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State of Minnesota
Minnesota Department of Corrections

Office of the Commissioner

December 1, 1998

The Honorable Allan H. Spear, Chair
Senate Crime Prevention Committee
120 Capitol Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Wes Skoglund, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Spear and Representative Skoglund:

Laws of Minnesota 1998, Chapter 367, Article 2, Section 31, requires the commissioner of corrections to submit a report to you concerning the use of money appropriated from the penalty assessment authorized by Minnesota Statutes Section 609.3241.

According to the Department of Finance, \$17,619.93 was collected under Section 609.3241 in fiscal year 1995. No money has been collected since then. These funds were recently transferred to the commissioner of corrections as provided by Minnesota Statutes Section 609.3241. With the consolidation of victim services under the Minnesota Center for Crime Victim Services, the funds were then transferred to the Department of Public Safety for use by the center. The funds have not been expended.

Marie Bibus, director of the Minnesota Center for Crime Victim Services, indicated to this agency on October 7, 1998, that the center planned to divide the funds equally and issue two short-term special project grants to the following programs: Breaking Free and PRIDE. The programs will use the additional grant funds to provide assistance to individuals who have stopped or wish to stop engaging in prostitution. Please see the attached memorandum from Ms. Bibus for additional information regarding these programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gothriel J. La Fleur".

Gothriel J. La Fleur
Commissioner

cc: Marie Bibus, Minnesota Center for Crime Victim Services
Karen Robinson, DOC Assistant Commissioner
Shirley Flekke, DOC Financial Services Director
Legislative Reference Library
Secretary of the Senate
Chief Clerk of the House

— 1998 Minn. Laws Chap. 367 Art. —
2 Sec. 31

**Minnesota Center for Crime Victim Services**

245 E. Sixth St., #705, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

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MEMORANDUM

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STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

TO: Shirley Flekke
Dept. of Corrections/Finance Division

FROM: Marie Bibus
Director of MCCVS

RE: Funds available to assist individuals in leaving prostitution

DATE: October 7, 1998

The Minnesota Center for Crime Victim Services recently received the accumulated penalty assessment funds under Minn. Stat. 609.3241. The Center plans to divide the funds equally and issue two short-term special project grants to the following programs: Breaking Free and PRIDE. Both of these programs receive other funding from the Center and meet our program standards. The funds will be issued soon through a grant supplement. The programs will use the additional grant funds to provide assistance to individuals who have stopped or wish to stop engaging in prostitution. The legislation states that funds may be used for medical care, child care, temporary housing, and educational expenses.

The following is a description of the two programs that will receive the grants:

1. PRIDE

PRIDE is a support program in Minneapolis that helps women and youth escape prostitution. PRIDE stands for from Prostitution to Independence, Dignity and Equality. PRIDE is part of Family and Children's Services, a private, non-profit human service agency that provides professional mental health counseling and comprehensive family support services. PRIDE offers various services such as: confidential support groups for survivors, 24-hour crisis line and emergency relocation in coordination with the Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter, advocacy services to assist in finding housing, legal assistance, child care, education and employment planning, court advocacy through the Prostitution Intervention Project, chemical dependency assessments and relapse prevention assistance and transitional housing.

2. BREAKING FREE

Breaking Free was established in St. Paul in 1996 to serve women involved in systems of prostitution and other battered women who have been involved in the criminal justice system. This program provides advocacy services, case management, social services, support groups, HIV prevention education and outreach, and training in Ramsey County. Breaking Free maintains a contract with the VOA Women's Correctional Facility in Ramsey County to provide weekly educational support groups for incarcerated residents there, and also has a contract with Olmstead County to provide weekly case management to female offenders and consultation and education to probation officers and social workers.

Please let me know if you need further information.