

March 6, 2015

Tracey Shaw # OD 4315
451 Fullerton Avenue
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403

Michael Fox
C/o Melchiondo 100 Kittie Dr.
New Hope, PA 18938

Dear Mr. Fox,

Thank you for your help.

Yours truly,

Tracey Shaw

Tracey Shaw
OD 4315

Enclosure: My Story

PA Life Inmate Tracey Shaw: A Case to Reopen

My name is Tracey Shaw, Black, female, and 46 years of age. Based on an unfair trial and outcome, I am currently serving 6 life sentences at PA Cambridge Springs State Correctional Institution for a crime I didn't commit. 2015 marks 20 long years behind bars. And I'm seeking your help obtaining a fair and honest chance to gain release.

Questionable Accusations

I'm wrongly accused and convicted of starting the fire that killed 6 innocent children --- 4 of them mine and the other 2, my godchildren. During court proceedings the public defender failed to present supportive evidence proving I wasn't responsible for that fire. Neglected discrepancies include:

- Key defense witness Katrina Henderson, on the witness stand, adversely changes original statements she gave to Philadelphia police about seeing my ex- boy friend Andre Broggins lurking around my house, hollering obscenities, hurling something, and running away from my porch. Katrina stated that after watching Andre she looked back and witnessed the devastating flames licking the living room window. Homicide detectives testified in court she told them this. And I saw Katrina's signature on her original statements.
- A Tropicana juice bottle with traces of gasoline, submitted as evidence by the prosecution, is not removed from the fire scene until 2 months after the fire. I am not aware of how it got there. For child safety reasons I did not have glass juice bottles around my home. If they found a bottle with traces of gasoline in it, why didn't it explode or break in the fire? This glass container was dusted for fingerprints and they were someone else's, not mine.
- Evidence used to determine who and how the fire started fire is, at most, circumstantial and inconclusive
- During the trial, I'm in an emotionally broken state, in shock, heavily medicated, and mentally subdued. I never speak in my own defense because my defense attorney leads me to believe I will not need to. (Read about trial in Philadelphia and national press coverage)
- Key prosecution witness Broggins perjures himself on the stand, and without objection is still allowed to continue his testimony
- The prosecutor improperly inflames the jury, telling them, "She's no grieving mother...", and that I cleverly committed this crime

- Relative physical and mental abuse I received at the hands of Broggins is overlooked by the defense. Broggins increasingly abused me. I put him out my house, and he would still not leave me and my children alone.

Fire, Arrest, and Legally Unchallenged Contradictions

December 23, 1994 someone one (I believe to be Andre Broggins) sets my house ablaze. The fire occurs between the hours of 6:00 and 7:00 AM. There are 7 children (none of the children are Andre's) and myself in the house. I'm able to save one child, my 6 month old baby son, Nathaniel.

February 19, 1995, I am arrested, charged with 6 counts of murder on hearsay that I was supposed to have made threats to set my house on fire if Broggins did not return to live with me. That statement came from Broggins after he is questioned a number of times by homicide detectives. Two months after the fire, the prosecution produces someone who also states she heard me make threats to Andre Broggins. It is not true.

60 days after the fire, Philadelphia detectives go to the crime scene, photograph the juice bottle and lighter fluid can, and then remove them from my house. They say the bottle, with the traces of gasoline in it, was in my house on the day of the fire. But police did not remove it until two months after the fire (making the scene vulnerable to tampering). My house was not secured and anyone could have been in there. Initial photographs of the crime scene show a bottle on the floor, then following pictures show the juice bottle on the countertop (someone places the bottle wherever they want). On the day of the fire, detectives take various items for evidence from my home, but not that questionable bottle.

Also, Broggins tells detectives where he had placed a can of lighter fluid he said he took from me a month before the fire. This can did not have my fingerprints on it. Broggins lied throughout the entire process

Broggins was supposed to have been at a hotel and in a room with a prostitute at the time of the fire. The woman testified that she fell asleep between 6:00 and 6:15 AM and did not wake up until 7:30 AM. She also said that she is a sound sleeper.

- Andre Broggins and the woman's stories did not match. He said he had met her on the streets around the Richard Allen projects. The prostitute said he was in a hallway with another woman when they met.
- The room he was supposed to be in opens up directly onto a fire escape that can take a person out of that building without being noticed. Broggins was familiar with

the layout of the room because he had spent time in the room 3 or 4 times before the night of the fire

Video footage was played in the court supposedly showing Andre Broggins and a woman in the hotel hallway around 2:00 AM on December 23, 1994. However:

- You really cannot see the faces of who they are
- The owner of the hotel testified in court that there are numerous ways of getting in and out of the building without being seen on camera
- It takes approximately 16 minutes to get from the hotel to my house and back. Broggins had enough time to travel from the hotel to my house and return before the woman woke up

Again, I did not commit this heinous crime. I believe that the prosecution's witness Andre Broggins is the real murderer. Because he had 2 prime motives:

- a. Broggins was beneficiary of a \$25, 000 life insurance policy he pushed me to take out on me and my children
- b. Due to his abusiveness I refused to accept him and put him out of my home

Trial and Errors

My trial was lengthy. The public defender's experience nonetheless was not enough to establish a sound defense for the severity of the charges stacked against me. Here are a following series of significant and haunting questions that need answering:

1. Was the first degree guilty verdict given to me fairly, or handed down unjustly by the lack of weight and incompetence of evidence?
2. Did the court err by not giving proper restorative instructions to the jury when Andre Broggins, a prosecution witness, mentioned a lie detector test taken prior to trial?
3. Did the court err by allowing the witness for the prosecution Broggins to continue with his testimony after clearly perjuring himself on the stand?
4. Did the court err when it allowed into evidence, a Tropicana bottle that had traces of gasoline, when the bottle was not found at the scene until 2 months after the fire took place, and it was supposedly sitting in plain sight in the kitchen for investigators to originally find?
5. Did the court err when it allowed the prosecution to selectively exclude Black jurors through preemptory challenges?
6. Did the court err by failing to "Life Qualify" the jurors?

7. Did the defense err when it did not:
 - a. Have proper psychological examinations completed on the defendant
 - b. Consider the fact that the defendant was at a second grade level, and did not in fact understand all the proceedings against her, thus not allowing her to help with a defense for herself?
8. Did the court err by allowing the prosecutor to improperly inflame the jury and their passions during the prosecutor's closing arguments?
9. Did the courts err by not allowing the defendant to appeal by Post Conviction Release Act, due to the fact that her time had lapsed, even though she did not have knowledge or help with her appeal process?

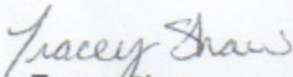
Conclusion

My total focus is on getting a fair chance to prove my innocence in the fire deaths of my six beloved children- Catria, Jerra, Shawn, Mary, Inez, and Linda. I always think about them. And my baby Nathaniel, growing up to be a young adult without me and him ever being together as mother and son. I love all my children.

I hope you will take my case. I am grateful for any assistance. Either way, please contact me at the address below.

Thank you.

Respectfully,


Tracey Shaw

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