

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Manning
325 Courthouse
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Judge Manning:

My cousin Autumn Klein was murdered by Robert Ferrante in April 2013, and I want to express to Your Honor how much this has impacted my life and the life of my family.

Autumn was not only my cousin, she was my best friend and a witness to my entire life. I miss her so deeply that words cannot express the pain. And each day I have to carry this sometimes unbearable pain.

I don't remember my life before her as we are a year apart in age and were raised as sisters. And though our lives took us in different directions, we were so proud of each other and we still relied heavily on each other to make sense of the issues in our lives. We had future plans together for us and for our children that now will never happen. And the times when the pain of her loss gets so unbearable, I hang on to the hope that she is watching over me and guiding and protecting me and my family.

We were witness to each other's lives, and now I have to live my life without her and I have to carry that pain with me always. And the person I relied on so much to remember my history and to cheer me on in the future is abruptly and cruelly gone from this earth, and I can't change that no matter how hard I wish. And now I watch her little girl grow up without her amazing mother. And I have to explain to my little boy why his favorite Auntie is gone. Such big, nasty life things for such young minds to comprehend... when I can't even comprehend or make sense of them as an adult and as a mother. So to honor Autumn, I will do my best to take their little hands and walk this awful journey along side them. I will do what Autumn and I had planned and help raise them to be kind and strong and close.

Since Autumn's murder, I have been mostly withdrawn from the volunteer activities of my daily life. I used to enjoy being a part of my neighborhood community association, and women's Bible studies at my church, and most of all, I loved volunteering at my son's elementary school. Since the trial is over and the gag order lifted, I have begun to find a small bit of comfort in talking and sharing memories of Autumn.

This tragic murder strikes to the core of my belief that the world can be a safe place, since her life was taken in her own home, downstairs from where her own daughter was sleeping. How do you believe in love and the safety of trusting when the one closest to you takes your life in such a violent and diabolic manner? These beliefs were shattered when Autumn was murdered.

My hope and prayer is that these words will honor Autumn. I take these words to heart, and thank you for your time in regard to this.

Sincerely, Sharon King