

Dear MR. Filler,

Please be sure to read my testimony before the session tomorrow morning.

It is easier for me to 'speak' on paper, I will try to be as concise as possible. I married someone already on the SOR. He had pled guilty to two misdemeanor counts in 1999 to spare his family further pain. His sentence was a year of probation. He did get divorced but maintained contact with his family. He did have a psychiatric exam which said he was not a repeat offender type.

I have been married to him now for 15 years. I had two daughters by a previous marriage, one was already 18. During that time, my ex-husband found out that he was on the SOR, took me to court and rather than give the ex custody, my husband moved out to a condo close by. (although not a 'criminal', my ex-husband was not a good option for raising my daughter, I'll leave it there) He was not allowed contact with my daughter until she reached 18. After 3 years of marriage our family was torn apart, my eldest daughter (18) testified on my husband's behalf but it made no difference to the judge. I was chastised by the judge for using such poor judgement in marrying him. I am here to tell you that there are many on the list who are not going to be re-offenders. Many studies have proved that out, as well. But the presumption has been that everyone on the list is a threat of one sort or another, and will always remain so. Which is incredibly incorrect.

My husband and I managed to maintain a relationship. My husband had been a sales executive and started his own consulting business. My ex husband had a girlfriend that felt like continuing to cause problems for us (as admitted by my ex) and contacted the US Marshall. To this day we have no idea why, but a Marshall showed up at my husbands client and told them grossly exaggerated lies. We were helpless to do anything about it, damage done. The client ceased the relationship with my husband and, because consulting is such a referral business, my husband also lost the opportunity to engage with other references that might have been provided through success at the account.

As the laws evolved grandfathering everyone on the list into a tightening choke hold, my husband felt compelled to leave the state. He would not be able to find business in Michigan to continue being a contributor to the family. We decided he would move to the Chicago area where he could continue his business as well as look after my folks as they were aging. In Illinois he no longer had to be on the registry because 10 years had elapsed since his conviction. He continued his business as well as provided support to my parents. He moved back to Michigan in 2018. He is getting older now and has lost all confidence in being able to find any employment in Michigan as a tier 2 registrant. He is also afraid to participate in his community should someone uncover the listing. Such a shame because he could still have a lot to offer.

I implore you to change the current laws to evidence based, not a presumption that everyone is a complete detriment to society and needs to be ostracized - forever. That is what the law does today. There are now some 44,000 people on the list which is a ridiculous number of people to believe they are all a threat to society. The law needs to address those who are truly at risk of reoffending and a danger to the public based on science. That is where the real focus should be. For others who have paid their debt, let them move on with their lives and families and to contribute to society.

AT THE VERY LEAST, POSTPONE DECISIONS UNTIL AFTER THE COVID 19 CRISIS!

Thank you,
Nancy Vogrin