



PROFILE OF
ROGER WILLIAM HINTON

Full Name	ROGER WILLIAM HINTON
Prisoner Number	148237
D.O.B.	July 7, 1959
Crime(s) Convicted Of	Felony Murder
Date of Crime	August 15, 1976
Conviction Date	January, 1977
Age at Time Crime was Committed	17-years-old
Age at Time Entered Prison	17-years-old

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

A woman talked me and two other juveniles into killing her live-in companion for the promise of a share in the insurance. The 14-year-old and 16-year-old had left when I stabbed the man.

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

Actually, I began my sentence in the Ionia Reformatory. We were all young. But because of our age, we were all "tested" by the more experienced prisoners who "had been down" longer. You fought. You had no choice. So I picked up a lot of misconducts in my early years.

How have your difficulties experienced as a juvenile living among adult prisoners negatively affected you?

It mostly affected me negatively with staff in the early years. I had an attitude.

How have you resolved these difficulties or dealt with them?

Over the years, I have learned not to allow others to dictate my behavior. At this point, because of my very serious health issues, even if I didn't think the way I do now, I would be unable to cause anyone any kind of problem, especially myself.

How has a life of incarceration changed you?

In some ways, it caused me to grow into a self-sufficient, mature individual. I learned to cope. Again, now, because of the fact that I am dying (in fact, could die at any time), I spend most of my time inside my head attempting to cope with the fact that I am almost certainly going to die in prison and, probably, in the not too distant future.

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

Yes. I have strong family support.

What would you do if granted a second chance and released?

I would go home to die. That's all that's left for me. My time is running out very fast.

Accomplishments/Achievements since you've been incarcerated.

I have a slew of certificates and have worked in various maintenance occupations over the years, but none of that is any good to me now. I can't work. I can barely breathe and am unable to walk any distance at all.

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

I have a heart that is functioning at maybe 15%. Half of it is completely dead. I have an implanted defibrillator. Over three years ago, I was given 3-5 years to live. At this point, I believe the dying process has begun. My weight fluctuates as much as 15 pounds in a day due to the retained water because of my congestive heart disease.

Because of my good prison record and my very, very bad health, I was recommended for parole in 2007. The Michigan Parole Board recommended my release and I progressed to a public hearing, and that's when the bottom dropped out. The Jackson County Prosecutor's Office encouraged the family of my victim to protest my release. The Jackson Citizen Patriot catapulted me to the position of poster child for "Life Means Life." I waited nine agonizing months for the Governor's Office to make their decision after the public hearing.

Attached is a copy of the letter I received from the Governor's Office. The bottom line is, if anything can be done for me to help me be released, it must be done very quickly. My time is running out.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

NNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CH
LT. GOVE

June 9, 2008

Roger Hinton #148237
Lakeland Correctional Facility
141 First Street
Coldwater, MI 49036

Dear Mr. Hinton:

The Governor has completed her review of your self-initiated Application for Commutation of Sentence and respectfully denies your application. This decision was difficult, however, and was reached only after an extensive review of your application papers and medical records in their entirety, as well as the transcript of the January 10, 2008 public hearing held on your behalf.

While the Governor is indeed sympathetic to your serious medical condition and its impact on you and your loved ones, the Governor is also sympathetic to the victim of your crime and finds compelling the strong opposition to this commutation expressed by the victim's family and the county prosecutor. Under these circumstances, the Governor has determined that clemency is not warranted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Sonneborn".

S. Sonneborn
Deputy Legal Counsel

OLC:SS:tf