

## LETTERS NEVER RECEIVED

Saturday  
April 25, 2015

To make a long story short, my incarceration has made it absolutely impossible for me to communicate with my daughter, much less see her. She turns 16-years old this week, and not once has she ever laid eyes on me, spoken with me, or even been able to read a letter written to her by me. This isn't to say that I haven't made the attempt. On the contrary, I've spent years trying to find the child I didn't even know I had, without much success, until she was recently placed into foster care. At first, I thought this would be the answer to my prayers, that we'd finally be able to at least write to each other, but sadly, the Court believes that it's not in her "best interests" to speak with a father she's never seen, a father who's going to be in prison until after her 18th birthday. Still, despite the Court's refusal to permit communication between us, and despite both of our requests otherwise, I continue to write. My hope is that, one day, she'll finally see all of the letters I've written, and sent, and, even though it doesn't do her any good here and now, she'll finally know that her father never once gave up on trying to be a part of her life, never once stopped loving her and never once stopped believing in her.

The attachment to this blog is my most recent letter written to her. I've never posted anything I've written to her online before, but one of the guys in here thought that this would be a good letter to share with the world, not because of what it says to her, but because of the advice it gives. That being said, I offer my letter, in the hopes that it helps someone avoid some of the mistakes so many of us have made in the past.

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