

“Minnesota Homicide Victims’ Families’ Rights Act of 2023”

The Justice for George Jensen Act

H. F. 2443 S. F. 3288



The Bi-Partisan *Federal* version of this Bill passed in the US House of Representatives 406 – 20 and it passed by unanimous consent in the US Senate. President Biden signed it into law on August 2, 2022.



High Level Description

A process for a Minnesota murder victim’s family to follow in order to obtain an update as to the status and progress of their loved one’s case. This is invaluable to the family when the case is open over a long period of time. This legislation will go a long way toward alleviating the family’s feeling that their loved one’s case is just sitting on a shelf.

Specifics

- A MN murder victim’s family may submit a written application to a state or local law enforcement agency to have their loved one’s case reviewed.
- The review shall include
 1. An analysis of what investigative steps or follow-up steps may have been missed in the initial investigation;
 2. An assessment of whether witnesses should be interviewed or reinterviewed;
 3. An examination of physical evidence to see if all appropriate forensic testing and analysis was performed in the first instance or if additional testing might produce information relevant to the investigation; and
 4. An update of the case file **using the most current investigative standards** as of the date of the review to the extent it would help develop probative leads.
- The agency shall consult with the designated person who filed the written application and provide him or her with periodic updates during the case file review and full reinvestigation.
- Not more than 6 months after application, the law enforcement entity shall meet with the applicant and discuss the evidence to explain its decision whether or not to engage in the full reinvestigation at the conclusion of the case file review.

MEET GEORGE D. JENSEN



George Jensen was a 61 year old disabled WW II Army Veteran and father of 4 who was brutally murdered in his home in Bloomington MN in 1979. His case is still unsolved 44 years later!

There aren’t words to adequately describe my feelings over the past 43 years. A literal roller coaster of emotions. None of the following are fully descriptive. All are “times one million”. Indescribable sadness. Indescribable anger. Indescribable frustration at law enforcement’s lack of continuous action. How could no one be held accountable for the murder of my father?

- Dan Jensen

I can sum up in 3 words how the murder of my father has affected me: Fear, Anger and Shame. In the years immediately following his murder, I was in constant Fear thinking that someone was around every corner waiting for me. Every noise I heard, every phone call that I received, were causes for Fear. Then came Anger. Why was my dad murdered? Someone is getting away with this! Later came Shame. After all the years with no arrest, a quiet Shame fell upon my family. Somehow it was shameful to have our dad’s murder go unsolved – did it mean that we didn’t care? What did our friends and the world think of this fact?

- Barry Jensen

Since there is no central database of Cold Cases in Minnesota, we can’t be sure of these #s, but ProjectColdCase.org lists **2,081** Cold Cases in Minnesota between 1965 – 2022! That’s **2,081** Minnesota families who are waiting for answers about their loved ones. **2081** Minnesota families that would benefit from this Legislation.

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