

Subject: The Prolonged Pain of the Death Penalty Process

To Whom it May concern,



I find myself looking at this photo a lot. The young mother died first, and the baby shortly thereafter. We will never fully know the events of the day without a confession, which we are likely never to get. This photo sticks with me because it is so unnatural. Grandmothers should never bury their children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren. Kaylie and Lana were survived by our older sister Shawna, who passed away January 25th, 2018. Shawna was survived by our mom who passed away January 11th, 2021, which coincidentally was 3 years to the day before the writing of this letter. And Finally, Grandma outlived them all. She passed away at the end of May of 2023. **And yet... Kyle Flack outlived all of them.**

Kaylie was my closest living relative. Kyle Flack outlived our father, our mother, our sister, and our grandmother. The wheels of justice, however, seem to turn at an agonizingly slow pace. **While I am unsure if the execution of Kyle Flack will bring me any sense of closure, what bothers me most is the fact that he has outlived so many of those he victimized.**

The passage of time has allowed him to continue breathing, but each day feels like an eternity with so many of my family laid to rest. The wounds of grief are exacerbated by the knowledge that perhaps so many of my loved ones never get their own closure.

My ambivalence on the death penalty leads me to not advocate for a specific outcome, but rather urge a reflection on the toll that the protracted legal process takes on the lives of those affected by heinous crimes. It is my sincere hope that our justice system can find a way to deliver timely resolutions, offering a semblance of closure to those who have already borne the weight of immeasurable loss.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on the matter. Your consideration and understanding mean a great deal to me, and I hope that by sharing my perspective,

we can contribute to meaningful discussions about the broader implications of the death penalty process.

Sincerely,

Dylan Smith