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BETTY J. GOULD, CLERK

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Victim's Family Impact Statement

1. Please describe in your own words the physical, emotional or psychological impact this crime has had upon you and your family.

Our daughter, [REDACTED], was exploited by her soccer coach. He was in his early thirties. She was groomed shortly after coming under his tutelage when 15 years old and then sexually seduced just weeks after her 16th birthday. This relationship, alternating between coach/player and sexual liaison went on for many months. We, her family, were not aware of this exploitation.

There was then a period of time of approximately 18 months between the end of this exploitation and A's coming out about it. She told us about this experience on April 28, 2002. We are now aware that this exploitation has had an almost constant influence on her since it began. Its influence has been so vast that we hardly know where to start or how to encompass it. Its effects have definitely been abusive to our family in the psychological and emotional realm. We are sure this list will not be complete.

1. We have been betrayed by a trusted coach. We have been lied to and manipulated so that he would get something he wanted. We placed our daughter on his soccer team so that she could learn athletic skills, physical conditioning, team work, self-confidence in success, and grace in trial and defeat. These skills and attributes have been poisoned by Dennis Jones's abuse of his age, experience and trusted position of power and influence. Every piece of soccer equipment, memorabilia, all pictures of events, etc. are reminders, not of the joys of soccer and team accomplishment, but of sexual abuse and betrayal. Yet we no longer share the same stories, memories, images. Last week, as we took A. to college, we saw the college's women's soccer team practicing. It was a beautiful day and the women talented. This scene did not allow us to recall happy soccer moments in our family's past, only a bitter taste and the realization that this seduction has drained much of our family's joy out of the actuality and recollection of the last four years. There is always this underlying influence now.

2. As a result of this exploitation, we, as a family and as individuals, have had to question and doubt our roles, actions, and teachings. We have felt guilt despite acting properly.

3. This manipulation has brought out excessive doubt and distrust. At this time when movement toward independence is the normal path for our college freshman, we are forced to consider whether Dennis Jones' abuse and injury have caused abnormal effects or influences. We are always asking, "Is this normal age and stage behavior or is this abnormal, a reaction to abuse and to exposure of a child to adult sexuality and

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exploitation.

5. We worry about our daughter's future health and well-being. Will she trust herself? Others? The literature on abuse is very clear that the social, psychological, and medical effects are frequent and often severe. Will this effect intimate relationship building? Will she be overly shamed, afraid?

6. She feels blamed and an outcast. She feels a constant, wearing discomfort in her home community and with her soccer community which she once loved. How will this be resolved, resettled?

Although we reflect on this much of each day, it is a secret. Many usual sources of community support do not seem available because of the shame and discomfort engendered by sexuality and abuse. Although there have been notable moments of support and courage of friends, there has certainly been a reserved and almost absent response in general. This is much different than a broken leg!

II. Please describe any financial impact the crime has had on you and/or your family.

This experience has lead to innumerable meetings, appointments, preparations, phone calls, and family discussions. These have lead to costs approaching thousands of dollars. These costs would have been much higher if we had not had medical insurance. As parents, we have had to miss work to be present for our daughter at various meetings, interviews, etc. As well our daughter, due to stress and its resultant distraction, has suffered two minor auto accidents and numerous bank overdraft charges.

III. Please describe any permanent or long lasting changes in your lifestyle, relationships, or career resulting from the crime that have not already been described.

This abuse and irresponsibility has opened to our family an aspect of life which had not previously been real, just stuff of novels, newspapers, and film. Our families, in the last two generations, had been primarily male. We were not intimately aware of the 'female experience.' We have now joined the ranks of the majority of women who have experienced childhood, sexual, or domestic abuse and exploitation. Although we can intellectually see the need of a community of empathy and for an appreciation for the suffering of others, we would like the return of our family's innocence. This is not going to happen.

It is unclear now whether this will impact our daughter for life; we are hopeful that with counseling she will be able to heal the psychological damage that has occurred.

IV. Please describe anything about the crime which you believe the judge should especially consider in deciding what the sentence should be.

We, of course, realize that our family will not return to the 'good old days.' Nothing in the social context of life and community will erase this experience for us. For A.R. and her family:

1. Please require a letter from Mr. Jones in which he admits that he has misused A.R.
2. We will, perhaps, receive our greatest "justice" if we feel that this experience will bring some benefit to the community. In this regard, please prevent Dennis Jones from coaching minors for at least 10 years. We have heard him say that "all teenagers need to experiment" and we feel his cavalier attitude in this regard may yet again be detrimental in what he "provides" for his players of either sex. By no means should he be allowed access to girls who are minors.
3. Please deny any contact by Dennis Jones with our family and our daughter for at least 10 years.
4. Please require reimbursement for our daughter's counseling that is not covered by our family's insurance for at least 10 years. There are significant psychological effects of exploitation that have been well documented.
5. We all feel the law has does not reflect the need in our society and Dennis Jones has benefitted from that. Given the precise timing of the sexual act, it ^{falls} in the "gray zone" of sexual misconduct with a minor. Though teenage bodies appear "mature," there is now brain research that shows the areas of judgment are not fully developed until the early twenties. Perpetrators can use their "maturity" to manipulate and groom young girls as Dennis Jones has. For a 15-16 year old to reflect on the "special benefits" of this sexual encounter in relation to her sport has been impossible for her to know let alone prove. This "special benefit" is an oxymoron and it merely allows the perpetrator to escape. All coaches, youth leaders, pastors or others in positions of supervising children under 18 should be considered legally the same as teachers. This man spent 3-5 times a week for 3 years, occasionally in weekend long tournaments, coaching our daughter. This is a position of huge influence and power and he greatly abused it.

special benefit

In summary, please recognize and help our community realize that coaches exert very powerful influence. Also, please recognize the significant psychological effects of exploitation. This is often the major on-going effect of abuse. These effects are well documented in the medical literature.