

Jennifer Rethorn Mother of Brittany Lynn Rethorn-Riggs

Victims Impact Statement 6-7-96

On Easter Sunday April 15, 1990 Brittany Lynn Rethorn-Riggs was born. It was such a happy day for me. I enjoyed Brittany's 3 ½ years of life at home with her. I have so many wonderful memories. I was lucky to spend as much time as I did with her. As I watched Brittany grow up with her buddy Chelsea. It was like having twins most of the time. That time is so cherished with every thought, picture and song. Brittany's life will never be replaced or forgotten.

Then on Sunday October 10, 1993 I woke up to a living nightmare. In one hour I would never get to hear Brittany say I love you mommy again. Because Chuck Johnson took her life from me in a way that is so unreal. At age 24 it was and still is so unbearable to live with. You never think that your only child would be KILLED in your own home with her own baby blanket, by a man who rents a room in our home. He even has two kids of his own. I was sleeping in the next room and heard the noise of him KILLING her and didn't even know it. I couldn't protect her when she needed me. There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about Brittany but there is a black cloud hanging over my memories due to the fact that Chuck Johnson KILLED her when I was right there not able to do anything. I can't image what pain he physically and emotionally did to Brittany. She knew and trusted him. This was her home where she was safe but he violated that trust. Then that morning as I looked, cried and called out to find her. He was watching knowing with his cold-blooded mentality I wouldn't find her. By his inhumane actions he just killed her and hid her body in his closet. He even pretended to help look for her. Hoping no one would find her under his clothes, tool box and garbage bag.

Now it's almost three years later, her murder still continues to affect so many people. Not only myself and her father but her grandparents, great grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. This pain will always be a part of us who knew and loved Brittany and those who never got the chance and never will.

The hardest part is coping with the fact Chuck Johnson is able to see his kids in jail. He gets to talk and write to them. Chuck should not be lucky enough to be a father or to be apart of his kid's lives. I don't get to be Brittany's mom anymore because of what chuck did. I can't see her, write to her, and hear her sweet voice, hug, kiss or hold her again. I have to watch Chelsea grow up and wonder what Brittany would be like. My hopes and dreams are gone forever.

I wish he knew what it felt like to have his child murdered, then to bury that child with the feelings of never saying goodbye. Holding on to the last memory of time you saw them alive. But he'll never know what that feels like because his kids are alive and Brittany is gone forever.

I can only hope chuck Johnson will never get out of prison. 25 years to life is not enough for me. Chuck Johnson has shown no remorse or accountably for what he has done. He killed a sweet innocent three-year-old child who couldn't protect herself from him. I don't want a day to go by that chuck has hopes of getting out of prison. I have to wake up everyday knowing why he is in prison because I have a huge empty missing place in my heart for Brittany.

I hope you chuck Johnson never have peace in you life and this haunts you forever. Brittany, Darin and I have never done anything to you. /you have two kids of your own. How could you want to kill a child? Why did you hurt my innocent family? You knew we loved her so much. You may be going to prison for murdering just Brittany but you have hurt so many people and so many lives. You should never be apart of society again. To ensure myself that you don't ever forget why your in prison I am going to exercise my victims rights and ask for restitution according to penal code 1202 for \$10.00 a month for the rest of your life for killing my daughter and killing apart of me. As you go to prison remember one thing you'll never be forgiven. I just want to know why you killed my daughter because I will never go away. I will be there to stop any and all chances of you getting out of prison ever.