You Decide

8.4 The Maryland statutory rape law in 1993 provided that it was a felony punishable by not more than twenty years in prison for a person to engage in vaginal intercourse with an individual "who is under 14 years of age and the person performing the act is at least four years older than the victim."

Raymond Leonard Garnett is described as a twenty-year-old, mentally challenged young man with an IQ of fifty-two. He read on the third-grade level, performed arithmetic on a fifth-grade level, and interacted with others socially at the level of someone eleven or twelve years of age. Raymond was unable to pass any of Maryland's functional tests required for graduation and received only a certificate of attendance rather than a high school diploma. He was introduced by a friend to Erica Frazier, thirteen, and was told that she was sixteen. The two of them talked on various occasions, and one evening they engaged in sexual intercourse after she invited him to climb through her bedroom window. Erica subsequently gave birth to a baby. Raymond was convicted of statutory rape and was sentenced to a suspended sentence of five years in prison and five years' probation, and was ordered to pay restitution to Erica and to Erica's family.

Do you agree with the verdict and the sentence? See *Garnett v. State,* 632 A.2d 797 (Md. 1993).

You can find the answer at study.sagepub.com/lippmaness2e