

Comm v Shawn McCarthy [VIS] By H.H.

It was 11 years ago, when as a young, physically and emotionally immature girl, I was assaulted by Shawn McCarthy. At that age, I should have been taken care of, not taken advantage of.

I looked up to police, and aspired to one day be an officer myself. For a long time, my faith in law enforcement was destroyed. I was revulsed and silently condemned every man in uniform.

I felt immeasurable shame and embarrassment. I felt like a bad person, and a bad friend. I felt dirty and questioned my own worth.

I told almost no one about what happened. I didn't even talk to my parents about it. I did not want to acknowledge that I was a victim in my own life. I put my feelings of self hatred into a box with no intentions of ever opening it.

I have spent my life since then, reclaiming who I am. Days turned into weeks, weeks turned into months and months turned into years. I had successfully dissociated myself from the assault. It didn't even occur to me that I was reporting a crime when I made the disclosure during a job interview.

I found myself at a crossroad. I could keep my "dirty secret" hidden or I could seek justice. I was now a police officer and I had taken a similar Law Enforcement Oath as Mr. McCarthy. I could not fathom taking advantage of the authority I have been entrusted with. I decided to share my story because it would be a disservice to society if I didn't.

I'm leaving it all here in this courtroom today because I have a beautiful life to get back to and a bright future beckoning my name.

Respectfully,

H [REDACTED] H [REDACTED]

Comm v Shawn McCarthy VIS by S.C.

My life was forever changed in July 2012. I lived with the secret of what happened to me for many years. Substance abuse, eating disorders, depression, anxiety and nightmares became my daily life to repress all the feelings. The feeling of being whorled, dirty, and worthless are ten times worse when caused by someone who was previously in a position of power. Someone who took an oath to serve and protect yet took it upon himself to serve only himself and disrespect others. In 2020 the secret got out and I was faced with a decision. Do I come out and admit what happened or continue to live in fear. I chose both, still afraid but ready to let the truth come to light. In telling the truth all the horrible feelings resurfaced, and once again I went back to the only way I knew how to cope. That was the old me though. We realized that the first step to move forward with my life is forgiveness, not for him but for me. Coming here being honest and facing what happened freed me from the chains that have held me back.

for too many years. The burden is
gone this isn't my victim impact
statement this is my survivor
statement. I am no longer the victim
and I do forgive him because
judgement is not my place and I no
longer have room in my heart for
hatred or resentment. This is a
new chapter in my life paved off
of love peace and healing.

Thank you.