

May 25, 2021

Gary Jacobs Sentencing Hearing

Impact Statement

Your Honor - It's difficult to adequately convey the extent of the damage Gary Jacobs did to me, to my life, to my health, both physical and mental, to the relationships with those around me, with my family and friends, or the damage that is still being done...and will continue to be done till the day I die. This monster, this horrible excuse for a human being sitting before you today, began fondling me inappropriately when I was a small child, sometimes even brazenly when my parents were in the same room. This utterly atrocious behavior culminated in a disgusting assault in the bathroom of my own home as a teenager, with my parents downstairs mere yards away. While it's good that he's finally admitting to what he did, the damage is done and there's no escape, no healing, no getting over it....not now.....not ever. Gary locked me and every one of his victims (of which I understand there are many), in our own prisons, of which there is NO release. He used his position of authority over us to sentence every one of us to life in prison in our own heads, with no opportunity for release. No parole. No time cut short for good behavior. There are not even doors on the cells he locked us each in. There's no way out because there is no end. No actual healing to be found. No getting past what was done to me, to us. No escape. Not ever. That is the reality. With this sentence of 8-15 years, he might actually survive his prison term. I, and the rest of his victims, will not survive the prison sentences he issued for us because those were for life.

I understand that Gary would have his remaining friends and family believe it was his alcoholism that drove him to sexually assault child after child after child for years and years, that without the alcohol he wouldn't have preyed on me and so many other children. Here's a news flash, alcoholism does not cause pedophilia. There's literally no link what-so-ever. Pedophiles, such as Gary Jacobs, are disgusting monsters no matter what external influencers they use as the excuse to mask their revolting, repulsive desires and horrific, life-destroying actions. There is no external locus of control here. Gary Jacobs is a pedophile. Period. And he always will be. Alcohol or not he is and always will be a danger to society and especially any young boys within his reach. 8-15 years from now, he will still be a pedophile. That's not a curable "condition". If he ever gets out of prison, I worry for any children he crosses paths with because I firmly believe he will assault them too. As they say, a tiger can't change its stripes. The predator sitting before you is no different. With any luck, he'll die in prison whether from old age, another prisoner, or his own hand. That's certainly what's best for society.

What Gary did to me destroyed me and set me on a significantly altered path in life, one that has seen SO much pain, SO much suffering, SO many tears I couldn't even begin to count. The experiences he put me through have haunted me every day of my life and have negatively affected nearly EVERY facet of my existence. He was in my life from my very earliest memories, fondling my genitals as a mere child. That first act alone put a tremendous burden on me as that little child. I knew what he was doing was wrong...but he was my priest! At the time, as a child, I believed that a priest had a direct dial number to God himself, second in line perhaps only to the Pope. Can you even imagine how confusing it must be for a child of 5 years old to have to try and reconcile this? The burden that must place on such a young mind? I saw him as one of my parents' best friends, because at the time he was, and I just couldn't be the "cause" of the friendship's end. I knew if I told my parents what Gary was doing to me that it would end their friendship and I simply couldn't do that to them. I felt it would be too devastating for all of us. So I took it upon myself to bear that cross alone. To even consider putting a child in this predicament is unconscionable, but Gary did, again and again, to not only me but so many others too.

His actions forever altered my relationship with my parents. As a kid being assaulted by this monster, I lost faith in my parent's ability to protect me. They couldn't even protect me from the family priest, a supposed close friend, so how could I count on them at all....for anything really? I grew up feeling like my parents failed me. Can you imagine what that does to a young boy, a young man, an adult man trying to foster and maintain a positive relationship with his parents? I've only just begun to talk about all of this with them. There has been and likely always will be an elephant in the room when we're together. Even as forgiveness is achieved....there is no erasing what happened, no ability to press the reset button and go back and experience the life I would have had with my parents had Gary never assaulted me...the lifelong prison sentence he issued to not only me, but also my parents who now get to live out their days knowing they failed to protect me. There's no escape for any of us.

His actions caused me to lose faith in my parents...and also the church. The only way I was able to reconcile how a "man of God" could be a pedophile was to decide that there is no God. Because of what Gary Jacobs did to me, I am an atheist. Because of what Gary did, I know there is no God, no salvation, no eternal life. It's all a terrible lie, a mass delusion. If the Christian God exists, he wouldn't have allowed one of his soldiers to sexually assault me. Because I was assaulted over and over again, clearly there is no God. There simply can't be.

I've struggled for my entire adult life to maintain positive romantic relationships, a direct result of Gary's assaults. I've been [REDACTED] and it doesn't take an advanced degree in psychology to see how the experiences Gary subjected me to fed into the demise of [REDACTED].

Because of these assaults that began when I was so very young, I've never been comfortable using public restrooms. This has caused untold pain, misery and suffering over the years. My bladder can be literally on the verge of rupturing, but I simply cannot go to the bathroom if there is another person in the public restroom with me. It has been this way since he began to fondle me as a child. In that vulnerable position of exposure in a public restroom, I'm simply too afraid of being assaulted...again. I can even remember a time as a child when I attended a theater play with my parents and Gary where I needed to go to the bathroom but couldn't because I was there with my priest and predator. When I came back crying because I was in so much discomfort from a painfully full bladder that I was unable to empty, my parents had me try and go to the bathroom out in the parking lot between cars...right there with the family pedophile standing nearby. To this day, I still struggle with using public restrooms, often not being able to do so. Because of how often I have to hold my urine in a bladder that's about to rupture, which is a regular occurrence, I'm just waiting for the diagnosis of bladder cancer to come. It's really only a matter of time.

I've gone to counseling on and off over the years to address the behavioral health issues and damage his actions caused, but after awhile I just gave up because I realized it didn't matter how many therapy appointments I attended, there was never going to be an end. No escape. This is a lifelong prison sentence. All the therapy did was cost me \$1,000s and \$1,000s of dollars....significantly contributing to my declaring bankruptcy when I finally hit what I hope was rock bottom awhile back. I've spent the last handful of years slowly trying to put myself back together financially. Perhaps someday I'll get there.

The prison cell Gary locked me in for my entire life with no ability to ever get out has negatively effected EVERY facet of my life, affecting me in ways I struggle to fully convey. When I first met with the lead investigator on this case over a year ago, he asked me to describe how Gary's actions have affected

me. While I can absolutely see and describe some of the ways, since he began assaulting me when I was so very young, just beginning to develop into the man addressing this court today, being a victim is all I've ever known. Because he started to shape me when I was just beginning to develop, how can I truly know who I would have been if I hadn't been assaulted? Who would I be if I hadn't been imprisoned for life as a child? I'll never truly know what potential was robbed, what I might have been able to become, what sort of man I would have developed into, what sort of husband I could have been the first 2 tries, where I could have grown financially and what I could have done in the world....if Gary Jacobs hadn't entered my life and decided to single-handedly destroy it to satisfy his own, sick, disgusting, despicable sexual desires with a mere child.

I can tell you this, Your Honor, I would be a wholly different man than I am today. Gary made sure that man never existed.

He deserves far more than 15 years in prison for what he's done. I've already endured more than 40. At this point, I'll take whatever I can get and hope that it's enough to someday move on.

Till then, here I sit in my prison cell.

Thank you, Your Honor