

**Richard Nethercut, Massachusetts
Father of Jaina Nethercut,
murdered in Washington in 1978**

Richard Nethercut's 19-year-old daughter was raped and murdered in a Seattle hotel. Her assailant was convicted of first-degree murder; after 17 years in prison, he was released on parole.

Dick has testified against reinstatement of the death penalty in Massachusetts and since 1992 has led Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops in Massachusetts prisons in memory of his daughter. He is a strong believer in forgiveness and restorative justice. He has forgiven the man who killed Jaina and is convinced that she approved of this action.

"From my perspective, the death penalty only adds to the suffering of the victim's family, rather than lessening it. I believe the work I do now in prison and with ex-prisoners honors and gives significance to my daughter's life. In forgiving her killer without condoning his heinous action, I am free to get on with my life, no longer imprisoned by rage or grief, and this has been very healing for me."



Richard Nethercut



Jaina Nethercut