

To: Ruth Taylor

From: PJ Langford (mother of victim)

Ref. Jared Ray Layne

PID # 50729-01

Dear Ms Taylor,

I am writing to you to express my objection to the pardon of Jared Ray Layne of the DWI, Reckless driving and felony manslaughter death of my only daughter, Elizabeth Langford. I would like you to know the kind of person she was, the effect of her death on me and the many others who loved her and why I oppose a pardon for the man who caused her death.

On July 14, 1997 an intoxicated Jared Layne driving approximately 80 mph in a 40 mph zone crashed in to Elizabeth's car which was pulling in to the street from the parking lot of my business. She had spent that morning babysitting our neighbor's children and that afternoon working at my store. She was working to save money for college. She was only 16 years old but she was a good driver. The police determined that she was in no way at fault.

Records show that Elizabeth was the only victim of Jared Layne's crimes and that is technically correct. However, in reality there were many victims. There are no words to adequately express the sorrow and grief of her many family members and friends. Jared Layne gave Elizabeth a death sentence. He gave her family and friends a life sentence without the possibility of parole. No one can pardon me from my pain. No one can restore my rights as a mother to see my only daughter attend her high school prom, high school or college graduation, wedding or future children. No one can restore her only brother's chance for someday being an uncle or restore his youth spent in grief and depression. He was only 19 yrs old when she died.

Not only was her death a personal loss to the many people who knew and loved her. It was a loss to society as well. Elizabeth was a caring and responsible young person who had so much to give. She always said she just wanted to make a difference and in her short life she did. As a child she was the one who always befriended the less fortunate child. As a teenager she was a positive influence on her friends. For example, when she found out that her best friend had shoplifted, Elizabeth refused to see or talk to her until she told her mom and returned the item to the store. Elizabeth was not only strong in her beliefs of right and wrong, she was kind and loving to everyone..family, friends, stray animals and strangers. She practiced doing "random acts of kindness" before it became a trend.

Elizabeth also wanted to be an organ donor. Tragically, Jared Layne was driving so fast the he not only ended Elizabeth's life but killed her so violently that none of her major organs were able to be saved for transplants. The people whose lives might have been saved by her 16 year old organs were also unnamed victims of Layne's reckless indifference.

I am enclosing a newspaper photograph of the wreck to show that Layne choose to drive drunk at an excessively high speed on a busy street on a Monday afternoon with total indifference to the life and safety to others. Apparently, he had a long history of dangerous traffic violations prior to July 14, 1997.

Considering the horrific circumstances of his crime, Layne received a very lenient sentence (ten years probation) for causing the death of an innocent 16 year old girl.

To my knowledge Layne has done nothing to make amends other than what was ordered by the court. If he has encouraged others not to do what he did, I am glad. I do not see how being pardoned would aid him in these efforts.

After Elizabeth's death, it was so difficult just to go on living, but I decided to live to the best of my ability to honor her memory and try to prevent such tragedies from happening to others. I continue to share this painful experience with others to discourage anyone from drinking and driving. I also support Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (M.A.D.D). It seems to me that if Layne is truly remorseful, he might consider supporting MADD instead of paying an attorney to try to get these crimes erased forever .

I see nothing positive in Layne being granted this pardon. These records are sealed and do not prevent him from obtaining or keeping employment, insurance, credit or other necessities.

I do not wish Jared Layne any harm or hardship. I was glad to learn that he is sober and has completed his probation. It has always been my desire that he not do this to anyone else. I FEAR A PARDON MIGHT LESSEN HIS RESOLVE TO REMAIN SOBER FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

I pray that God will pardon Jared Layne. I pray that the state of Arkansas (for the safety of others) will not.

Thank you very much for considering my input. This has been a difficult letter to write. It has taken me back to the darkest days of my life. When I received notice that Layne was asking for a pardon my heart was broken again. I have spent the last twelve years trying to forgive him and I will continue that. I want to forgive; Jared Layne only wants to forget. I cannot forget and I hope the state of Arkansas agrees that Jared Layne must not be allowed to forget either.

If you have any questions, please e-mail or call me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

PJ Langford