



PROFILE OF
FREDERICK JEROME FIELDS

Full Name: FREDERICK JEROME FIELDS
Prisoner Number: 372350
D.O.B.: July 22, 1983
Crime(s) Convicted Of: First-Degree Murder
Solicitation of Murder
Date of Crime: December 15, 2000
Conviction Date: 2001
Age at Time Crime was Committed: 17-years-old
Age at Time Entered Prison: 18-years-old

Brief description of offense and prisoner's role in it.

I was convicted of hiring codefendant to murder Eleanor Jones.

What difficulties have you experienced as a juvenile living among adult prisoners?

After leaving the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility, there were times I was taken advantage of (mentally) from older prisoners who targeted what they thought to be inexperienced younger prisoners.

Have you been negatively affected by your experiences as a juvenile living among adult prisoners? Please explain.

I subsequently got into confrontations or disputes with older prisoners. I believe because of my youth, I had to learn the hard way when making mistakes inside of prison.

How have you resolved these difficulties or dealt with them?

I have learned from my past decisions which have enabled me to identify troublemakers and AVOID them as much as possible. I learned to think before I react helping/allowing me to decide what's the best decision.

How has a life of incarceration changed you?

I have grown from a teenager into a man. I know what it is to conduct myself in a respectable manner. I learned to be responsible for my actions, and one of the most important lessons I learned is to think things out. Violence is not the best way to resolve problems/disagreements. It's best to figure out a conclusion that will not make a situation worse than it already is. I have become a more conscious person that strives to improve myself in every way I can. I choose my associates/friends more wisely, keeping me out of unnecessary foolishness. Last but not least I involve myself in positive activities such as reading, learning the law, writing screenplays (movies), exercising, eating

a lil' more healthy...laugh...and a few other activities that keep me out of trouble and help time pass by.

Have you remained in continual contact with family or friends since becoming incarcerated?

I remain in contact with my Uncle Anthony who lives in Delaware. He recently visited me. I speak to my Grandma Annie Fields. She lives in Mississippi and have visited me several times while I been in prison. I also keep in touch with my aunt and cousins as well.

If you were granted a second chance and released, what would you do?

Over the last 8 + years I have seen ALOT of males who have experienced similar circumstances as myself that subsequently landed us in prison. I feel not having a positive figure in my life was the difference from me becoming a person that became successful instead of becoming the negative person who I was that landed me in prison. This is what put it into my heart to help others who are/will be in circumstances like I experienced. I want to help them with my first hand experience of the consequences of bad decisions. Hopefully I can make a positive change for some individuals. My plan would be to participate voluntarily in a church program designed for the youth or a local rec. center. I can mentor, help with homework, and just be someone there for the youth when they need someone. To support myself I'm willing to start off at minimum wage job. This period in prison has humbled me. I have worked for as less of .80 a day 3-5 days a week which I'm only allowed to keep half of my wages do to my restitution. I said all this to say until I was able to pursue better employment I would gladly work at Burger King. In the past I THOUGHT I didn't have to work at a fast food, but not in ALOT of ways I'm the complete opposite from my teenager days.

Accomplishments/Achievements since you've been incarcerated.

I have been employed mainly inside Food Services since '02 after I received my GED in '02. I have completed a computer class in '02 and participated in other improving "self" activities since I've been in prison. I believe (as well as others close to me) that I have become a better person. I've matured and learned from my experiences, as well as the other mentioned reasons I have made the most out of my time in prison. I was nearly 7 years misconduct free until '07 when I received to unfortunate misconducts. I recognized that I did not make the best decision, and since then I have been misconduct free.

Make any statement you'd like (100 words or less, please).

I thank God for people/organizations like J.A.I.L. It shows that people care and are working towards changing the wrongs in our world. It's one thing to say things need to be changed and it's

another thing to be actually actively working towards a change. I want to help you and people alike in anyway I can. I want to thank you for myself, others similarly situated, and the ones who might of been too lazy to participate in OUR efforts for a CHANGE.

I was 17 years old when I was charged and convicted for 1st degree murder. There will be some who disapprove of given me (and other similarly situated) a second chance because of the nature of our crimes. I disagree with them. I recognize that such crimes warrants punishment. I regret my bad decisions that I made as a teenager and I'm willing to take responsibility for them. Alot of unfair laws in this country ironically punish the poor and minorities. Recently the U.S. Supreme Court recognized the unfairness of the law regarding crack cocaine offenders compared with powder cocaine offenders. The Court ruled that it was unconstitutional for crack offenders to be sentenced at a ratio 100 to 1 times higher to their powder cocaine counterparts. This law I believe was targeting the poor and minorities just like the current juvenile laws in Michigan. There should be appropriate laws in place to deal with juveniles who commit serious crimes, but L.W.O.P. should not be one of these laws. Statistics reveal that Michigan has reached its peak in regards to prison population although the level of crimes has not seen any significant drop under the current laws. I ask anyone concerned about teenagers (under 18) convicted of crimes and sentenced to L.W.O.P. that are capable of maturing and learning from their past bad decisions and possibly becoming a productive member of society after serving a reasonable amount of time in prison to continue to be actively fighting towards a change in the current laws.