

I was the victim of a home invasion and attempted sexual assault on September 29 2009 by the Defendant. This event profoundly impacted my life at that time, and to this day. The Defendant broke into my home in the middle of the night and attacked me while I slept- restraining me before I could do anything to defend myself. During this assault the Defendant physically restrained and threatened me- telling me if I did not comply he would gag me and inject me with ketamine. I was blindfolded, made to drink some unknown medication and questioned for hours about my personal life includes my finances, my passwords, my social security number and that of family and friends. He told me he needed this information to steal my friends and family's identities, making me afraid not just for myself but for them. He took over my phone and computer during the hours of the invasion. He emailed my boss- telling him I was sick and not coming to work and told me he accessed my bank accounts. At the end of all this he physically carried my downstairs, still bound and blindfolded and then told me he was going to rape me.

I can't put in words how terrifying and powerless I felt being attacked and restrained in my own home by someone in the middle of the night that I never saw.

In the months that followed this incident I had extreme difficulty sleeping and was terrified to walk into my house, or any place by myself. I felt that I might be attacked again anytime, anywhere. I was terrified to go into the locker room at the gym or take a shower, feeling like I could be attacked anytime, anywhere. The lack of sleep over months took a toll on my mind and body. I had to continue working, but I felt like my brain and body were broken- I was unable to concentrate and felt afraid of my male coworkers since I didn't know who had assaulted me. I was living in constant fear. I started seeing a therapist and taking prescription medications to help me cope and have continued both, on and off, for the past 15 years.

Ultimately, I had to move out of my house and sell it because I never felt safe there again.

This attack has forever changed my outlook on life and people. I find it extremely difficult meeting new people because I am fearful to trust new people. I continue to lack a feeling of security and safety in all aspects of my life. To this day, I am hypervigilant about security and still have difficulty sleeping alone in a new place. To this day I will move furniture in front of my bedroom door if I am alone in the house or a hotel room.

During the attack, the Defendant apologized for the impact it would have on my life. He told me he had been through something similar so he knew it would mess me up. He advised me to get a dog so I would be safe from this happening again. This tells me that he understood what he was doing and the long-term effect it would have on me. While there is relief in knowing justice is finally being served, I also hope that the Defendant – who appears to understand the impact of his actions - does not ever have the opportunity to inflict this type of terror on anyone else. Thank you.