

**BILL JENKINS, Illinois**  
**Father of William Jenkins, murdered**  
**in Virginia in 1997**

Bill Jenkins's 16-year-old son William was shot and killed when the fast-food restaurant where he worked was robbed at closing time. The prosecutor initially planned to seek the death penalty, but William's parents specifically asked that the death penalty not be sought in this case. The man convicted of the murder is now serving a sentence of life without parole.

Bill is the author of *What to Do When the Police Leave? A Guide to the First Days of Traumatic Loss*. He gives workshops on victims' issues for the National Organization for Victim Assistance, the Compassionate Friends, Fight Crime! Invest in Kids, and Parents of Murdered Children. He serves on the Cook County Juvenile Probation Department's Victim Advisory Board and trains officials who work with victims of crime.

"The death penalty brings neither peace nor healing to the injured parties and the resulting upheaval and re-victimization at all levels of its implementation have far greater consequences than are ever brought to light. As a society, we have to decide: do we perpetuate a system of punishment that is of questionable social value and can never be perfected, or do we remove its traumatizing impact from our criminal justice system altogether? The answer will in large measure define who we are as a people."

**Links to more information:**

<http://www.willsworld.com>

[http://mesh.medill.northwestern.edu/mnschicago/archives/2005/02/victim\\_descript.html](http://mesh.medill.northwestern.edu/mnschicago/archives/2005/02/victim_descript.html)



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