

To whom it may Concern,

December, 2019

In the fall of 2017 I received a letter from one, Raymond Earl Evert from Montana State Prison. He was seeking a place to live in the event he was released at his next Parole Board hearing. Ray was charged in 1997 for sex without consent with a 17 yr. He was sentenced by a Kalispell, Montana judge and given a level 2 status. This was his first and only felony.

We began to correspond and I was reluctant to rent a room in my home to Ray because I believed him to be delusional based upon his claims in his correspondence with me. His claims were that he could do practically anything in any unskilled labor position from sewing to building bridges, and that once out, he'd have a job immediately even though he'd been incarcerated for 22+ years. But when I tried to contact family or friends from his past they seemed non-existent.

But over the course of about 18 months, realizing that Ray really had no other option I agreed to rent him a room in my house and picked him up at the bus station here on June 4, 2019. He had a check from the State of Montana for \$1.79 and the cloths on his back.

Ray turned out to be a very simple but extremely capable fellow. He immediately started putting in applications to anyplace within walking distance and started work at a fantastic job for him, fixing industrial pressure washing equipment at Yellowstone Water Solutions just 4 blocks from my house. Because he came from prison with a valid driver's license, the first such case in my long history of taking in felons, and his attitude was basically impeccable, I loaned him, and then sold him a 1994 Ford Ranger pickup that I owned. We agreed he would pay me \$100/mo. for 10 months which he paid faithfully along with his \$300/month room rental.

I got to observe Ray on a daily basis as we both were early risers and nearly every day he would start the day sitting prayerfully and peacefully at my dinner table with a cup of coffee. He could fix anything broken in my house, he maintained his room, vehicle, clothing and personal hygiene better than any man I've met. He was early to everything, church, PAR meetings and I am sure his SOP treatment mtgs. The way Ray conducted himself with the internet, his phone, shopping, and people he met, including women, revealed to me zero risk to re-offend. He was cordial and polite and to me was managing himself flawlessly. With one exception.

Ray did not like being required to attend SOP treatment led by a woman or pay for that treatment, which he maintained he had successfully completed while in prison. From our conversations about his weekly meetings with his parole officer, Krystal, he liked and respected her and they seemed to have a productive working relationship.

On Aug. 30, 2019, Krystal revoked Ray and sent him back to jail on 9/3/19 at the Yellowstone County Detention facility. He waited there for a hearing to find out why he was revoked and on 9/5/2019 had his hearing. He was revoked for failing to be accountable for his actions in not complying with SPO treatment conditions. The actions referenced are not spelled out so Ray assumed it was because he had not paid for his treatment. Ray was returned to MSP to go before the Parole board on 10/15/2019. I emailed the Parole Board saying that I did not see any reason to revoke Ray or submit him to the same "one size fits all" treatment necessary for younger, level 3 sex offenders and stating that his stay at my house had been exemplary. The next day I got a phone call from Annette Carter, the chair of the board. She did not know Ray's case but said she would look into it. At his parole hearing, the board agreed with

Krystal's sanction and gave him another 180 days in prison and did not give him any credit for the 42 days he'd already been incarcerated for being violated.

There are a couple major problems with Ray's case as I see it. First is a system-wide problem. It's hard for me to see how a SOP provider is both tasked with assessing whether or not a person needs treatment in their SOP program and at the same time gets to charge the person for that treatment. Their income, their livelihood depends upon people being enrolled in their program and they are the ones who determine if it is needed. It is true that the SOP provider cannot revoke the participant, but how easily could a SOP provider and a PO collude with the threat of a return to prison hanging over the head of the participant? And does a 63 year old level 2 offender who's completed every treatment program the state offered while incarcerated, was a model inmate for over 20 years, even coming out of prison with a driver's license because of his jobs while incarcerated, need the same level of "after-care" as every other SO?

Secondly, in the Affidavit of Probable Cause from the on-site hearing at YCDF, Krystal, his PO admits to giving Ray no warning of sending him back to prison as she does not use even 1 step in the Departments incentives and interventions grid, the 1st incentive being a "verbal reprimand". As Ray was struggling to get along with Lisa, his SOP provider, and sought an alternative SOP by meeting with and paying Hal Lewis \$175.00 for an interview, he was not informed even once by Lisa that if he didn't get this figured out she would revoke him. Further, once in jail, when Ray could realize the seriousness of his SOP problem, Krystal records that Ray "begged" to be let back into Lisa's program. But instead of being returned to his home and job, and Lisa's group, humbled because of his obstinacy, he was sent back to MSP and a parole hearing, and another 180 days in prison.

Money speaks. Jeffrey Epstein, who pretty surely had hundreds of victims spent a total of 13 months in prison. Ray Evert, impecunious, is back after 22+ years with not even a hint toward re-offending so DOC can bill the State of Montana for another full bed.

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Second is a problem specific to Ray's case.

