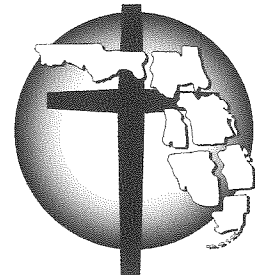


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MICHAEL B. SHEEDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



April 26, 2023

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: Please stay execution of Darryl Barwick and commute his death sentence

Dear Governor DeSantis:

As we approach the scheduled execution date of Darryl Barwick, we ask you to grant a stay and commute his sentence to life without parole.

Mr. Barwick was convicted of and sentenced to death for the 1986 murder of Rebecca Wendt, in Panama City, Florida. His heinous crime tragically ended the life of Ms. Wendt at the young age of 24, and has caused tremendous grief and suffering to her loved ones.

Executing Mr. Barwick will not undo the violent acts he perpetrated against Ms. Wendt but rather will perpetuate a cycle of violence. State-sanctioned killing only continues to foster disrespect for the dignity and sacredness of human life. Taking another life is unnecessary, as society can be kept safe from Mr. Barwick through the severe and appropriate punishment of life-long incarceration.

It is worth noting the difficult circumstances of Mr. Barwick's childhood. He suffered developmental disabilities and endured years of relentless physical abuse at the hands of his father. He also experienced substantial psychological problems into adulthood. Neuroscientific research shows that traumatic experiences can have lasting effects on the developing brain, which can profoundly affect behavior.

Floridians around the state will soon be gathering in prayer for Ms. Wendt and all who have been harmed by Mr. Gaskin's actions, for him, for everyone affected by violent crime, and for an end to the use of the death penalty. We also pray for you as you consider this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Sheedy".

Michael B. Sheedy

cc: Archbishop and Bishops of Florida
Christie C. Arnold, Associate for Respect Life & Social Concerns