

Watching...

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woman shortly after he was served with papers.

The next few days were tough, even though I had my locks changed and an extra one on my door, I was still scared he would get in. I had to change my phone number. Since my new number was unlisted, he started emailing me, so I changed my email address. Then he decided to start calling me at work. I kept a diary of when he called and what he said.

The day of my court proceeding I was so nervous, I had a cab pick me up from my home to take me downtown. It was strange to see him in the same room. He didn't contest the restraining order. Even though I felt better having it, I found out quickly that it didn't mean a whole lot to him.

About three weeks after the hearing, he started calling me at work again. He has watching me. I couldn't figure out where he was though. Since I worked in a small office and sometimes I was left alone, I kept the door locked. Once the sun went down I didn't leave my house, even to meet friends. I was just too afraid.

I noticed that I wasn't getting certain bills and things

in the mail that I was expecting. It turned out that he had made a copy of the mail key and was taking my mail. My attorney and I decided to write him a letter, and if there were any more attempted contacts, a bench warrant would be issued for his arrest. That seemed to do the trick. I didn't hear from him for about nine months after my restraining order expired.

As I left one night and pulled out of the parking lot, I noticed a black truck pulling out of the library parking lot across the street, but thought nothing of it. I was in the turning lane at a stoplight and noticed the truck was behind me; a huge gap was between that vehicle and me. When I turned to go down my street, it was going very slow. Something at that point told me not to get out of my car, so when I parked the car, I waited. The truck pulled up behind me, very slowly, waiting for me to get out of the car. When he finally realized that I wasn't going to get out, he pulled up beside my car, it was him. I was horrified, but he was smiling and waving at me as if nothing was wrong. I rolled down my window and yelled at him to leave me alone. His smile faded within

seconds and he turned violent. I started my car and took off.

I called the police. My restraining order expired nineteen days earlier. I had to build another case against him. The next day I went downtown again to fill out the same paperwork, the clerk was frustrated with me because I didn't know where he lived or worked at that point. I snapped back that he was stalking me, not the other way around; I didn't care where he worked and didn't want to know. The judge wouldn't issue me a temporary restraining order until my hearing because the last act of violence was over a year ago. The fact that the guy was unstable and fixated on me didn't even play into the picture. I found out at court that they tried once to serve the papers to him, but that was it. I took time off from work to go downtown twice, once to file and once for the hearing and basically wasted my time. That was last time I heard from him.

He wanted to take my self-confidence, my independence and my life away, and you know what, he did. I am in the long process of regaining my life and I won't let anyone take that away from me again.

WANTED



JAMES SMITH

Race: Black Wt.: 170
Sex: Male Violation:
DOB: 3/25/80 Aggravated
Ht.: 5' 9" Assault



JONA THIGPEN

Race: White Wt.: 182
Sex: Male Violation: VOP
DOB: 10/3/75 Dealing Stolen
Ht.: 5' 8" Property



WILLIAM WARNER

Race: White Wt.: 150
Sex: Male Violation:
DOB: 11/1/62 Burglary
Ht.: 5' 9"



RICHARD WARREN

Race: White Wt.: 160
Sex: Male Violation:
DOB: 8/13/50 VOP Att. Sexual
Ht.: 5' 9" Battery

Anyone with any information concerning these individuals, please call

JSO at 904-630-0500



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