

## Show Solidarity for Bobbie Jean Johnson, Wrongfully Imprisoned for 40 Years

### OVERVIEW:

Bobbie Jean Johnson was one of the longest serving female prisoners in Louisiana. Upon surviving a tragic childhood, she was vulnerable to the wrongful arrest and prosecution that resulted in a grossly unjust life sentence. After 40 years in prison, she was released on a guilty plea and immediately sought much-needed medical care.

### TAKE ACTION:

Send a message of solidarity to Bobbie Jean Johnson to let her know you are thinking of her.

### BACKGROUND:

When she was a young woman, Bobbie Jean was arrested and interrogated by violent police officers. Her trial was based on incomplete evidence and she was unjustly imprisoned for 40 years, one of Louisiana's longest serving female prisoners.

Bobbie Jean endured a lifetime of brutality, deprivation and trauma. Raised in extreme poverty, she survived an abusive and dysfunctional childhood and was forced into the sex trade as a teenager. This made her vulnerable to the wrongful arrest and prosecution that resulted in a grossly unjust life sentence.

She was finally freed in 2018 in an agreement with prosecutors. As part of that agreement, she had to plead guilty to a lesser crime in order to be immediately released.

Innocence Project New Orleans worked on her case, and believe in her innocence; the plea was in her best interest as she was dealing with extremely serious health issues at the time, and there was concern she would die if she continued to receive substandard medical care in prison.

Upon her release, Bobbie Jean moved to Atlanta to live with her sister and nephews. Since then, she has been struggling to recover her health, and has undergone treatment for a number of chronic ailments. She is now in a personal care home to have support around-the-clock. She has become actively involved with the Georgia Innocence Project, loves



hearing about what organizations are doing around the country, and talking with new people.

**Take action: Tell Bobbie Jean you are thinking of her.**

By sending words of encouragement you will let Bobbie Jean know she has support from people all over the world. Send her a handmade picture or drawing, an uplifting story or poem or just a kind note. Your letters will help Bobbie Jean continue to build strength as she works to regain her health.

**LETTER WRITING TIPS:**

Consider the following tips as you compose your letter or card to Bobbie Jean.

- Be positive and encouraging.
- Say a bit about yourself and how you heard about Bobbie Jean's case.
- Consider including information about your interest in helping free innocent people from prison and how you are involved in this work in your area.
- Feel free to share a story.
- Close with an uplifting salutation.

**SEND LETTERS TO:**

Bobbie Jean Johnson  
c/o Innocence Project New Orleans  
P.O. Box 792808  
New Orleans, LA 70179-2808

**Photo sources:**

- [18 year old Bobbie Jean](#)
- [Recent photo of Bobbie Jean](#)