

'I'm kind of scared:' Wrongfully-convicted man leaves prison

Daryl Holloway's 1993 conviction was overturned Tuesday

MILWAUKEE —Daryl Holloway walked out of the Green Bay Correctional Institution on Wednesday morning as a free man, nearly 23 years after being convicted for a crime that new DNA testing proved he didn't commit.

"I'm kind of scared because I don't know what to expect. This is a whole new world now," he said.

Holloway, 48, was convicted in August 1993 of two counts of sexual assault and two counts of armed burglary. A Milwaukee County judge signed an order Tuesday vacating the conviction and 120-year sentence and dismissing all charges.

New DNA testing -- done through the work of the Wisconsin Innocence Project -- found he couldn't have committed the crime.

Student Rachel Potter, of the Wisconsin Innocence Project, made the call.

"I had this whole plan in my head about what I was going to say, and I just got real emotional, and I said, 'You're getting out, and it's going to be in the next couple days,' and we talked about what today was going to be like, and it was one of the most moving experiences I've had the opportunity to have," Potter said.

"It's been a long struggle. He's extremely emotional right now as one would expect but very, very happy," associate professor of law Keith Findley, a co-founder of the group, said on Tuesday.

"Man, these people's geniuses," Holloway said.

Holloway said he almost gave up hope when his mom died.

"That's her shining on me. I know that," he said.

Holloway said he lost a marriage while in prison and looked forward to rebuilding his relationship with his children. He said his long-term plans may include studying law.

His first stop after prison was Target to buy street clothes, and then he was headed out for a steak.

Holloway said he knows of others in the Green Bay Correctional Institution that are serving time for crimes they didn't commit.

"Keep fighting," he said. "Don't give up. It's like my mama told me. If you're right, stand up. If you're wrong, lay down."

Ray Dall'Osto took on Holloway's case after his conviction.

He pushed for new DNA testing, and to get the case into the hands of the people at the Innocence Project.

"There's nothing better than to have justice done, and especially a wrong that is righted now," he said.

The State of Wisconsin caps compensation for his time lost at \$5,000 per year, for a maximum of \$25,000.

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