

Victim Impact Statement

Hello,

My name is Michelle Cruz. Joseph DeAngelo, brutally raped and murdered my 18 year old sister 34 years ago when he snuck into our family home on the evening of May 4th 1986. I wonder if he recalls? She was dead shortly after which was May 5th, 1986. I wonder if he remembers the details? I wonder if he remembers Janelle, my sister, fighting him off? She was fighting for her life! My question is, why? Why? I wonder why Janelle? I wonder what made him plan and deliberately torture someone? She was only 18 years old!

Janelle was my big sister. She was one year older than me. She was the one person who always had my back. She was my best friend. She was the one person who was always there for me for all 17 years of my life. She was what I knew! When he took her life away, I lost my identity. He beat my sister, brutally. My sister had a lot of hard times growing up, but she was finally on a good path. She had dreams of going to college, living in her first apartment, getting married, having children, and so many more things. He took that all away from her the night he murdered her. Not only did he take all that away from her, but he also took dreams away from me and my mom. My brother never got the chance to grow up with his big sister. But, during the next 32 years, The killer got married, HE raised HIS children, HE bought HIS home, HE went on vacations, and HE became a grandfather. HE basically had a good full life. On the other hand, I will never be an aunt, **my kids** will never have cousins, **my mom** will never see **her daughter** go to college or get married. Joseph DeAngelo, took everything from us. He is a selfish, sadistic, calculating, cruel, pathetic, piece of scum. What he did to my sister on May 4th and 5th, 1986 was more than evil. He beat my sister beyond recognition and because of this, she had a closed casket funeral. Only a heartless, soulless person could do what he did to Janelle. (I feel sorry for him)

Before May 4th and 5th, 1986, my sister and I had a lot of friends. We were into music and going to the beach. We were living a good life, for the most part. One of our favorite songs was, "Mr. Blue" by Yaz, but we had many favorites. The night he tortured and killed my sister, she had the radio on. It was still on when her lifeless body was found on her bed. He took all the bindings off her wrists and ankles, but the marks were still visible. He knocked out her teeth. They were in her lungs and in her hair. Janelle recently had her braces taken off just before he bashed her teeth out. For 34 years, I struggled with the vision of the torture he put her through that night. It haunts me daily and I cry for her almost daily, even today. Does he **even** have **any** remorse?

After I got the call and was told my sister was murdered, I came home from Mammoth Mountain, where I had been on a skiing vacation. I came home, but I was never really able to come home again. I was only 17 years old, and I had nowhere to go. My house was taped off, so I stayed in hotels and a friends house until I was able to rent a room in someone else's house. I did not return to high school, but I eventually was able to get my degree. I lost most of my friends because no one knew what to say to me after that monster murdered Janelle. That

unforgivable act completely turned my world upside down. We had no more holidays or family get-togethers. He ruined that too.

For 32 years I was constantly looking over my shoulder wondering who killed my sister. I was always wondering if it was someone I knew. How did he meet Janelle? Why was Janelle his last known victim? Did he kill anyone else after her? After 20 years of living life depressed and scared from the murder and loss of my sister so brutally by that man, I decided to start looking for the killer. I wrote to every media outlet telling the story he created until finally they started writing me back with questions and then the case came to the spotlight. During the same time, I was researching many of my friends and their family members and even some very, very, bad people. I spent 10 long years looking for the killer: Joseph DeAngelo. My kids were growing up without me mentally because most of my time was devoted to finding the murderer!! Many family members were angry with me, and told me I was putting them in danger when I came out as an Advocate for Justice, while trying to track the killer down. But finding him was more important than the fear I felt. Many family members told me to give it to God. I said to them, "I did, and this is the path **He put me on.**" My path was to keep pushing and advocating to keep this case active. I wanted to let the world know the havoc this serial rapist and killer created in the lives of so many. Joseph DeAngelo destroyed so many families. While he was living his best life fishing on his boat, all of our families were struggling to find answers. Thankfully, On April 24, 2018 we got our answers! When I was told my sister's murderer had been caught, I cried and cried for hours. Finally, I would not have to spend 6 to 8 hours a day looking for answers anymore. I could finally relax. I could finally start living and enjoying special moments with my kids and family. I could stop looking over my shoulder in fear of him sneaking up on me. All those sleepless nights with dressers propped in front of my doors and windows and lights on all night, are over. No more thinking he would try to find and kill me too. I do not have to keep moving house to house to stay undetected by him. All the things that haunted my mind for 32 years, I could finally try and release. He no longer has control over my mind because I know he will never be free again. I'm damaged, but for the last two years, I have been trying to trust people again. I have been working on myself. I am trying to put my life together. I am trying to find happiness. Slowly, I am putting myself together. I am thankful to all those who have stuck by my side for the last 34 years like Lesley, Dina, and Michael who are with me today. I am thankful to Law enforcement who never gave up, especially Erika Hutchcraft, who listened to me almost daily, for many years, with, "What if's." AnneMarie Shubert and Carol Daily here from Sacramento are my heroes!! While trying to find Joseph DeAngelo, I met other victims who I have become close friends like Debbie Domingo, Jane Carson Sandler, and Margaret. We have cried together because of our grief, but found good friendships.

Now, my time is no longer concentrated on who killed my sister, but rather on finding happiness and enjoyment which I had lost because of this killer 34 years ago. From now on, while he is withering away in prison, I will be spending my days fishing in the river, enjoying my family and grandchild, eating out or relaxing in the comfort of my home, FREE, I will be free of the fear he put me through for so long. I will go on without him controlling my every thought. Now I know who killed my sister Janelle. He did.

I am happy and content with the fact he is behind bars! I am saddened for his children and grandchildren to have to live the rest of their lives knowing what he has done. But finally his family, friends and coworkers will know the truth about him. Now they know who he truly is...a vicious rapist and murderer. Nothing more. I hope he rots.

Michelle Cruz