

What exactly is the

Felony Murder Rule?

The felony murder rule is a law in Florida that says if a person commits or even *attempts* to commit certain felonies, such as burglary, arson, rape, robbery, kidnapping, or any other felony which would be considered a violent or dangerous felony, and a person dies during the commission of or in the attempt to commit the felony, even if the perpetrator had no knowledge or intent for a person to die, all people involved, no matter their involvement, are charged with first degree murder and sentenced to life without parole or given the death penalty.

Florida Statute 782.04, states that first degree murder means premeditated, willful murder, yet the felony murder rule doesn't require any proof of a persons intent to kill, yet carries the same sentencing guidelines.

A simple scenario...

There is a house party across town that you want to go to. You and three of your friends get into your car, drive across town, and party all night long. You are young, maybe eighteen years old, so you're wide open at this party. By six in the morning, you are so drunk you can barely stand. Some people at the party ask you to give them a ride, they just heard their rivals are in town and they want to go fight. You know that you can't drive, and want nothing to do with a fight, so you hand over your car keys and tell your friends not to wreck your car. A few people at the party leave in your car and find their rivals in the parking lot of a grocery store. One of the people in your car pulls out a baseball bat and hits his rival so hard that he instantly dies. When the police arrive and you are questioned, you tell them, "I was drunk and they asked me to take them, I didn't want anything to do with it, so I said no, but it was my car and they did tell me they wanted to go fight their rivals." You just sentenced yourself to life in prison without the possibility of parole, or quite possibly the death penalty. The prosecutor comes into court and tells the jurors, "Without this mans car, there would have been no murder."

This story is fictional, but is based on fact. And the fact is that many of our state's and our nation's youth, our carefree, careless children who feel invincible at their age, have been caught up, sometimes completely innocently, in the felony murder rule.

FELONY MURDER

The person in our example is an 18 year old boy. When convicted, he spends the rest of his life in jail. A child loses his life for someone else's mistake. There is no justice in that....

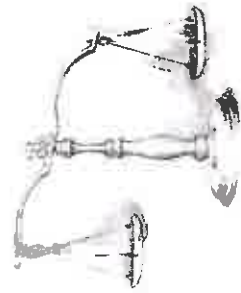
That's where we come in.

If we are successful in amending this law, this person would be charged accordingly. He would be given a maximum of 15 years in state prison for his part in the crime, and the person who killed another person would be charged with the murder.

The Felony Murder Rule has long been criticized for it's unfair sentencing. Now, it's time for a change. It's time for Florida citizens to stand up for these people, and have this law changed.

Please visit our web page for actual cases where the FMR is imposed, you will be shocked at the scenario's.

**FLORIDA CITIZENS FOR
FELONY MURDER RULE
CHANGE**
WWW.FELONYMURDERFL.ORG



What's wrong with the Felony Murder Rule? (FMR)

- It doesn't take the defendant's motivation during the crime into consideration which relieves the prosecution of its burden to prove intent to kill.
- Intent to commit a felony does not equal intent to commit murder. The intention of committing a felony, by itself, should not be sufficient to establish a charge of murder.
- Punishes all individuals involved in the felony equally as those who actually committed the murder.
- The basic rule of legal culpability is violated when any person not knowing of a murder occurring is charged with first-degree murder.
- The FMR requires only proof of intent to commit the underlying felony. All other first-degree murder charges, which carry equal punishment, require proof beyond a reasonable doubt of pre-meditation, deliberation, and willfulness to commit murder.
- Depending on the circumstances of each case, the FMR can cause grossly disproportionate sentencing because of it's sentencing guidelines, life without the possibility of parole, or the death penalty.

These are just a few of the many reasons the Felony Murder Rule is wrong. Go to WWW.FELONYMURDERFL.ORG to find out more about this horrible injustice.

Who we are...

Florida Citizens for Felony Murder Rule

Change believes that this law is unfair and unjust. Prosecutors don't have to prove anything besides the felony, and intent to commit a felony does not equal intent to commit murder.

The absence of basic rights under the felony murder rule is a major point for our citizens action group. Florida Citizens for Felony Murder Rule Change urges you to be a part of fighting what is so obviously wrong with an area of our law.

A person is said to be innocent until proven guilty, with felony murder the only guilt is that a person committed a felony. They need not know, or even be in the same vicinity when a murder occurs, as long as they were involved some way in the felony, they are guilty of first degree murder.

Join us!

Florida citizens For Felony Murder Rule

Change is a growing group of concerned citizens whose goal is to repeal the FMR. We believe that the penalties for crime be proportionate to the actual crime committed. Please browse our web site to learn more about how you can help change the Felony Murder Rule.

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What is the FELONY MURDER RULE

and why do we need to change it?

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