

**POPULAR**  
profiles a loss of  
**Liberty**



POPULAR Constituent:

Initials - T.P.

City, State - Taylor County, Texas

This is the story of my son who was caught up in the unfair justice system of Taylor County in Abilene, Texas when he was 17 years old. At the time, we wondered why our son who had not been in any trouble before received such a harsh sentence. This occurred in Oct. 2000. He and his 15 year old cousins were influenced to attempt to rob a delivery truck by 2 known grown criminals. Of the 3 other victims, my son who actually tried to help the man, who was robbed received the hardest sentence. There were no weapons used. No one was injured and no money took, but My son was charged as an adult and got 10 year probation for an aggravated robbery. This was considered aggravated due to the age of the victim, I believe. There was a statement from the victim that said my son tried to help but this was not even considered. We believe that this was the start of the downfall of my son.

There were some improper procedures that occurred in this case and it is too detailed to go into but I mentioned this to say, we believe that the DA office here has a personal vendetta against my husband and he has made it his mission to take it out on my son. My son told us that his Lawyer(JH) told him that the DA wants your father bad and that is why I can not take your money for the case that I am about to talk about. One day my husband was in the courthouse and he overheard a conversation in the DA's office and the DA told this judge, Something to the effect that we are going to offer everyone 10 years and if they do not take it, we will give them 25-35 years and. My husband started telling everyone he knew this. He believes that someone told the DA office this. My husband has had numerous people tell him that the DA office wants you bad. They believe that you are a drug dealer. This is not the case. He does not sell drugs, If he sold drugs, they would have been able to arrest him by now. We do not have any money and we would have been able to buy our son's freedom if this was the case.

Just recently, my nephew, the same one who was a minor and was involved with my son in his original sentence was arrested and charged with the crime of having around 7 pounds of marijuana while being on probation and there was a gun found in his house also. He was told by his lawyer, the same (JH) that he could pay her \$1500 and if he paid the DA \$10,000 he could get out of the trouble that he is in and be allowed to go to the military. This just happened a few days ago. I say all of this to give the information on my son that is locked up for 21 years for the exact same crime.

He was at an apartment at a friend's house and he was arrested at the house without a search warrant. At the time of the arrest, the officers went into the apt and searched the house and found some marijuana and 3 guns. When the officers rang the door, they did not identify themselves as policeman. The friend opened the door and let them in, She was rushed back to the back, and was told if you let us search, we will let you go and not charge you with anything. This is what happened.

They took him down to the police department and not the Taylor County Detention Center. He was there for 4 hours. He was drilled and denied access to a lawyer. He had a Lawyer at the time(JH) but he was not allowed to see her even though he asked for counsel. My Husband

waited for hours trying to see him and we were denied access to him also. He was told that if he signed and confessed to everything, they would drop the gun charges and he would get a light sentence. This occurred on December 15th, 2005. He has been locked up ever since that day. He was told by lawyer, that he was getting his probation revoked but he was just going to get 1 year's sentence and he would be out of jail. This is not what occurred. He was sent to Prison but after there a few months, he was transferred to the Feds on the same charge and sent to Lubbock. He was told by Judge (SC) that he must take their plea or get 99 years in prison. He was taken before the judge off the record, so to speak. There were no witnesses like court reporters or anyone. He was taken there before his plea day. He did not know what to do except take the plea.

On the date of the plea, he tried to change his mind and told them that he wanted to go to trial, but he was denied this action. He was told that he could not change his mind. This is all in the court records. He told them that the only reason that he had taken the original pleas was because he thought he was getting one year in prison. So what ended up happening was he was given 10 years state prison and 11 years Federal prison for the exact same crime. They basically have taken his freedom away. His lawyer did ask that they run the time concurrently but they did not. He is serving his state prison time in the Clemens unit and after he serves that he must go to the Fed. He is only 26 years old and he will be old when he gets out. They have basically taken his life away and yes, I believe that you must pay for your crimes, but let the punishment fit the crime and not be motivated by who is liked or disliked or who has money and who does not have money.

There is so much more detail to this story and my son has all of that information. This is just the condensed version. My son was actually too easily influenced while he was young and made some bad decisions but he is not a bad person to this day. He keeps his nose clean while in prison because he wants to be given another chance at life and this is all that I am praying for.