

# AREA RESOURCE GUIDE

(Services listed are provided free of charge, or have income-based scheduling)

## Homicide Support/Advocacy

Compassionate Families  
354-0007, 721-3326  
Life Is Valuable  
908-0989  
Parents of Murdered Children  
262-0866, 713-9683  
Victim Services Center  
630-6300  
Jax. Sheriff's Office Victim Advocate  
630-1764

## Abuse (Domestic)

24 Hour Hotline  
1-800-500-1119  
Hubbard House  
Emergency Shelter  
& Counseling  
354-3114  
Quigley House (Clay County)  
1-800-339-5017

## Compensation (victim)

Victim Services  
630-6300  
MADD Victim Services  
743-0790

## Consumer Fraud

State Attorney's Office  
630-4994

## City of Jacksonville

Consumer Affairs Division  
630-3467

## Detoxification

Gateway Community Services  
387-4661

## Family

Family Nurturing Center of Florida  
389-4244

## Legal Assistance

Legal Aid  
356-8371

## Mothers Against Drunk Driving

(MADD)  
743-4040

## Rape

Sexual Assault  
Response Center  
244-RAPE (244-7273)  
Office  
244-4600

## RAPE Recovery Team

722-3000

## State Attorney's Office

630-2400

## Trauma Counseling

Women's Center of Jacksonville  
722-3000  
City Victim Services  
630-6300

## Youth Crisis

Youth Crisis Center  
The Safe Place  
766-3040

## Edmonds...

Continued from page 6

sealed the file, he stated it was "damning, shocking, graphic and distressing."

When Judge Skinner received the case in January 2003, we told him the defendant's offer of probation, counseling and work release was unreasonable. After ten months, we finally agreed we were going to trial.

In April, without informing us, Ms. Senterfitt discussed an offer of a zero-to-six-year sentencing range with Edmond's attorney. The previous May we had requested the State Attorney's office to give us notice prior of any plea offer, which is the victim's right to be informed [Florida Statute 960.001]. Our trial, set for May 5, was delayed again.

On May 5, nine members of the victims' families met with Libby Senterfitt. We told her the offer of zero to six years was not acceptable and far below the sentencing guidelines for sex crimes on three boys. After this meeting began, State Attorney Harry Shorstein entered, listened to our grievances and said he wouldn't accept zero to six years either and could understand why we wouldn't. He also mentioned, to our disbelief, that a judge had just approached him and said

that he "was going too hard on Edmonds." Mr. Shorstein then stated, "Edmonds probably won't do this again."

"Five boys! How can you say that?" I asked. "That statement goes against every professional opinion of pedophilia."

After listening to our position, Mr. Shorstein assured us he wasn't going to do anything that the victims didn't agree with and that we were going to trial. We suggested they offer something reasonable, such as two to eight years, or three to nine. He said, "The State Attorney's Office doesn't negotiate, and if zero to six years isn't acceptable to you, that's it." On his way out he added, "Had she offered you two to six years, I would have made you take it," and he departed.

That week the First District Court of Appeals released the sealed evidence.

On June 4, a day after the state released the sealed files, the news media reported the contents: soliciting sex, showing pornography, sending dozens of pages of instant messages and molesting five male victims.

At a swim meet the next day, a friend told me that Edmonds had bragged to his relatives that the state had cut a deal with him and he was going to serve a year at the P-farm (county jail). I replied, "That information isn't correct; Harry said we are going

to trial." This prediction of Edmonds was three weeks before he was sentenced by Judge Skinner.

Our next hearing was scheduled for Monday, June 9. On Friday, June 6, Libby Senterfitt called me at 4:55 p.m. (at the close of the working day so we couldn't contest their actions before the hearing) and said, "Harry is still considering zero to six years." I replied, "He was never considering zero to six years; you were. Now who is it, you or Harry?" She sighed and didn't respond.

I said, "Harry promised us." Libby replied, "It wasn't a promise." I said, "OK; it was his word. He went back on his word that he gave to nine of us." My husband referred to these repeated actions of the state as "bait and switch."

We phoned an attorney to represent us on Monday at the hearing. When we told Ms. Senterfitt of Edmond's prediction about serving a year in the county jail, she said he was crazy. I handed Mr. Shorstein our letter objecting to the plea deal and reminded him of his words. He read the letter and said, "You're not going to do this now, are you?" I said, "Our position has never changed."

We proceeded to the packed courtroom. Mr. Shorstein, appearing agitated, grabbed Ms.

Senterfitt's elbow and said, "Get this over with before something happens." An attorney, three JSO officers and I witnessed this action.

The court was called to order and when our attorney stood up to address the judge, he was told to sit down. The state began entering the plea and again our attorney stood up and said, "Your Honor." Judge Skinner again sternly told him, "Sit down." We watched in shock as this plea was accepted. Mr. Shorstein told us he did this to "protect the children," who were at the time 15, 16 and 18 and were willing to testify to the series of crimes committed on them since they were 11, 12, and 13 years old.

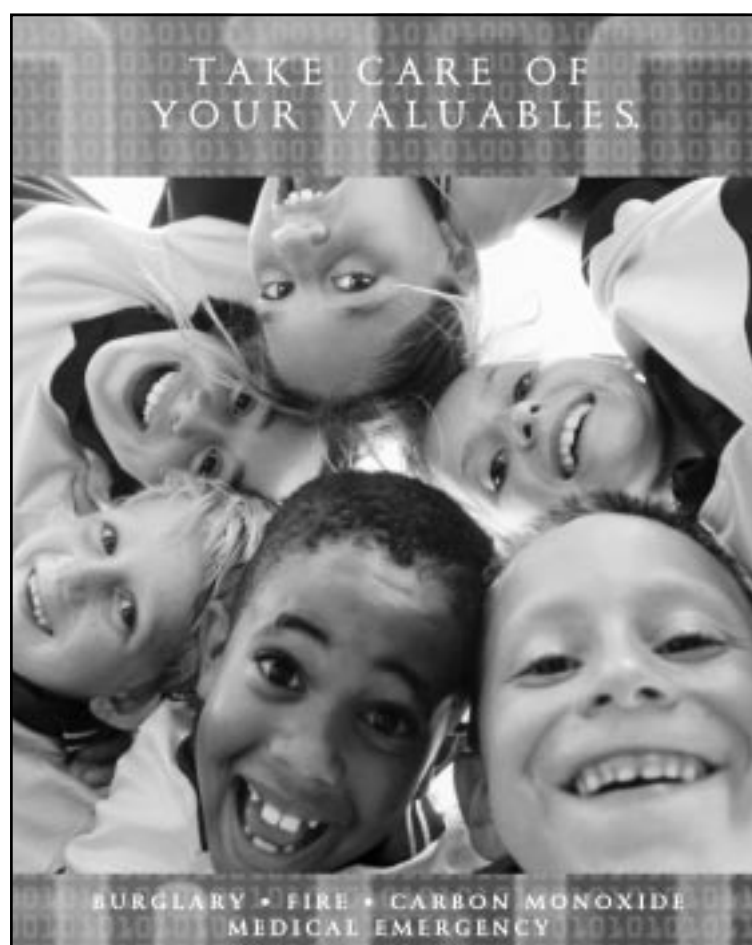
On June 13, for the first time in more than 14 months, the criminal entered the courtroom. On his way in, Edmonds looked directly at one of the victims who was with his parents and said to the child, "Hey, Buddy, how you are doing?" This violated the "no contact" order of Judges McCaulie and Skinner, but when we told this to Ms. Senterfitt, she said, "The judge isn't going to do anything about that now; he (Edmonds) is going to jail."

Before leaving the courthouse that day, we told the media that Edmonds was predicting a year in the county jail at the P-farm with time served. No one could believe it. They said, "He will serve at least four or five years."

The date for a hearing on impact statements was June 27. That day the victims and their anguished families one by one made their comments and begged the judge for justice. The victims cried, as did their parents, aunts, grandparents, friends and even Judge Skinner's court reporter who had to stop typing to get a tissue. One victim was doubled over sobbing during the entire hearing. Judge Skinner was stoic, his expression concealing his thoughts.

Even though the wiretapped phone call was played in the courtroom before Edmonds' supporters, with his voice admitting to the felonies, the defense staged a scandalous charade of denial. As he was being convicted of molesting three boys, his wife took the stand and said, "I am no less proud to call you my husband today." Later in her statement, in another display of arrogance, she stated that she was thankful for the relationship *our sons* had with them and added, "My husband gave to their lives as he has given to many, many others."

Yes, he gave them firsthand knowledge of the worst depravity known to man. He also gave them an example of



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