

Darlene C. Fernandez

In 1989 Mark was falsely accused of assault and rape by Darlene C. Fernandez, an unemployed, mentally unstable, convicted drug addicted woman –arrested twice since, once for purchasing methamphetamines in a parking lot (*police report*) and another time for assaulting a police officer (*police report*) - seems anyone unfortunate enough in crossing her path will be accused of who knows what.) Without funds for a real lawyer, Mark was stuck with a public defender who badgered him for a year to sign a plea agreement so he could “get on with his life” with the probability of getting probation. Pressurized by Robert Ellig, the public defender, Mark finally relented and was sentenced to 15 years in prison for aggravated assault. Darlene’s claim of rape was unsubstantiated and refuted by physical evidence, so that charge was dismissed. Because Darlene was full of cocaine, she also tried to blame Mark telling police he “forced her to snort cocaine.” Mark’s had *no drugs* in his system.

Darlene lied about the rape, she lied about her drug use, and she lied about the actual person who beat her.

Darlene knows who the actual person was that beat her that night. I’ve never been in an abusive relationship, but imagine that she refused to tell the police the truth out of fear. Whoever this person was, her boyfriend, pimp, we don’t know, he obviously had a deep hold on her and is violent. (We believe his first name may be Eddie.)

Incarceration is tough to endure, but enduring it as an innocent person is crushing. Mark did nearly 15 years but was not pressurized into the system nor institutionalized. When he was finally released he enjoyed life with a zest, grateful for everything – marriage, home, careers, simple things like going for a hike or walk.

How did we know he’d be targeted by the police forever for this? We should have listened to my father, a former City of Phoenix cop, who said we should leave Phoenix, because the police would never leave Mark alone. As I have always said, Mark was a convenient, vulnerable target to be preyed upon and he continues to be a victim by huge miscarriages of justice, lies and outright corruptness.

We now know that Darlene Fernandez called the Baseline task team number July 14, 2006, and told the police that Mark had raped her in 1989 and that he would be a good suspect. **Remember Darlene’s claim of rape is not supported by physical evidence and those charges had been dropped.** Darlene, I am sure, was motivated by the \$100,000 reward offered for tips leading to the arrest and conviction of the Baseline suspect.

Darlene Fernandez is a victim of her own lifestyle, and Mark is a victim of Darlene Fernandez and what the justice system has allowed her to do to him.

REWARD: \$5,000 reward to the person(s) who provides information as to the true identify of the man who assaulted and men who were present during the assault that leads to the exoneration of Mark