

RANDY POPE'S STATEMENT



My name is Randy Pope. When I was 16, I was sent to the box in jail because I got into an argument with another kid over a basketball.

I love basketball. I love sports more than anything, and I think Steph Curry is the greatest athlete of all time.

The other kid and I, we didn't fight. We just argued. I don't think it's right to send someone to the box for an argument.

When they told me I was going to go to solitary for the rest of the month, I didn't know what that meant. The first thing I noticed was the smell. They took me to a dark box and I saw feces on the floor. There was also pee everywhere. Then they told me to go inside and shut the door.

The worst thing was trying to eat in there. Sometimes I could only hold down my juice.

You can't see anything, just black walls closing in on you. It's like the cells are designed to make you act crazy, like start yelling until someone gets you out of there. I tried doing crossword puzzles but I kept thinking about killing myself.

You're only allowed out to go into the cage, and that's with the adults. It's not like being with kids. I was scared I was going to get beat up, and that the adults would be looking to cause trouble with the kids. .

Today, I want something to be done so other kids won't have to go through all of this, just over a basketball. Thank you for listening to me today. I hope I can make a difference.