I confessed to my actions, took full responsibility, and accepted my sentence. I also apologized to the young lady's family for what I had done and the troubles I caused. I was charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct - 2nd Degree with a Minor (14-16 years old). This charge carried a 0-20 year possibility. The judge sentenced me to the maximum 20 years, suspended to 12 years. He gave me credit for the house arrest of 2 years. I am down to a remaining time to serve of 6 years, 3 months at the writing of this letter.

With that being said, I am seeking your help please. Governor, my father was diagnosed with asbestosis earlier this year. He has diabetes, high blood pressure, and many other ailments. Just this week I learned he had suffered a heart attack. His heart isn't filling up with blood before it pumps, causing him to pass out and fall.

My mother on the other hand has leukemia. She has also undergone dual mastectomies for breast cancer twice. My only brother, Jeremy, works as a 911 telecommunicator in Lancaster County. A 15 year plus veteran of public service, he is unable to be nearby to care for our parents due to his job. I just want to spend the rest of my parents time caring for them at home. I am willing to serve my remaining time on house arrest if only allowed to be with my father. This way I could care for him and see he is comfortable and safe. I have a spotless and clean record in SCDC. I have been gainfully employed as an electrician for the last 2 years. I was elected to serve on the Warden's Inmate Representative Committee. I have served in the chapel and completed numerous self help and improvement classes. I have changed and improved my life already. I am a much better person than I was before.

Governor Haley, ironically there is another incident which has caused my family much grief. Just within the last few months, an upstate female teacher was charged with the exact same charge as myself. She was 33 years old, while her victim was 14. She was entrusted to teach and work with children everyday. The same judge that presided my case, also ruled over her case. She was sentenced to only 5 years probation! I have never been in trouble, I have devoted my life to serving the community, I have rescued people from burning homes, I have saved the lives of young and old in the back of an ambulance, I have given thousands to the needy. I made one mistake and I must pay for it with 1/3 of my life? This teacher, entrusted to the safety and education of our nation's future, makes the same mistake and she gets a slap on the wrist compared to me?

Everyone I know, including law enforcement personnel I worked with daily says my punishment was harsh for my crime, especially with a clean record. I am simply asking for any help you may be able to provide.

Governor, can you help me get home to care for my parents and make their last days comfortable? My father has said numerous times that his one dying wish is to live long enough to see me released from prison before he passes. If I am allowed to continue my time on house arrest, I guarantee you will never hear of me again in the legal system. I am willing to do anything necessary to make this possible. I have learned my lesson and have repented of my ways. You have no idea how much this would mean to ALL of my family.

Thank you Governor Haley for taking the time to read my letter. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for any consideration and assistance you may be able to provide. May you and your family have a Happy Holiday season, and a blessed New Year.

Humbly and Respectfully,



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