



County of Sacramento  
**Office of the Public Defender**

Felony Division

February 3, 2020

Jennifer C. Carole

**STEVEN M. GARRETT**  
Public Defender

**Amanda M. Benson**  
Chief Assistant Public Defender

**Torr M. Zielenski**  
Chief Assistant Public Defender

**Débra A. McClure**  
Bureau Chief of Investigations

Dear Ms. Carole,

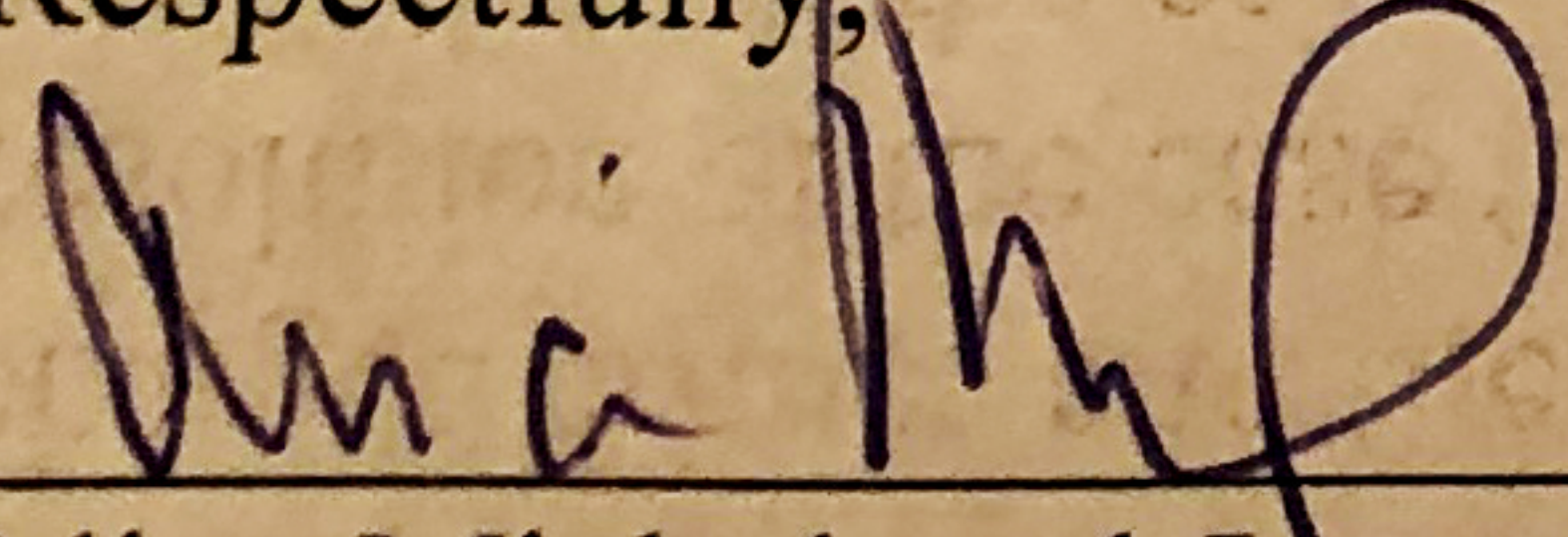
We are the attorneys appointed to represent Joseph DeAngelo in the murder case involving Lyman and Charlene Smith. Please allow me to begin by saying we are very sorry for the emotional pain and trauma the event caused you and your family.

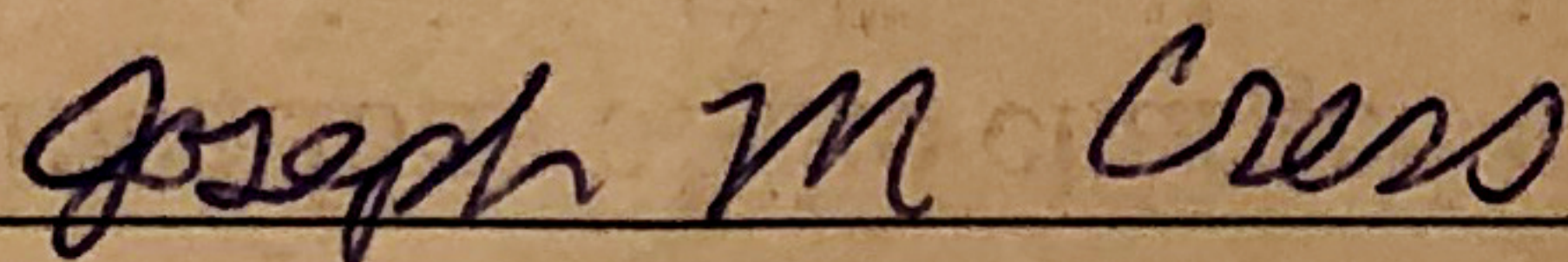
Criminal cases often take many years to resolve by trial. The trial process is often very stressful for victims and their families. This particular case is exceedingly complex due to the number of charged crimes and the diverse locations of the charged crimes. We would like to reach a resolution of the case that avoids a trial, satisfies all parties and provides a more immediate resolution of the case. Such a resolution would hopefully provide closure for you. If avoiding the trial process appeals to you, we hope that you feel comfortable providing your input to both the District Attorney and the defense team.

Regardless of whether you would like to give input into how this case resolves, we recognize that you have questions about what is happening in the case. We may be able to answer some of those questions. Because we represent Joseph DeAngelo, we understand you may not feel comfortable speaking with us directly. We have asked [redacted] to contact you. [redacted] is an independent victim outreach specialist. We hope that she can work with you as a liaison between you and the defense team. She can bring any questions or thoughts you may have to us as we go through this process. Although we hired Ms. [redacted], she serves only as a liaison between victims and family members and the defense team. She is not part of the defense team.

I hope you will not find this communication intrusive. Our goal is to resolve the case in a manner that satisfies all parties, and we want you involved in the conversation.

Respectfully,

  
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Alice Michel and Joseph Cress  
Supervising Public Defenders

  
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Joseph M. Cress