

May 27, 2013

In June 2004, the night of my high school graduation I had sex with my girlfriend, a freshman, who was 5 weeks from 15. I was 2 weeks past my 18th birthday. The sex was consensual. I know it was poor judgment on my part and regret it. We both attended a high school for students with learning disabilities or emotional problems. My girlfriend had a problem with depression as did I. Nine months after graduation she told the counselor that we had sex and because of Miranda's law school counselors are required to report this information to the state social services agencies who report it to the police. I told the police officer who came to my house exactly what had happened.

I plead to Sex Abuse 3, a misdemeanor and was sentenced to 3 years probation, community service and fines. I received sex offender analysis by Dr. Frank Calistro, the state's top psychologist in this area, and was determined to be not likely to reoffend and didn't need treatment. There are so many guys I know who have done what I did and have never been charged. I was required to file as a Sex Offender but thanks to a bill passed by the legislature in 2007 I have been relieved of that burden. At the time I thought that would help me in finding a job and moving forward in my life. I have found this has not been the case in many ways. Most employers don't want to hire a sex offender even if they aren't registered. Since many employers do background checks they find out even if you don't disclose it. If you disclose it they don't ever call you for an interview.

I have worked very hard to move my life forward by completing my degree in Web Design at PCC. I successfully completed a one year internship with a national nonprofit and now work there as a junior web designer. Though I have been able to obtain employment that I enjoy, I don't know if I would be to find other employment with my record.

Another problem that causes great difficulty is the fact that most apartments in Portland are owned or run by corporate management companies who have the policy to never allow sex offenders, registered or not, to rent in the complexes. They don't care about the circumstances. They do a background check and if anything shows up they won't rent to you. This is important to me because I am currently engaged to a beautiful young lady. We live in an apartment in her name only. We will be getting married in August and need to be able to get an apartment in both names in the future.

Other misdemeanors can be expunged. Because my crime is a sex crime that is not the case. It doesn't seem reasonable that a guy who had sex with his girlfriend should have to pay for the rest of his life.

Thank you for your consideration.