

3/18/2021

I never expected the worst to happen. I never pictured myself taking my 9-year-old daughter to the police station to report that my husband had abused her. I never imagined what would come after: our lives in pieces, a daunting and humiliating public court trial, being left as a single mom to 4 young kids, and definitely not the years of pain that have followed.

I don't think that anybody ever really expects something like that to happen. I certainly had always hoped and prayed that my children would be protected from the evils of sexual abuse. The truth is that people do bad things, they hurt others, and we can't always predict it or prevent it. But when it does happen, it's important to know that those responsible will be held accountable.

The minimum sentence ensured by Measure 11 was a huge relief to me as the mother of the abuse victim. Knowing that the perpetrator will be safely incarcerated for at least 25 years means that I can rest assured knowing that my daughter can grow up without always looking over her shoulder. She can feel safe and free and not have to stress or worry about him trying to come back into her life. She can have the childhood that he tried to steal from her.

I never expected the worse to happen, but when it did, Measure 11 helped us get through it. In such a difficult time, it was everything just to know that justice was being rightly served, and that my daughter, and all other children, were being kept safe from a true sexual predator. If he is locked up in prison, he can't do this to anybody else. That is, maybe, the biggest relief of all. Now that we know that he's gone for a long long time, my family can live in peace, without fear, and with a hope that we wouldn't be allowed had he gotten a lighter sentence.

Thank you for doing what's best for the victims of the worst of the worst crimes, those awful things nobody ever imagines happening to them. Thank you for Measure 11 and minimum sentencing. It's the reason that my daughter doesn't live life afraid and feeling like a victim anymore, but instead, she's a survivor.

Tessa Pomerleau