

Jennifer's parents discuss loss in letter

Justice Norman J. Felig, prior to sentencing Andre Rand, read the following letter from Karen and Kenneth Schweiger, the parents of Jennifer Schweiger:

Dear Judge Felig,

On July 9th, 1987, we lost one of our two most valuable possessions, our daughter, Jennifer Lynn Schweiger.

A day which started out as an ordinary summer day, a child wanting to go out and play because it was summer vacation, turned into a 16-month nightmare with a lifetime of loss!

Not only have we lost our only daughter, our son lost his only sibling, my mother lost a granddaughter and Grandma and Pop-Pop Schweiger lost the only granddaughter they will ever have because my husband is an only child.

My father-in-law was so emotionally distraught, he couldn't even stay at the wake and was unable to attend the funeral. Jennifer was his Princess.

Having a handicapped child is at first an adjustment. But once you accept this fact and start to learn about your child, as all parents do, your heart grows

with them.

Jennifer generated love; she was pure of heart and pure of love. What greater gift could a family share? Look how a picture of a girl with a beautiful smile and sparkling eyes generated the largest search on Staten Island. Without "all" these people's support, we would have never gotten through!

Andre Rand took all this away from us! Our lives will never be the same. Never again will we be able to hold, kiss and hug our Jennifer, or share in her achievements or defeats!

Andre Rand, a homeless derelict, has already served two sentences, both involving child abuse. He has also been implicated in other missing children of Staten Island. We feel he is definitely guilty of all these crimes. Please, Judge Felig, don't let Jennifer's death have been in vain! Please sentence Andre Rand to the maximum of 25 years to life. How old is too old to kill an innocent child?

We are now in a new home (in New Jersey). A home that was being built before Jenny was missing. Jennifer would ask, "We go to new house, now, mommy?"

I would answer, "Soon, Jennifer."

But "soon" never came for Jenny. We miss her so!



Kenneth and Karen Schweiger, parents of Jennifer Schweiger, listen as Rand's sentence is read.

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Page
3
2
1
3
Page: