

July 9, 2016

Charles Downing #99690  
New Lisbon Corr. Inst.  
P.O. Box 4000  
New Lisbon WI 53950-4000

Dear Forum for Understanding Prisons:

Hello, my name is Chuck and, as the return address shows, I am in a state prison.

Although my middle name has been trouble since 10 or 11 years old, I've been in prison or jail since 1991. From June 5, 1991, to October 1991, I was in the Dane County Jail; from Oct. 1991 to November 1991 in the Rock County Jail; from Nov. 1991 to Dec. 1991 in the Dodge Corr. Inst.; from Dec. 1991 to March 2009 in the Klapwal Corr. Inst.; from March 2009 to Feb. 2013, and after 22-plus years with 3 minor conduct reports, the powers-that-be gave me a lengthy override to a lesser security prison to here at New Lisbon.

In 1991, I was convicted of a crime that I did not commit. Some male was interrupted in a burglary and he attacked and elderly couple with an axe -- /ep: AN AXE -- and robbed them. The couple lived but were seriously injured.

I was arrested for that crime because a baseball cap that was left at the crime scene which resembled one I owned.

The same evening, a black Hispanic attempted to rob me with a stick. We fought and, although I had little scrapes with almost no blood, I was missing my cap and prescription eyeglasses.

In Oct. 1991, a jury found me guilty of attacking that couple and I didn't take it well. I ended up joining in an already-planned escape attempt which turned into a hostage situation with a rookie sheriff's deputy.

①

Now here I sit, serving a 70-year sentence, followed by a 59-year sentence for that above case I didn't do and followed by a life without parole for 100 years followed by 3, 5-year terms which makes me eligible for parole 1 1/2 months shy of my 220<sup>th</sup> birthday.

I write to you in an effort to get someone or some people in and around Madison to help me fight my conviction in that case I did not commit.

In an effort to convince you or someone that I didn't do that crime is that there is a crime lab report that was given to my attorney and presented to the jury in Oct. 1991 which "established" that my blood type matched one of the 3 blood types recovered from the crime scene. A few years later and after I researched blood types and subtypes I learned that of the three blood types and subtypes, mine did not match any of them. Also, the police recovered many fingerprints from the crime scene, and after a process of elimination of comparing fingerprints of the several people who had access to the residence, there were 3 unidentified fingerprints. Mine were not a match.

Oddly, after my arrest and while awaiting trial in jail, the lead detective requested the crime lab compare the unidentified fingerprints to 2 other men (theirs didn't match either). The jury was aware of this also.

Now, in April of this year, I did an open records request to the Madison Police Department to copy me on, among other things, Crime Lab reports. Imagine my surprise that the only Crime Lab report they had left (all other records were destroyed)

was from the fingerprint analyst that stated the unidentified fingerprints were run for comparison with the national databank and results were negative and closer inspection showed that the report was dated Feb. 28, 1994. Yep: 28 months AFTER my conviction.

That tells me that someone, somewhere believes I'm innocent or else they wouldn't waste time, effort and money.

The best example I can give which tends to show my innocence is that since 1974 to date, I took responsibility for the crimes I committed and pled no contest to them. There is only ONE case I took through trial and that's the case I didn't commit.

To other things...

Being locked up for the past 25-plus years straight, I've seen things and been involved in things in this prison system.

I have been looking for someone to blog for me, and, during these past 25 years, I've lost corresponding with everyone but my Aunt and Uncle in Beloit, so I am looking for anyone who wants to penpal with me.

The most important thing right now at this point in my life is getting that case I didn't do reversed and making friends.

I should note that on that case I didn't commit, I tried the UK Innocence Project and they turned me down.

On that note, I'll now sign off.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Chuck