

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, my name is Jack Ardrey, Jr. and I am a sworn Humane Society Police Officer with powers of arrest in 25 counties. I appreciate the opportunity to add my voice and experiences to the discussion and issue before you today.

On January 8th 2008, due to marital problems and a reoccurring venous ulcer, I attempted to take my life via lethal injection.

On 1/9/2008 in the AM my wife found me and called 911, I was taken via ambulance to the Williamsport Hospital unconscious, where the ER Dr. treated and committed me as an emergency 302 for observation. I never saw or spoke with the ER Dr.

My wife (with my daughter, sister, and mother were witnesses) as she was advised that she had to sign the commitment papers, and that I could later change the status to a 201 voluntary commitment. That option was never offered as a choice.

Officer Ronald Bachman of the Williamsport Police advised my wife that all firearms "had to be sold, that I would never regain my right of ownership," and more than once stated that we should take them to Sours Trading in S. Williamsport for consignment sale, that I could keep any money from the sale. Bachman also stated that if the firearms were not removed by the time I was to be released that he and several other officers would kick the door in and remove the safe. 2 Handguns were taken by the Williamsport Police on 1/9/2008, with no receipts issued as to where they were, or indicating the conditions of the guns. A violation of the law in itself! The 2 handguns were out of the safe to break in a newly acquired Bianchi holster as per manufacturers instructions. Later I met with a friend, with the 2 handguns delivered by the Williamsport Police, and transferred to another individual for safe keeping, until such time that they can be returned.

After staying in the rehabilitation ward for the required amount of time it was determined that I did not present a danger to myself or others and was released.

Prior to my release my firearms collection was removed and placed into safe keeping. Once released from the ward I transferred my \$40,000.00 collection to another individual.

I agreed to voluntarily continue with talk sessions with a psychologist. Completing a few weeks of discussion, the examiner stated I was as good as I was prior to the event of 1/8/08, and advised that should I like to continue discussion that they would have to establish another plan, to include payment from me.

Later in 2008 I called the firearms division of the Harrisburg State Police, requesting information on how to regain my rights of firearms ownership. The agent stated "I know what you are trying to do." I replied "yes I am trying to regain my rights legally".

I contacted Attorney Dan Mather's of the Mather's and Stapp law firm where I was advised to wait until more time had passed.

In 2009 I again contacted the law firm, paying a \$2,500.00 retainer fee to petition the Court of Common Pleas to restore my rights of firearms ownership. I hired Dr Edwin Finch, a local psychiatrist, who interviewed me and provided the MMPI test. The results provided a score higher than that of most police officers that take the same exam to be certified as competent to handle firearms and enforce the laws of the state and local agencies.

A petition was filed, with a copy of the petition sent to the Montoursville Barracks of the PSP. The statutes all state that the PSP must be served with notice of hearings, as well as any orders. There are no references within the law stating that anything must be sent to the Firearms Division of the PSP in Harrisburg. The firearms division of the PSP never attended the hearing, or utilized the window of opportunity to appeal the Court of Common Pleas order.

On July 28, 2009 the Court of Common Pleas held an evidentiary hearing and the order of firearms restoral was signed, and a copy sent again to the PSP in both Montoursville, and Harrisburg.

On August 13th 2010 I attempted to transfer one of my firearms from my collection. The call to the PICS unit resulted in a denial, and went to an operator who stated it was in fact a denial.

A PICS Challenge form was submitted to the PICS Unit of the Harrisburg PSP, with a written denial returned quoting the statute that prohibits ownership of firearms for those involuntarily committed.

However further down in the same statute the PA law states that the Court of Common Pleas can reverse, or order that the firearms right can be restored.

All applications have included a copy of the Court of Common Pleas Order, yet the HGB PSP fail to recognize that the court has the ability to correct or reinstate rights.

Jack K. Ardrey, Jr.
Williamsport, PA

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

In Re Ardrey

§ CIVIL ACTION
§
§
§ NO. 09-01117
§

ORDER

AND NOW, this 28th day of July, 2009, it is ORDERED and DECREED that Petitioner's Petition for Relief From Firearm Disability under 18 Pa. C.S. 6105(f)(1) is granted and Petitioner is hereby exempt from the firearm disabilities listed under 18 Pa. C.S. 6105(c)(4). After a full evidentiary hearing, this Court specifically finds that Petitioner, Jack Kent Ardrey, Jr., [REDACTED] may possess a firearm without risk of harm to himself or other persons. As such, the restrictions under 18 Pa. C.S. 6105(c)(4) are hereby removed and Petitioner is thereby permitted to possess, use, control, sell, transfer, manufacture or obtain a license to possess, use, control, sell, transfer, or manufacture a firearm in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This shall include but not be limited to the restoration of Petitioner's right to carry a concealed weapon, should Petitioner be in possession of a valid license.

[Signature]
J.

cc: Tiffany A. Shoemaker, Esq.
Pennsylvania State Police

REC'D
JUL 29 2009
CLERK OF COURT



PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
1800 ELMERTON AVENUE
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17110

August 18, 2010

File Number: 10-08-02254

Dear: Mr. Ardrey

This letter is in response to your Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) Challenge, Form SP 4-197, which was received by this office on August 17, 2010.

Please be advised that at this time your denial for a purchase/transfer of a firearm is confirmed. Attached is information that identifies the reason(s) for this denial. This information is confidential and will be used only with regard to this challenge.

Please be advised that the basis for your denial can be found under 18 Pa C. S. § 6105 (c) (4). Also, federal law 18 USC § 922 (g) (4), restricts any person adjudicated as a mental defective or involuntarily committed to any mental institution.

Your involuntary commitment in 2008 is prohibiting

The Pennsylvania State Police will consider any information you may have regarding the incident(s) on the attached sheet. Please mail your response along with any supporting documentation within 30 days of the date of this letter. Information that may be helpful would include police reports, medical records, court documents, military records, or correspondence containing your signature along with an explanation pertaining to the circumstances and/or outcome of the incident(s). Include your file number, name and date of birth. Upon receipt of your documentation, the Pennsylvania State Police will review that information and will notify you in writing of our decision within 60 days of the receipt of your challenge.

Mail all responses to the Pennsylvania State Police at the address listed above, Attn: Firearms Division – PICS Challenge Unit. Should the attached information NOT pertain to you, please call the number listed below.

Questions about the PICS Challenge Process may be directed to the following PICS Legal Assistant: Sandy Cox at (717) 705-4545 or (717) 705-4540 or by writing to the above address ATTN: PICS Challenge Unit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy S. Lokhaiser".

Lieutenant Troy S. Lokhaiser
Director, Firearms Division

August 17, 2010

File Number: 10-08-0224

DENIAL REASON LIST

Name: ARDREY, JACK KENT JR.
Mental Health Commitment Date: 1/10/2008
Issuing Authority: LYCOMING COUNTY MH MR
Location: PENNSYLVANIA
Docket/ OTN/ Tracking #: UNKNOWN

Name:
Date of Arrest: / /
Arresting Authority:
Location:
Docket/ OTN/ Tracking #:

Name:
Date of Arrest: / /
Arresting Authority:
Location:
Docket/ OTN/ Tracking #:)