

27-year fight for freedom



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JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- After 27 years in prison, DNA evidence exonerated William Dillon from a lifetime murder sentence. Now he's fighting to make sure others don't share his fate.

"It was quite a journey. A long, long journey," said Dillon.

The pain in his piercing blue eyes does not even begin to tell the story of Dillon's 27 year fight for freedom.

"After 25 years, I thought I would never be free," he said.

William walked out of his jail cell for the first time in November 2008.

"When I walked out to breathe the air, it smelled different and my head was spinning like I was just being carried down to freedom."

His horror began in 1981 when he was arrested for the beating death of a man in South Florida. A faulty eye witness sent him to the Brevard county jail.

"I was assaulted within the first hour of being in prison. I was traumatized for the first five straight years I was there."

A life time lost, now Dillon travels the country talking to lawyers, public defenders and law enforcement. He wants them to see that cases aren't always so black and white. "People are after convictions," he said.

He can't get back those 27 years, but finally he can look forward to his own future.

"You can't give up regardless of the situation, accident or intentional. You can't ever give up," said Dillon.

William Dillon has still not gotten any restitution for his 27-years behind bars.

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