

FAMM needs your story to advocate for change!

FAMM USES THE STORIES of people serving mandatory minimum sentences to show lawmakers, the public and the media how unjust these laws are. We call them our “profiles of injustice.”

FAMM is constantly seeking stories that can help us do that and often receives questions about how we select profiles of injustice. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions.



What is a “profile form” and what happens when I send it to FAMM?

A profile form is a two-page document (see pp. 17 and 18) that asks basic questions about a prisoner’s personal background, conviction and sentence. When a profile form is sent to FAMM, we read it and then contact people whose stories most clearly show the injustices of mandatory minimum sentencing laws. Before we can decide whether to use your story, FAMM will request from you copies of your key court documents and additional background information. Please be aware that FAMM is a small organization with a specific mission and we cannot create a profile of injustice for everyone.*

How long does it take to review my profile form?

We receive hundreds of profile forms each year, so it could take up to six months for yours to be read and reviewed. Please be patient if you have not heard from us. We will contact you, even if we cannot use your story, and return any original documents.

If I submit a profile form, will FAMM act as my attorney?

No, FAMM does not have lawyers on staff to represent individual cases.

Do I need to be innocent of the charges?

No. FAMM is looking for people who accept responsibility for their actions, even if they disagree with the punishment. Above all, FAMM values honesty. We need you to give us accurate information about your case.

What information is contained in a finished “profile of injustice?”

It typically includes information on the conviction, prior criminal record, biographical facts, sentence calculation, and a photo of the prisoner with their family. We review finished profiles of injustice with the prisoner, who must approve it before it is used publicly. For examples of how we use profiles of injustice, see pp. 14-15.

What is FAMM looking for?

We are currently seeking people who fit most or all of the following criteria:

- Serving a federal mandatory minimum sentence for a drug offense; a gun possession offense under federal laws 18 U.S.C 924(c), 924(e) or ACCA; or for other nonviolent offenses.
- Serving a state mandatory minimum sentence for a drug offense; school zone offense; or sentenced as a habitual offender.
- No or few prior convictions, none of which involved crimes of violence (e.g. agg. assault, robbery, murder, rape and other sex offenses).
- Accept responsibility for their role in the offense (we cannot profile prisoners who claim innocence).

Help us put a face on sentencing injustice

If you or someone you love is serving a mandatory minimum for any of the nonviolent offenses listed above, please complete and return a profile form to FAMM. As our thanks, we will add you to our mailing list and send you the *FAMMGram*, our quarterly newsletter.

**FAMM cannot guarantee media coverage nor can we use every profile form we receive. This does not mean that we don’t value your information. Our needs for stories change from time to time and we may be able to use yours in the future. FG*