



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Civil Rights Division**

MJK:kjc:km  
DJ 144-17M-0

*Criminal Section - PHB  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530*

**DEC 11 2008**

Ms. Celeste Dobbs  
335 Ponmunjom Cir  
Oceanside, CA 92058

Dear Ms. Dobbs:

This is in response to your letter postmarked November, 2008 concerning your son, Mr. John Dobbs, pertaining to complaints about his conviction for violating state laws 784.04(2)/021(a). You stated the your son was acting in self-defense pertaining to an incident that occurred at the Doll House Club in Orlando, Florida on October 25, 2006 which resulted in the murder of William Troy.

The Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division is responsible for enforcing federal criminal civil rights statutes. Much of our enforcement activity relates to the investigation and prosecution of deprivations of civil rights under color of law. These matters generally involve allegations of excessive physical force or sexual abuse by law enforcement officers.


We have carefully reviewed the information you furnished and concluded that there is no prosecutable violation of federal criminal civil rights statutes. Accordingly, we are unable to assist you. This case has been litigated in the courts of the State of Florida. Therefore, any relief should be sought through the state appellate courts. The Department of Justice does not have the authority to sit in review of legal issues previously addressed by the trial courts.

We can only suggest that you consult with a private attorney to determine what appellate remedies are available or possibly contact the local bar association to seek any legal remedies for Mr. Dobbs. We regret that we cannot be of further assistance to you. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Kappelhoff  
Section Chief  
Criminal Section  
Civil Rights Division

By:

  
Kevin J. Callahan  
Paralegal Specialist  
Criminal Section