

Cassy's Law

HF 856 (Hollins) / SF 611 (Ingebrigtsen)

Cassy's Story

Seven years ago, Cassy suffered a major stroke in her frontal lobe after complications from a hernia operation. A brand new mom only months before the surgery, she awoke from a coma having lost her leg and not understanding what had happened.

Her and her family's lives were changed forever.

The damage to Cassy's frontal lobe caused major deficits in her sense of consequences and inhibition controls. These deficits have resulted in behaviors that have catapulted her family into the criminal justice system. After a **neuropsychological examination** identified treatment options that could have helped her regain function and stay and out of prison, her family saw a spark of hope.



Unfortunately the court system did not take the findings of the exam into account during sentencing. Cassy was sent to prison where she has been unable to access supports that would help her manage and deal with her behaviors long-term. **Since then, her father Tim Barry has fought tirelessly to raise awareness about the gaps and failures people with stroke and brain injury face in the human services and criminal justice system.**

A Father's Plan



Require neuropsychological examinations be conducted and considered during pre-sentence investigations to provide relevant treatment and management options.



Provide the court with a professional medical report in cases involving brain injury or stroke that reflects the needs and challenges faced by that unique individual.



When appropriate, divert individuals into programs that support their treatment and rehabilitation rather than traditional punitive systems.

Stop the cycle of criminalizing disabilities.

Email Jeff Nachbar with any questions at jeffn@braininjurymn.org or call (612) 760-7165

