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**SC Court of Appeals**

7 February 2022

Dear South Carolina Court of Appeals,

My name is Paris Jones and im 27 years old. I have a 9 year old daughter and i've been a single-independent parent since I was 17. I have obtained my high school diploma and also my Bachelors Degree from Claflin University. I have always been career driven, very ambitious and a loving person. I have an exclusive background in Quality Engineering, whereas I've been an Engineer since my completion of college in 2016; always have maintained a steady job to provide for my daughter. In December of 2019 I was involved in a very bad accident. At the moment of the accident I didnt know the nature or severity of the accident, but I knew that my license was suspended. Scared and affraid to get into trouble for a suspended license, I made an even bigger mistake by leaving the scene of the accident. As soon as I found out the horrible things that occured in the accident, I openly and willingly surrendered myself to authorities and had been complacent, cooperative and honest. I know in fact that I was guilty for leaving the scene and I would never contest innocence about that fact. As soon as I was offered a bond, I took the necessary steps to get my license back

Something that I should have been done in spite

of my fears and shame, I retained another

engineering job so that I could pay all fines

needed to get my license, to support my daughter,

and to pay for all random drug test out of my pocket

that I was asked to take, even though I do not do

drugs. I've maintained that job until the day I

got sentenced to prison. The adults that pulled out in

front of me that night had very high levels of

multiple drugs in their system, and should have never

been behind the wheels of the vehicle. I should

have never been driving without a license. I'm not

innocent because I did leave the scene which is

a crime and if I could have done things differently

and not out of fear, I wish I would have. I am not

a criminal or a bad person and my mistake does

not define my character. I have forgiven myself and

those adults that because of their decision to drive

highly intoxicated, not only endangered their lives,

but put their kids and my life in jeopardy. Because

of my fearful decision, I know there are consequences

I must face and I've accepted that. I'm asking

that I please be considered for a Deduction of

my sentence and/or given probation. I have much

more to offer in life and I want to be greater.

I want to be able to continue to encourage and become even more ambitious, and to continue being successful in life. I've done everything that I can to regain my integrity, my license, and my hope back after the accident. Please consider giving me a lesser sentence with or without probation. My daughter needs me and I want to be greater than before.

Thank You

Paris N. Jones.

Paris N. Jones, #386204 - PB106A  
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