

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Petitioner: James D. Bell

Relevant period: 1999 – 2025

1999 – Underlying Offense & Case Initiation

- Criminal case docketed as **CP-02-CR-0009208-1999** (Allegheny County).
 - Related magisterial docket: **MJ-05214-CR-0004803-1999**.
-

2002 – Sentencing (NO Megan’s Law)

October 18, 2002

- Sentencing held before **Judge Jeffrey Zottola**.
 - Petitioner asked counsel: “What about Megan’s Law?”
Response: “You are not being convicted under Megan’s Law. You do not have to register.”
 - PSI stated Petitioner was “only a threat to himself.”
 - **No registration order entered.**
 - **No SVP designation.**
-

2003 – Release from Custody

Late 2003

- Petitioner completed jail sentence and was released.
 - No registration obligations communicated.
-

2004 – Probation Action & PSP Misclassification

Late 2004

- Probation Officer **Michelle Gresse**m told Petitioner her supervisors questioned why he was not on the registry.
- She submitted registration paperwork to PSP **without court authority**.

PSP Response:

- PSP initially returned the paperwork, stating Petitioner did **not** have to register.

December 1, 2004

- Gresse
m resubmitted paperwork.- PSP **administratively placed Petitioner on the Megan’s Law registry** without:
 - o judicial order,
 - o SVP hearing,
 - o statutory basis,
 - o due process.

This is the foundational error causing all later harm.

2007 – Attorney Thomassey Letter

September 11, 2007

- Attorney Patrick Thomassey confirmed in writing that Petitioner was **not** a Megan’s Law offender.
 - Reinforces that no registration duty ever existed.
-

2016 – Neuropsychological Evaluation

- Medical assessment documenting trauma, anxiety, and stress responses.
-

2017 – Hiring Attorney Lea Terlong Bickerton

September 18, 2017

- Bickerton retained to challenge registry status.
 - She refused written communication and provided shifting explanations.
-

2018 – Petition for Review Filed & Abandoned

February 23, 2018

- Bickerton filed a Petition for Review under seal: **Commonwealth Court 96 MD 2018**.

March 29, 2018

- Bickerton filed a **Praecipe for Discontinuance** without Petitioner's consent.

Petitioner was not informed and believed his challenge was active.

2017–2023 – Continued Miscommunication

- Petitioner repeatedly attempted to obtain updates.
 - Bickerton claimed delays due to Muniz and later Torselli.
 - No further action taken.
-

December 14, 2023 – Arrest #1 (Failure to Register)

10:15 PM – Sheriffs Arrive

- Petitioner asked: “What about my dog?”
Response: “You’ll be home in 3–4 hours.”
- Petitioner was gone **exactly 24 hours**.
- Dog left without food/water.

- Sheriffs refused to allow Petitioner to log out of work systems; mishandled his unlocked phone.
 - Two hearings later postponed due to sheriff no-shows.
-

April 16, 2024 – Arrest #2 (Formal Arraignment No-Show)

- Sheriffs forcibly entered Petitioner's home.
 - Petitioner was **tased**; probes embedded in his abdomen.
 - Taken to hospital for probe removal.
 - Inside the van, a sheriff yelled:
 “What the f*** is wrong with you?”
 “You child molester!”
 - Neighbors overheard.
-

May 2, 2024 – Arrest #3 (Failure to Register)

- Charges dismissed **June 6, 2024**.
 - Petitioner unlawfully held until **June 12, 2024**.
 - Multiple hearings delayed due to sheriff no-show.
-

July 17, 2024 – Arrest #4 (No-Show Trial – Forced Entry)

- Petitioner told sheriffs he was naked and getting dressed.
- Female sheriff said “OK,” but they **broke in anyway**.
- Deputies pushed Petitioner down stairs and out the door after handcuffing.
- Statement made: “You ain’t seen aggression yet.”

- Petitioner held on suicide watch with lights on for days, denied phone access.
 - Released **October 3, 2024**.
 - Home left unsecured; **\$9,098.29+** in property missing.
-

2025 – PSP Continues Enforcement

PSP Letter — November 21–30, 2025

- PSP required Petitioner to report for “annual verification.”
 - Demonstrates ongoing unlawful treatment as registrant.
-

Financial Harm Summary (Through 2025)

- Property loss: **\$9,098.29+**
 - Court costs: **\$1,043.25**
 - Attorney fees (Bickerton): **\$2,500**
 - Attorney fees (Ketchel): **\$1,500**
 - Total documented financial harm: **\$10,141.54+**
-

End of Timeline Document