

11-February-2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

I hope this letter finds you well. I really don't know how to write this letter to make you as concerned for justice as me. I have a friend, David Luke Burrell, who is in prison for being accused of molesting his daughter. **After personally talking to my friend's daughter, this molestation never happened.** At the time, his daughter was trying to get even with David over disciplinary issues. David was a truck driver trying to raise his 15-year old daughter and younger autistic son alone. David hired his cousin to stay at his home when he was on the road working to provide for his family. We found out that a lot of the family problems were coming from this cousin. We also later found out that David's cousin was trying to get more money out of David for drugs and had even gotten David's daughter started on drugs.

At David's first trial in Spartanburg, South Carolina, David's pastor and I overheard his court-appointed lawyer tell David that if he didn't plead guilty to the charges he could possibly get 20 years in prison. However, if he pleaded guilty, he could possibly get him off with 6 months. David's father was also present, and based on his lawyer's recommendations, advised David to take the plea. Both, David's pastor and I highly recommended that **he not do this.** David's father was under the impression that David would only serve 6 months, and he could then resume his normal life with his family and children. David was also concerned that if his daughter was found guilty of committing perjury, she would be punished with jail time. Well, David received 20 years after pleading guilty. **He has now served 11 years of his sentence.**

David went back to court a second time at a cost of over \$10,000. He had to sell everything he had left.....his home, car, and personal items, to pay this \$10,000 fee to the attorney. **David's**

daughter told the judge at the second trial she had lied; but because David pleaded guilty at the first trial, the judge would not let him change his plea, notwithstanding the bad advice from his lawyer and his dad.

I'm writing this letter trying to get David released from prison. David's daughter has since married and has two kids of her own. David's autistic son is with David's mother who is approximately 80 years of age. David's dad has recently died, and David's mother doesn't have a lot of money and is having a very difficult time raising his son.

Is there is anything we can do to get you to read David's court transcripts, or could someone just talk to him and hear his story? David wants to get out of prison to help his family including his autistic son. You can ask anyone in our church that knew David, and they would witness to his character and his love for his children.

Warm regards,



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