

John Pickens

Greetings and blessings.

To all of concern, I from the bottom of my heart, I sincerely thank you for this consideration!

My name is John Pickens N38101. I presently reside in Western Illinois CC. I'm serving a natural life sentence for armed robbery/attempt/murder under the three-strike law. Without that mandatory sentence, my case would carry a fixed term of 6-30 years.

I have made some real bad decisions in my life and caused the people of Illinois a lot of pain. In all honesty, I beat myself up and cry every day. I pray for strength and forgiveness for those and from those I've directly affected! I know I am not that person of the past, mentally or physically.

I had a 5-graft open heart surgery in 2018. I have a lot of illness. I take 12 to 13 pills a day. I have not had any disciplinary infraction since my incarceration. I have taken a risk assessment and scored so low that I was told from the counselor I don't need any help and there is no further assessment. I would like to ask our governor to consider my release. I do not want to die in here. My meds are always late being refilled, the longest was a (30 days) month without my Plavix heart pill, Coreg, and my diabetic pill Metformin.

I have a lot of family support. I have a peaceful home to go to, a loving lady. I have a job right now waiting for me, soon as I'm released, I can start working. My problem is no one, not even the doctors, can actually say how long I have before my heart stops. I have been told I won't get better, so I fight to not get worse.

My future employer runs a youth basketball league. I will mentor the young, I ask to have this opportunity of my last days in society so I can make a positive impact in my community.

The Illinois Prison Project has submitted a clemency on my behalf, it was heard in October 2022. I was told the State's Attorney's office didn't oppose it in writing or in person. We are waiting on a decision from our Governor.

I have no negativity in my soul period. I walk in God's light!

I've lost my mom, my brother, all but one aunt and uncle, numerous cousins. I lost my granddaughter last year and they are burying my cousin in the East St. Louis area as I write.

Thank you all for your time and consideration! I just want to be able to show the young that power is in knowledge and education. Being released I will only go to work and go home, the streets are not for me!

Stay blessed, stay prayed up.

God is Good.

John Pickens

N38101

Born 10/20/1960

Custody Date 12/31/1998