

Bruce Whealton  
112A Dillard St.  
Carrboro, NC 27510  
Phone 984-215-7704

August 12, 2021

Dear Sirs/Madams:

I am seeking assistance with an issue involving the intersection of Social Security Disability, victimization, false criminal accusations/convictions, and mental illness, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. I was the victim of a brutal and bloody assault some years back. The attacker was female. That seems to be the only possible explanation for why and how I found myself being interrogated as if I was the perpetrator of a crime. A friend of mine who is studying law suggested that I contact civil rights attorneys.

I am not in prison and was not sent to prison, though I did experience 7 traumatic months in jail. I was very vulnerable, to begin with. The assault was premeditated as would be obvious to anyone who considers the facts. It turned out that the attacker was the landlord's wife and I had gotten behind on rent. The brutal assault did cause me to bleed profusely but the lies of this person have affected my life up to the present time. My background has been as a psychiatric social worker. It has been my passion and it brings meaning to life, or it used to bring meaning to life.

Now, I am hurt any time I apply for jobs in my field. I thought that would end 7 or so years after the events. I was coerced into accepting a plea deal. My rights were violated and/or not taken into consideration. I was found to be disabled for psychiatric reasons by the federal Social Security Administration. That disability condition existed at the time before and after the events occurred.

I am seeking to find employment in my field again but there are obvious barriers. That is why I am writing. In North Carolina, there is a statute of limitations. We are said to give up the right to a trial if we accept a plea deal. I didn't have the psychological strength, courage, or self-esteem that I had when I was a psychotherapist. I didn't have positive mental and physical health that I now have again only recently.

For those who tell me it was something that happened in the past, I wrote in my autobiography that psychologically I was so not well in December of 2019 that I sought to end my life. It was not a cry for help. I meant to end my life. Without the ability to participate in activities that make life meaningful, i.e., not being able to work in my field or even volunteer in my field made my life seem hopelessly devoid of meaning. I hope that I can get employers and volunteer agencies to look past that conviction but that is not necessarily easy or guaranteed.

I also lost some 16 years of wages that would have been approaching six figures, perhaps a total loss over 16 years of over \$1 Million dollars. I did want to state that employment, volunteer work, and other similar activities are slightly more important than the financial losses. That being said, I am certain that I deserve to receive compensation for these losses and for my years of psychiatric disability – pain and suffering. The error on the part of the court system and the detectives in the case, in large part, caused my disability and my pain and suffering.

So, despite being the victim, I was charged with two counts – one was 2nd Degree Kidnapping, and the other was 2nd Degree sexual offense. The plea deal did not ask me to plead guilty to the sexual offense, but kidnapping is a class E felony.

I understand that there is a statute of limitations and that one gives up the right to a trial by accepting a plea deal. It would be inaccurate to suggest that I chose to accept a plea deal for a few reasons. One is that from what I understand a person suffering from a mental illness and/or a psychiatric disability cannot enter into a plea deal. In addition, I was not given a heads up by my lawyer where I would be given any time at all to contemplate the matter.

I was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, and Major Depression. All of those problems prevented me from being able to think about and choose to accept a plea deal. I was terrified of ten years in prison. Right outside the courtroom, with the prosecutor standing in earshot, my public defender dumped this plea deal on me with zero advanced warning. I was not given even 60 seconds to think about the matter.

I was being asked to give up my right to a trial... sacrifice my right to see the actual perpetrator brought to justice and various other rights. Had the judge asked me if I was on any medication that would interfere with my judgment, I would surely have said that indeed I was on medications. I would have answered similarly about any mental health issues that would complicate the matter. If I had been asked to describe the events that occurred on the day in question, I would have described the true facts of what happened, and it would have been clear that I was not in fact guilty but that I was the victim.

My argument is that because I was disabled at the time with a psychiatric disability, I should not have been able to enter into a plea deal. My civil rights were violated at every stage from the brutal assault, the treatment by the detectives that interrogated me, the public defender's office, and the judge that accepted the plea deal.

While there are problems and barriers that exist within the laws of North Carolina and within America overall, I NEED to fight this. That can include taking this to the Supreme court if necessary. Or it could include changing the laws as they stand. However, I would like to get your support and assistance in pursuing various remedies through the civil and criminal court systems. The person who harmed me owns property that could be seized in a civil suit. I hope to sue the city of Durham North Carolina or the county of Durham for millions of dollars in lost wages, character, and reputation harm as well as pain and suffering.

In a very real sense, this caused in part my disabilities. There were prior events that were traumatic that contributed to my disability, but this entire experience played a large role in getting my disability claim with the federal Social Security Administration approved in 2006 the same year that I was compelled to accept a plea and when I moved into subsidized housing called "Shelter Plus Care" which is awarded to those who are both homeless and have a psychiatric or other disability/disorder.

Again, if you cannot help me yourself, can you take five minutes to reflect upon this matter and advise me?

I was not sentenced to jail time in the plea deal, but I have lived in a virtual prison where I was denied my rights in society to work in my chosen field as a Clinical Social Worker, to volunteer to work with children and others, and I was denied the right to adopt children. This has been my impression and that impression is not without merit nor is it an unreasonable belief. Certainly, as a Clinical Social Worker, a therapist, or someone in a similar role, others that we would serve must be able to trust us.

I have written an entire book that does tell a story about who I am and how this and other issues impacted my life. That book is entitled "Memoirs of a Healer/Clinical Social Worker – Autobiography of Bruce Whealton" which is available on Wattpad (link <https://brucewhealton.com/autobiography>) and on Amazon at <https://brucewhealton.com/book1>

I am working on other books that will go into greater detail describing the crimes against me and the psychological impact they had on me. The first book was more of an effort to tell a larger story about who I am. I definitely do not want to make this seem like a story that criticizes the #MeToo movement for going too far. I fully and completely support the #MeToo movement and hope that they will go further and further. I am not like other males. I do not identify as male or masculine. I do have male genitals but that should not be relevant in determining who can be a victim.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Whealton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Bruce Whealton