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Statement of Gloria Allred

Today, Sean Patrick Banks was sentenced for crimes, including rape by force, against Katie Kuhlman, age 24. Katie is also my client. Banks was also sentenced today for crimes including rape of an intoxicated person against another victim (whom I do not represent).

Both victims met him through on-line websites for individuals who were seeking meaningful relationships. Katie met Banks through Christian Mingle. The other victim met him through Match.com.

Millions of women use these sites with the hopes that they will meet the right person for them. The women often have no idea that many of these sites are used by dangerous sexual predators such as Sean Patrick Banks to target victims.

Sometimes the predators do not even use their real names.

In the case of Sean Patrick Banks, the sentencing report from the probation department indicates that he used the name "Rylan" which was not his legal name and that he also lied about his age, listing it as 27 when his true age was 37.

Many on-line predators take advantage of victims who are vulnerable as Katie was. The predators then become sexually aggressive and violent, as the jury found that Banks was with Katie.

Fortunately for women, however, Katie did the brave and the right thing. After Banks left, she reported what she had endured to law enforcement. After she did that, law enforcement held a press conference and another victim came forward. Because of Katie's courage, Banks is now in prison where he belongs.

We are holding this press conference today because Katie and I want other potential victims to be aware of the risk of on-line dating. We don't want what happened to Katie to happen to anyone else and if it does we urge other victims of predators to immediately report what happened to the police.

We are happy that Sean Banks has now been sentenced to prison, but other dangerous predators are still on line and looking for victims.

Please be careful. The dating websites do not do what we think they should do to protect you. Danger may lie ahead.

Gloria Allred
Attorney at Law
Representing Katie Kuhlman
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