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Blue Light Rapist Asks for Clemency, Victim Speaks Out

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Little Rock - After spending eight years behind bars, the man known as the "blue light rapist" has applied for clemency and one of his victims says it's a bad idea to let him out.

Robert Todd Birmingham was convicted of rape in 1998 after using a police-like blue light to pull over young women.

Shannon Woods was seventeen when she was raped. Genetic evidence linked Birmingham to the crime. In 1998 Woods testified against her attacker and he was sentenced to eighty years in jail. About a week ago, Birmingham requested clemency.

(Shannon Woods, Victim) "This upsets me because he's only served eight years and I have to live with the memories for a lifetime and that's a fact."

It will be December before the state parole board decides whether to grant a hearing.

(Rhonda Sharp, Arkansas Parole Board) "This is not a quick process. It takes a long time. It takes a lot of thought, a lot of pulling together documentation and information, so it takes several months for the entire clemency process."

However, Woods says the state parole board didn't notify her of the request as law requires. She instead found out through the Arkansas Victim and Crime Notification System, VINE. A parole board spokeswoman says the board doesn't have Woods' contact information on file.

Cross County Prosecutor Fletcher Long says he likely submitted the information after the conviction and doesn't know why it's not on file. Long says his office has not yet been formally notified of the clemency request either.

If the board grants a hearing...the recommendation would go to the governor's office for approval. Woods says she will fight clemency.

(Woods) "If he's out, he will come after me. I know he will. He has had eight years to sit in prison and blame me because i took him to trial and got him convicted."

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