

**HOW JENNIFER SATTLER, DAVID SULLIVAN, STEVE GAGNE, MARK  
POPIELARZCK AND LINDA PISANO COVERED UP THE RAPE AND  
ABUSE OF THREE CHILDREN IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS WHICH  
RESULTED IN THE ABUSE OF MULTIPLE STUDENTS AT GLENBROOK  
MIDDLE SCHOOL IN LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS IN 2016**

Not so many years ago, before the recent elevation of our national discussion surrounding sexual abuse, the Massachusetts justice system failed two families of raped and abused children. Repeatedly, and at every level. The following pages comprise an in depth accounting of these families' experiences.

By coincidence or fate, one person stood behind the law enforcement investigations and reportage on both cases: Holyoke Police Detective Jennifer L. Sattler. Detective Sattler appears to have based her conclusions and ultimate refusal to prosecute the two suspected child rapists on investigations she alone controlled, investigations which failed even basic diligence, the resultant documents reveal. The families involved say Sattler's apparent sloppiness eclipsed mere incompetence. They say it instead functioned, as she intended, to support false narratives and protect the accused: a lifelong family friend in

one case and respected member of the Western Massachusetts swim community in the other. Most notably, Sattler neglected to interview either set of parents or the children's therapists (all three of them were seeing at least one), obviously important work which would have turned up decisive, court admissible, evidence. Therapists would have provided key testimony about the symptoms of abuse all three were suffering and the disclosures they had made.

As will be shown, in both cases, Sattler should be investigated for obstruction of justice and official misconduct. These pages prove conspiracy on the part of Mrs. Sattler and others. Most distressingly, as a result of these machinations, two abusers escaped their crimes in the court of law and walk the streets today, alongside your children, able to rape at will.

One of them, Timothy Symington, subsequently harmed many other Longmeadow school children. In 2016, Glenbrook Middle School, where he taught history, launched an investigation into his conduct which turned up seven students he'd treated improperly. Interviews with staff revealed how he'd sexually harassed, targeted, groomed, intimidated, and, more generally, terrified Glenbrook Middle School students. When Symington was placed on leave (while former Longmeadow Superintendent Marie

Doyle and current Longmeadow Principal Nicole Allen conducted what can only be described by their own documents and testimony to have been a sham investigation) the students expressed that they feared he would physically harm them if allowed to return.

These events occurred more than a decade after the entire Longmeadow school leadership--every teacher, administrator, and school committee member--had been warned about Symington. In 2005, all had received anonymous mailers containing documents which graphically detailed allegations that the troubled teacher had molested his own children, had a history of suicidal ideation, and was even barred by court order from having any contact with his 10-year-old son whatsoever.

A clear warning that any honest, decent adult who loved children would obviously heed.

Superintendent Scott Anderson didn't heed it. He did, though, pass the buck. A letter he subsequently wrote to the Northampton Probate Court, addressed to then-Register of Probate and current Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan, left one salient question hanging: Does the Court possess "any information I should know pertaining to the health and safety of our students and staff"?

It was an odd query. The information Anderson already possessed in the anonymous mailer should've caused him great

concern in and of itself. Nevertheless, these files had all been drawn from a trove that was within the possession of the Register of Probate, filed in connection with the teacher's divorce. One would think, therefore, that Sullivan, who possessed all these and more, would've answered Anderson's question with an obvious "yes."

He did not. He said "no."

**"There have been no court activities which lead me to believe there is any threat to the health and safety of any staff or students,"** he wrote to Anderson in January 2005, eleven years before seven students came forward as victims of David Sullivan's cover-up.

Current Judge Linda Fidnick was the Silvernails' attorney at the time. When she saw Sullivan's letter, she loudly exclaimed: "How can he say something like that?!" Perhaps Judge Fidnick was unaware, as were the Silvernails, of Sattler's relationship to the Symingtons and Kenna Symington's (the child rapist's mother) lifelong friendship with the wife of Judge Peter Velis. Over the last 15 years, the Silvernails have learned a lot about what corruption looks like in Massachusetts, to say the least.

The teacher resigned in 2016 to stem the threat of a lengthier investigation into his past conduct, which would've

turned up God-knows-what, according to a story on the website MassLive. He had, for years, been allowed to accompany students on overnight field trips to Washington, D.C. Just like his father, Robert Symington, Timothy Symington often used bathrooms to groom his sexual abuse victims. Principal Nicole Allen did an investigation when Glenbrook Middle School students found Symington lurking in a student bathroom but reported nothing amiss. Why didn't Principal Nicole Allen protect the students then? Why did Principal Nicole Allen welcome Symington back into the classroom with great fanfare and a letter of support after her investigation caught him in the student's bathroom - the very place he likes to groom his sexual abuse victims?

As is frequently done, eventually the Longmeadow school district protected itself from the wrath of parents by sweeping the affair under the rug with the condition that Symington go away, immediately, and incentivized him with a small benefits package, the website reports. For a large number of students endangered by everyday exposure to Symington, his resignation came 10 years too late. Apart from two incompetent Longmeadow school superintendents and still Principal Nicole Allen, responsibility for these children's mistreatment and suffering can also be laid directly at the feet of the Holyoke Police Department and "Detective" Sattler as well as District Attorney David Sullivan, all of whom could have easily intervened years

earlier. Later you will also read how ADA Linda Pisano and ADA Steve Gagne were used by District Attorney David Sullivan to help Sullivan cover-up his crimes in 2017.

Less is known about the subsequent course of the second abuser, Randall Smith, who apparently still lives alone locally, in Western Massachusetts. His victim is now in her middle 20s and living in New York. Her mother maintains that her daughter is not alone, and there are at least two additional victims, who remain too intimidated or ashamed to come forward.

"We are unfortunately confident that there are other victims," the victim's father, Dr. Strzempko, wrote in a letter to Sattler and the Holyoke police chief in 2013.

#

Children almost never lie about sexual abuse. That fact comes courtesy of every study ever undertaken on the fraught and horrendous subject. In 1992, Edwin Mikkelsen and Thomas Gutheil conducted a statistical analysis of allegations of "false sexual abuse" by children and adolescents. The results showed as little as two percent and a max of 10 percent of cases were determined, upon review, to have been falsely reported. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services crunched the numbers on its own data in 1997, and in so doing discovered only 1,803 of 320,447

claims across four states were "intentionally false." Less than a half of one percent.

As many parents who've suffered through it can attest, the hardest step in this nightmare process is disclosure itself. The children lack a framework to understand what's happened to them and the language to discuss it. Often, they lock it away in a private place of shame and embarrassment, and perseverate with obsessive fitfulness about the events. "Children's responses to traumatic events include two basic dimensions of post-traumatic reaction: repetition of the trauma and attempts to avoid or deny the trauma," according to the Institute for the Study of Child Development. "The trauma or stressor produces anxiety which the child deals with through defensive coping operations." These feelings all too frequently lead to "self-blame and negative self-regard," rather than an attempt to communicate with adults.

Additionally, in a majority of cases, the victimized children trust their abusers, opening the door to manipulation, brainwashing, and intimidation: necessary evils of childhood sexual abuse. Only 38 percent of victimized children disclose at all, as a result of these complex factors. Almost half of disclosures happen not to adults but between friends, according to U.S. Department of Justice facts and figures which speak to the power of shame. Inevitably, the department adds, many

between-friends admissions never reach the ears of a responsible adult, and are hence never investigated.

For cases that do "get there," there's the additional, well-known difficulty of producing the evidence needed to prove the offender's guilt beyond doubt in a court of law. "Many acts of child sexual abuse do not leave any physical injury that can be identified by a medical examination," writes the DOJ, in a guidelines to *Law Enforcement Response to Child Abuse* it published in 1997. "In addition, children's injuries can heal rapidly. However, lack of medical corroboration does not necessarily mean that a child was not sexually abused or that an offense cannot be proved in court. Law enforcement should be aware that statements made to doctors by the child during the medical examination may be admissible in court as exceptions to the hearsay rule."

*Law enforcement should be aware.*

It almost goes without saying: those entrusted with the grave responsibility of investigation and prosecution of these repellent crimes should know and employ every tool available in the box to ensure that the job is done right. Not only should they be aware of the admissibility of physician and therapist testimony in court, but also of the realities stated above-- i.e., that children rarely lie about abuse and that they should



consider themselves and society as a whole fortunate they're talking at all, given that the majority opt to suffer in silence--and take both into account in how they approach their difficult and sensitive task. Wouldn't you, if it was your job to investigate potential sexual trauma done to children, want to leave no stone unturned?

This I note up front, because, as you will read, the two Western Massachusetts cases of child sexual abuse I'm about to discuss are typical of all these realities in every sense but one. Namely, both were those rare instances where the stars aligned for police and prosecutors. In these cases, the victimized children were talking. They shared hair-raising tales of abuse, and named their molesters. Supportive parents and numerous therapists stood firmly behind them, and provided heartbreaking cross-corroborating testimony and affidavits. These detailed how the abuse had produced unequivocal changes in the three children's behavior and personalities, and the differing but typical ways in which each had expressed their trauma: all, to a T, textbook symptoms of sexual abuse. Both families somehow survived the disclosures, the slow-dawning horror of the abuse and the constant, ugly resurfacing of its reality. Both watched mental complexes and diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorders traumatize the children they loved. Both spent far too many hours in the waiting rooms and hallways

of youth psychologists and abuse specialists than they'd care to recall, and more time working independently with the kids than could ever be accounted for.

Because, at the time the children disclosed, each perpetrator remained in a position which regularly made him a caretaker of youths, both families, too, dutifully drove their kids to the Holyoke Police Department and gently instructed them to report the crimes. The goal, of course, was to prevent any more victims from being created and to bring about justice. "Every day there was wide-eyed 12-year-old's going down to his practice," Monica Strzempko, parent to one of the victimized children, told me, describing her thought process after her daughter revealed the rape she suffered at the hands of Smith, her swim coach. "I was a prisoner with this information. I told my daughter, we have responsibility here." The second family, the Silvernails, felt the same. The abuser of their children, Timothy Symington, was teaching the eighth grade at Glenbrook Middle School in Longmeadow. He was the wife's ex-husband, and their two children's biological father.

Another motive the two families shared in the bringing forward of their children neither can nor should be denied: that for retribution. Both left the police station on Appleton Street in Holyoke after their children reported their abuse believing,

beyond doubt, an arrest of the abuser imminent. It would take a matter of days. Weeks, at most, they thought. In the world of criminal law, they were all laypeople. None of them knew what went into a police investigation. They just knew they'd taken the plunge. Done everything they could do and then some. The resolution of the matter now lay in the hands of professionals.

Everything police and prosecutors needed was right there. They only needed to do the work. Connect the dots. An end to the families' respective nightmares lay close, but not close enough, on the horizon, both felt. Finally, space to begin healing in earnest. To be a normal family again. These two families shared, and still share, so much.

They also shared a detective. Holyoke Police Detective Jennifer L. Sattler was the woman behind the interviews of all three victimized children and then their accused abusers. She obviously inherited all responsibility for any further digging necessary in either case to substantiate the claims and secure a conviction.

What followed is the reason for this document. The two families, because of the way Sattler chose to execute her role in the process, shared one more thing: they saw their desire for peace and justice go frustrated. Neither of the "investigations" Sattler conducted into sexual abuse perpetrated by, in the one

case, Randall Smith, and Timothy Symington in the other, produced a single criminal charge. Both men maintain clean records today. And due to the willful blindness of the prosecutors behind her, these cases were never revisited.

What's more, the Silvernails, after their kids reported Symington's crimes once in May 2004, again in March 2005, and a third time in April 2006, had to go through the torment of a) standing by with their knowledge as Symington continued to teach children in Longmeadow; and b) having to continue to battle him in family court over visitation rights. Despite the morbid fear Symington's children had of him, their adamant refusals to see him, and in the face of a probate court judge's 2004 order barring him from any contact with them, his attorney, Kathy Parakilas, was hard at work trying to get visitation reinstated. The only reason she was able to do so was because Mrs. Sattler, as will be shown, had let Symington go free of criminal charges after a sham investigation.

In so doing, Sattler contradicted the only person who'd visited the Silvernails' home to speak with the children in the place they felt most comfortable and, crucially, interview the parents who cared most about them, lived alongside them, and had observed their symptoms. She was Martha Stewart, an investigator with the state Department of Children and Families, who, after

her visit, filed a department official motion to "support" the allegation of sexual abuse and neglect that Symington's son and daughter had leveled against him.

The young boy, then 9, suffered Asperger's and had been beside himself with paranoia and terror over the possibility that he wouldn't be believed, according to family affidavits. Even this young boy sensed the stigma sexual assault survivors all face. The stigma of doubt. "I was in the living room with (the boy)," his maternal grandmother wrote in an affidavit. "He blurted out, 'Nobody believes me about Tim.' I said, 'Of course we believe you.' He said, 'No, like (the paternal grandparents).' Why can't they believe me? I don't lie." Another affidavit filed by his step-father, Paul Silvernail, later testified to the child's literal inability to tell a lie. How sad that this even needed to be stated. As if a 9-year-old would have an ulterior motive in beginning to tell adults that he'd repeatedly seen his father's erection and had had it pressed against him in bed. As if his 5-year-old sister would have a nefariously concocted reason to begin drawing pictures of her father naked and talking about the "bad things" he did while they were alone in the bathroom.

Silvernail reported that his wife, when she opened the letter and read of DCF's decision after the Stewart visit, fell

to the floor and wept with relief. It was over. No more court battle. Never again would she have to see her children off to dad's apartment while they protested and cried. She'd never have to see those terror-stricken faces again, and no longer did he have any way to force himself back into their lives. His future was very likely a sex offender registry at least, and prison at most. They'd never see him again. Everybody would be safe, from here on out. With zero explanation to the Silvernails, higher-ups in DCF later reversed its decision without any hearing, no oversight whatsoever. It was an extremely irregular, even singular, occurrence, Silvernail tells me.

Their struggle would continue.

The DCF investigation into the case of the Strzempko's daughter's rape followed, almost identically, the same pattern. After rendering an initial decision to "support" that Randall Smith had raped the girl at the Holyoke YMCA while he was her swim coach, it pulled an about-face, upon review. As the abuse report wended its way through the legal process such allegations go through, Smith exercised his option to appeal, and, after a review of the DCF finding, department officials, again, reversed the decision that staffers, who'd actually met with the abused, had come to.

The DCF decision reversals will be discussed in greater detail later as a matter unto themselves. If both decisions were unfortunate manipulations of the system--and, as will be shown, it's true, both were--the families nevertheless still had hope in the person of Det. Jennifer Sattler. The power to re-investigate the allegations and obtain evidence supporting the victims, their families, and therapists lay in her grip. To prove the crimes and file charges that would stick, DCF was, in fact, clearing the way for her to do so. Neither reversal took the position that the crimes never happened. The department, in both cases, simply hadn't investigated the allegations to the extent necessary to make their determination (problematic too). But Mrs. Sattler had a golden opportunity to do this work.

As the DOJ guidelines have it, the "ideal set of events" which can occur after an instance of child abuse is reported "is that doctors treat the injuries, therapists counsel the child, social services works with the family, police arrest the offender, and attorneys prosecute the case." Noteworthy here is every step but the last two had occurred. Each family was working with therapists and DCF. All had produced documents detailing the allegations. Of course, therapists and DCF lack the authority of a law enforcement agency. Jennifer Sattler's turn was up. Obtaining evidence to prove or disprove the crimes beyond a doubt was she and the Holyoke Police Department's job,

and, with the resources of a city of 40,000 residents, they were well equipped to do so.

But they didn't. I endeavored to dig into the records and produce these pages because they didn't. It too cannot be denied that the urgency of today's national discussion surrounding sexual harassment/abuse recasts these narratives in a lurid light. Our society has opened its collective eyes and ears to these kinds of stories more than ever before. The events contained herein will thus ring louder with readers. Let them never forget that the evolution of society-at-large has made no difference on how the families involved have understood and viewed their own tragedies. The rest of us, we're only catching up to the place that they, and others affected by sexual assault, and, worse, sexual abuse of children, have been at for too many years.

Our public officials here in Massachusetts tend to hold high opinions of their own virtues. They tout progressive values more often and loudly than most any of their counterparts, and cast down loftily elevated eyes at the national scene on issues from climate change and immigration to the #MeToo movement. The way Bay State politicians on both sides of the aisle tripped over themselves recently to see who could be the bigger champion of Christine Blasey Ford, the psychologist who unearthed a long-



buried story of alleged sexual assault she suffered at the hands of then-Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, was something to behold.

How is it, then, that in #MeToo Massachusetts, a much-decorated police detective was able to reflexively disbelieve, downplay, and finally bury the repeated rape and abuse of two children and repeated indecent assault and exposure of a third, and nobody said anything? These same politicians, from Maura Healey to Dave Sullivan and others, received repeated written notice of these cases over a period of years, and... nothing. To get even a brush-off response back took teeth-pulling and a resort to certified mail.

Without intending to be too coy, could it be that what motivates their outrage is a desire for easy political points and not a moral obligation to protect innocent victims?

Let's take a look.

#

Given all the Strzempkos and Silvernails share by way experience, the degree to which they differ in makeup comes as something of a shock. All four parents hold a minimum of a four-year college degree, but that's where the similarities end. Monica's matriarchal clan, ultra-modern and politically liberal,

finds their passions in the fields of science and medicine (she teaches microbiology at Springfield Technical Community College and her husband is an emergency room physician). The Silvernails, helmed by their arch-conservative father, Paul, are a throwback. If you removed the bells and whistles of modern technology, which they use like the rest of us, they could pass for Amish: small-time farmers who homeschool their children and practice as born-again Christians. The latter reside in rural Westhampton surrounded by cows, pigs, sheep, and poultry they raise and slaughter themselves; the former, in Westfield.

Opposing worldviews notwithstanding, one notices, in speaking with Monica and Paul, how each channels the other when the subject comes around to Holyoke Police Detective Jennifer L. Sattler and the investigations she led into the molestation suffered by their children. At no other time could the two be confused. Here, though, they speak the same language, with quite similar affect - they are each a victim of Jennifer Sattler's obstruction of justice under color of law.

Sattler's investigations were not just negligent, but criminal, both the spurned parents insist. The Silvernails believe Det. Sattler actively refused to properly investigate their case, with prejudice. The Strzempkos, meanwhile, say the detective disbelieved their daughter almost immediately, and

went out seeking to disprove her allegations rather than see if they held up. Obstruction of justice under color of law, official misconduct, criminal conspiracy, filing false police reports: these are the criminal offenses the evidence proves Detective Jennifer Sattler is guilty of.

"I'm convinced she's responsible for crimes," Strzempko told me. "I got the feeling walking away from the experience that there was something seriously wrong there. It went nowhere. It was like a roadblock. She screwed up a couple of procedures in the investigation. I'm convinced she did it on purpose."

Paul is less cool-headed, though equally attuned to the problems inherent in his family's case. When he gets going on the subject, he stalks around his office, forcing words out clenched teeth and lips. Sattler he calls a "liar" and a "criminal," who caused his family a decade-plus of nightmarish suffering. Even if she never gets her come-uppance here on earth, Paul says, she should know the suffering she caused to so many innocent people.

Bear in mind as we begin with the finer details of each case that both went to civil court and resulted in clear-cut victories for the victims and their families. The Silvernails sued Symington--not for damages, but to bring publicity to the case and to compel him by law to never approach either child again, "for all time." He settled with the Silvernails out of

court, granting their wish. Basically an admission of his guilt. The Strzempkos, meanwhile, sued USA Swimming, the organization the Holyoke YMCA program incorporates under. The organization settled too, agreeing to pay the family \$400,000 for pain and suffering at the hands of its coach.

"Let's put it this way," the Strzempkos attorney, Anthony Little, told me. "I was extremely confident entering the courtroom."

He added, "The scenario you're looking at is quite common: for whatever reason, the cops didn't follow through. My clients were willing to give articles to the media. It's safe to say she would have been willing to testify in the criminal prosecution. These allegations never made it to the prosecutor's office."

#

In the years since the repeated rapes of her daughter at the hands of Smith between 2008 and 2010, Monica Strzempko made some friends in the way of investigators who work beats on local police departments, with whom she's spoken about her daughter's case. To a person, she says, the police tell her if they'd have been the one who interviewed her daughter in 2012 and received a written statement like the one she provided Holyoke Police about the rape she suffered, they'd have arrested Randall Smith "the next day," Monica tells me of these discussions.

The girl's statement, in part, read: "He put his fingers inside me. It was uncomfortable and it scared me. Before I left his office, he told me that I should not tell and that he didn't want to jeopardize my future in swimming. I was alarmed and he was my coach. I wanted to be an Olympic swimmer." The girl was 13 at the time she gave that statement, which goes on to say the same thing happened again a few months later and several more times after. Each time it happened, she and Smith were meeting alone in his office, the statement claims. As she got older, the girl expanded on what happened. In interviews with two news outlets and an online blog she wrote, the girl described violent rapes she suffered at Smith's hands.

In addition to the written statement, the girl sat for a painful interview with Sattler. Monica described it to me as being "typical" of a sex abuse victim—she would be in hysterics one minute and smiling the next. After, the days began to drag into weeks. The Strzempkos wanted to know where the detective's investigation stood. They couldn't get her to return their calls. Aren't, they thought, we going to be interviewed? What about the physicians treating our daughter?

Since shortly after the abuse began in 2008, the girl had battled anorexia. Had even been pulled off of her swim teams twice due to her inability to maintain a healthy weight. As is

well known in the medical community, the appearance of eating disorders in young people correlates closely with sexual abuse. Monica describes the change in her daughter's personality as sudden and sharp. Out of nowhere came depression, listlessness, insomnia, night terrors, and refusal to be alone in the house. "I couldn't figure out what the hell was going wrong with her," Monica said.

When the Strzempkos finally did reach Sattler, after maybe 10 unanswered calls, they agreed to meet out publicly. "She was horrible to us," Strzempko said. "She told my husband and I that we should consider a lie detector test. **She compared the rape of my daughter to an anecdote about her son exaggerating his grade on a spelling test.**"

Imagine that.

You witness four years' suffering: anorexia, the whole gamut of issues mentioned above. You survive the explosive pain of the revelation of abuse. Going on fumes already, you manage to make the impossibly tough decision to come forward. To do the right thing. And this is the reaction you get from the person who represents your only hope of attaining justice? After a single conversation with your victimized daughter, she issues a blithe and casual expression of utter doubt about what you have seen with your own eyes.

Strzempko remembers, too, Sattler saying the girl didn't act like a "regular victim." There is, of course, no such thing as a "regular victim." Aware of this fact, Strzempko recited the line during a 2014 interview which she gave the Daily Hampshire Gazette, a progressive Northampton newspaper. Reporter Rebecca Everett dutifully referred Sattler's alleged words back to Holyoke PD for comment. And, just as Jennifer Sattler doubted Strzempko's daughter, Holyoke Police Capt. Denise Duguay doubted Mrs. Strzempko's memory. Duguay told Everett that Sattler had been trained that "sexual assault survivors are individuals who respond in a wide range of human emotions with no two being exactly alike," and would not have responded in such a fashion.

Once again, your reality doesn't exist.

As a reporter myself, I find a useful question to ask oneself in such cases, when one side is saying one thing and the other, another, is: Who would have better reason to lie? The mother of a raped daughter, uncomfortably out in the spotlight, against her every instinct and desire, with the most degrading thing that's ever happened to her family? Or, a police agency embarrassed by a public revelation of an employees' criminal or incompetent conduct? I'm not saying I know the answer, but think about it.

#

Since we've hit upon the question of the honesty of our law enforcement officials, we'll refer back to the Silvernails' case for relevant information on the officials of whom we speak. In the course of the Silvernails' civil suit against Symington, Paul succeeded in forcing a deposition out of Sattler. The detective and her employer fought it with everything they had, and, after succumbing, delayed and then delayed some more. The transcript proves interesting reading. Before I go headlong into backstory, here's a few important and revealing exchanges which speak to the question of Sattler's trustworthiness.

In this passage, the lawyer, Richard Jordan, refers to Sattler's initial interview of Symington, which occurred soon after the children's disclosures started, in 2004. Bear in mind, Sattler sat with the kids for two more interviews in 2005 and 2006, as their disclosures continued. Begin quote:

Q. Now, prior to meeting with Mr. Symington, did you know him?

A. I didn't know him, until he walked in.

Q. OK, what do you mean, you didn't know him until he walked in?

A. It was reported that it was a Timothy Symington.

Q. Yeah.



A. But I didn't know Timothy Symington was, in fact, the one that his family had gone to the same high school I had gone to.

Q. So you know the Symington family?

A. I know the Symington family because two of them went to (my) high school.

Symington, now, that's not a common surname. Punch it into the Google box and what you get back is basically members of the one family. Timothy Symington is still more uncommon. There's only four of them in the whole United States. So, what Sattler is claiming here, is that she:

a) saw that name associated with so explosive a charge as sexual abuse of one's own children while...

b) having known his older brother and sister, him, and the family because she...

c) went to the same high school as them, at the same time and...

d) remained friends on Facebook with all of them.

And she didn't once stop to wonder: "Hey, is that the Timothy Symington I know? Are those the same Symingtons I went to school with and are on MY Facebook page?" Based on my own experience, I can say already with near 100 percent assurance that she's lying. When a high school-familiar name pops up in matters related to criminal behavior, the *first* thing one does

is check to see if it's *that* "Forename Surname" they're talking about. It's human nature. But Jennifer Sattler wants you to believe that she didn't know it was "that" Timothy Symington even though she was Facebook friends with his two brothers and sister and he showed up on her Facebook page?!!

"Detective" Sattler certainly didn't act like an innocent person at her deposition either. Cheryl Silvernail reported after the deposition that Sattler had been visibly shaking during the questioning and when asked by the stenographer to spell the name "J-I-L-L", Sattler said she didn't know how to spell it. If you simply planned to tell the truth as you understood it, why all the nerves?

Moving along, we find this exchange. Symington and his attorney, in 2007, subpoenaed Sattler to appear in family court to testify during the five day trial about her investigation into the sexual abuse his kids had reported. Unbeknownst to Sattler on that day, Cheryl Silvernail was out in the hall when the detective arrived. She told me, among others, about how she then watched a surreal scene transpire: Sattler and members of Symington's family, who were present there to support him, let out yelps of joy and began exchanging hugs, like friends long separated.

More from the deposition:

Q. Do you remember arriving at the courthouse that day?

A. No, I don't remember arriving at the courthouse.

Q. Do you remember greeting the family and hugging in the hallway?

A. No, I don't remember that. Like, I guess, who would have been the family? I don't remember that.

Q. OK. So you don't remember, I guess, meeting Jill or the brother in the hallway?

A. I don't remember that. I don't remember them being present.

OK, let's note the obvious: there's five denials here in the course of six sentences. Would you feel the need to deny that adamantly if the opposite weren't true? Now, let's consider what she's actually saying. Are we to think she was on some memory erasing chemical that morning? This deposition took place in 2016, less than 10 years after the events in question. And this woman is a police detective. Literally, a person whose job it is to observe and record things. And you don't remember? Her response fails the credibility test.

What we've learned, obfuscation aside, is that Sattler enjoyed warm relationships with the Symington clan. To shore up the point with another source, Paul Silvernail, bothered by his

wife's suffering, later trolled Sattler's Facebook page, where he found Tim's brother, Scott Symington, among her friends.

By that point a good many years had passed, and the Silvernails' attorneys were encouraging their son--who was grown now, and still angry about the abuse he suffered while in the care of his father--to report the crimes to the police in Easthampton and Northampton. Holyoke PD had proven no help.

Accompanying the young man, Cheryl Silvernail bolstered her assertion that they'd been treated unfairly in Holyoke by providing Det. Sgt. Mark Popielarczk a printout copy of Sattler's Facebook friends with Scott Symington highlighted. "Detective" Popielarczyk refused the Facebook evidence. Within days of his refusal, Mrs. Sattler's Facebook page not-so mysteriously disappeared. Subtle. It remains down to this day.

Sitting next to Detective Corey Robinson of the Northampton PD, Detective Sergeant Mark Popielarczyk told Paul Silvernail that pedophiles don't keep copies of nude pictures they take of their victims, so he wouldn't be requesting a search warrant for Symington's computer. He also told Silvernail that he would give him a copy of Sattler's police report when his investigation was completed. Once his investigation was completed, Popielarczyk told Silvernail he could not give him a copy of a police report from another department. When Paul

Silvernail's interview was completed, Popielarczyk stood up and stuck his hand out and told Silvernail he wanted to thank him for being such a good father to his step-son. Silvernail would tell his attorney while walking out of the police station that Popielarczyk is a simple-minded liar.

A few more lines from Sattler's depo are worthy of reference here. Like this one, where the topic of the subpoena is first introduced:

Q. So, at some point I think you were called on to testify, or subpoenaed to testify for Timothy Symington in an action in the probate court?

A. I know I was called to Hampshire Probate Court. I can't say it was from 2007, and I can't say who subpoenaed me. But I know I did.

Q. Have you ever socialized with them (Symingtons)?

A. No.

At this point we can say definitively that this woman not only lies, but does it badly. Even a casual Law & Order SVU watcher could tell you that, if you receive a subpoena, the document says exactly who is calling you to court and about what matter. That way, you can prepare accordingly. Mrs. Sattler would've had, in writing, everything she here claims not to

know. Not to mention that testifying in court about matters they've responded to in the line of duty are absolutely standard for law enforcement personnel. She knows the drill. Depositions, too, are sworn testimony, so all this holds the weight of perjury.

Which brings us to the next point: Perjury is a serious matter. A criminal matter. She could have just said: "Mr. Jordan, I see where you're headed with this, so let me just say: Yes, I am personally familiar with the Symingtons. Yes, we attended high school together. When you see someone you knew from high school out in the world--and correct me if I'm wrong--the polite and normal thing to do is greet them. But if you're suggesting that because of this I would have let off a sexual abuser, you're out of your mind."

That would have been an acceptable, obviously truthful response. Instead, she denied, denied, denied, no matter how implausible were her denials. Mrs. Sattler is, doubtless, not a fool. Why would she risk everything by perjuring herself about one of the many, many such cases she's been involved with over the years? If she had acted with honesty and integrity, she should have immediately recused herself from investigating her family friend - that's according to both Popielarzck and Corey Robinson when they saw Sattler's Facebook page.

She lied because Sattler's cost-benefit analysis deemed it more acceptable to commit perjury with embarrassing lies, lies so suspect she could not deliver them without physically shaking, than to even approach the more incriminating truth: that she did almost no investigation of the reported crimes and repeatedly involved herself in making them "go away." The reader has to ask themselves: Why did Jennifer Sattler commit these crimes? Was it because someone higher up asked her to, like Judge Velis, or did she commit them on her own to protect her friends?

Her motive(s) established, we can better understand Mrs. Sattler's testimony while under oath in family court in 2007, on the day they were talking about in the deposition. She testified that the Silvernails' children "never talked." As stated above, Mrs. Sattler had by that point conducted one interview herself with the children and sat in on two more. The girl, during the final interview, described being raped by Timothy Symington, a description which included the pinching sensation of her hymen being torn apart. When she was 5. Only Mrs. Sattler knows why she described this to a judge as the children having "never talked." That's perjury by a police officer under oath.

In case you hold any question about how evil Jennifer Sattler is by now, hold on for this. If you look at the police

report, you will see that Sattler enlisted the help of a junior officer, Lawrence Cournoyer, Jr. (Is he related to Springfield Police Detective Luke Cournoyer who just confessed to lying about a police conspiracy?) to conduct the last interview. They knew ahead of time that the girl had described being raped by Timothy Symington because it was first reported to DCF by the child's treating therapist who reported it to the police. The little girl had drawn a picture of the rape. She described what it felt like to have her hymen torn by Timothy Symington. At the start of this interview, Silvernail's attorney, Linda Fidnick, asked to be able to observe the MIT interview, but was told by Sattler that she could not.

Immediately after the girl's interview, Sattler told the Silvernails and their attorney, Linda Fidnick, that the girl "did not talk." When Attorney Linda Fidnick asked Sattler if a rape kit should be done, Sattler said that if the girl does a rape kit and it comes back negative, Symington would use that as evidence of his innocence. Because the Silvernails and their attorney did not know the girl had just described the rape to Sattler, they listened to Sattler's advice and did not get a rape kit done that day while at Baystate for the interview.

Congratulations, Jennifer Sattler, your obstruction of justice is breathtaking! Just imagine, "Detective Sattler and



Officer Cournoyer," all of those little girls at Glenbrook Middle School who were victimized because of your crimes in helping a child rapist avoid prosecution - what are you going to say to their parents when they finally understand why their children were harmed?

When the Silvernails' next attorney, Mark Tanner, asked Mrs. Sattler on the stand in 2007 if the reason the children did not talk could have been due to the intimidating atmosphere of the police department in Holyoke, she unequivocally stated, "No." At that point, Judge Wilson made the interesting decision to cut in and state that he'd been to HPD himself, and even he was intimidated by the place. (It is a shame, the Silvernails concede, that Mark Tanner was so incompetent as an attorney that he didn't request the Holyoke Police report prior to Detective Sattler taking the stand.) They laugh today, but recall with horror, how Mark Tanner's advice to them after the trial was to allow the children to have supervised visitation with Symington. Fortunately for them, the Silvernails advocated for their children's safety based on their family values and the truth and didn't listen to Attorney Mark Tanner of Bacon and Wilson about most things he recommended. Because of that, their children have been safe from Symington since 2004. Unfortunately, your children are not safe from him.

At the time, neither Paul nor his wife knew whether the children had made disclosures behind closed doors with police as they did at home while speaking to the two of them. They only knew what they'd heard and witnessed in the children's behavior and read in the therapists' notes, and encouraged them to tell the same stories to the police. They wouldn't know, either, until years later, when, after much arm-twisting by another attorney, Holyoke PD finally released Mrs. Sattler's report. For years, the department had refused to turn it over despite multiple attempts including the adult victim himself requesting it in person.

Let's go over the backstory.

#

When Paul met her, his future wife was a few years on the other side of a messy divorce. A troubled history teacher by the name of Timothy Symington was the ex. She and Tim had borne two children, a boy and girl. Symington was narcissistic, immature: the type who would view his children as rivals for his wife's attention first and foremost. One letter he wrote his then-wife during an attempt to reconcile ran through a long list of his "apologies." Later, she turned over the letter as evidence for their file in family court. In it, he describes how he somehow managed to be "yelling" and screaming at his wife while en route

to the hospital, she in labor, about to give birth to their first child. And how he generally made himself "unbearable" throughout the entire experience.

Just one example of the dysfunction.

Unsurprisingly, Symington has issues with rage. This, alongside his increasingly unsettling, bizarre behavior around the time the relationship devolved--he started wearing sunglasses at night to cover his eyes, went out and disappeared in the evenings without explanation, read his wife's personal communications and bad-mouthed her to friends behind her back--proved the primary reasons behind the divorce. His fits had long been a feared presence in the two's relationship. Manipulative people use anger as a tool to control others, who will "fall into line" naturally through their desire to avoid some kind of explosion. Symington was a regular, if crude, practitioner of the art.

Another of Symington's "apologies" has him "spitting" in his wife's "face" during another argument. It got even worse at the bitter end. During fights, he punched a hole in the wall of their house, smashed a picture of the family, and shattered a drinking glass on the floor. His screaming during the latter incident woke and terrified his son, and ended in a couple of police officers escorting him out of the house. After his wife

refused to have him back, he spent the night in a psychiatric ward, on suicide watch. "Tim threw a glass on the floor when I was sleeping and I was terrified," the boy wrote in a list of troubling memories concerning his father he later compiled while in therapy. Before the end, Tim told his wife, sobbing, of a "'deep, dark evil' within him that I know nothing about, and that he could never tell me what it was," she later wrote in an affidavit. As it happened, the admission proved quite truthful. If only she had an inkling of what he'd been talking about.

With the divorce three years behind them, there had not been much in the way of progress. Symington remained bitterly angry and would work himself into juvenile fits in the narrow windows of time when he did see her; when the two exchanged the children. Court documents detail how he regularly screamed and flipped the bird at his now ex-wife. One instance saw him speed his car up to where she was standing, almost ramming into her, while both children cried in the back seat. Another time, he chased her away from his apartment like a madman. Soon, at the recommendation of therapists, the pair agreed to communicate only through a notebook "to reduce the exposure (the children) have of Timothy's rage toward me," the ex-wife explained in an affidavit.

His response to the affidavit said, that, "To date, I have never threatened (my ex-wife) with violence, and there has never been any swearing at her in front of the kids or obscene hand gestures, ever." A ridiculous claim, given their well-documented history. He was, at the time he wrote that response, headed for a court-ordered, compulsory attendance at a year-long batterer's intervention program. The response he wrote was under penalty of perjury. Still, too, he kept on wearing the sunglasses. "Timothy wore sunglasses day and night whenever I saw him," the ex-wife wrote in another affidavit. "It was weird, like he needed to cover himself from me." And yet, with documents like this available to the public in the Probate Court file, Current Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan basically declared to the entire Town of Longmeadow in 2005 - TIM SYMINGTON SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN EVEN THOUGH I KNOW MY JUDGE HAS FORBIDDEN HIM FROM EVEN SPEAKING TO HIS OWN CHILDREN WHO HAVE ACCUSED HIM OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE!

Even despite this, Cheryl managed to keep her cool. No court documents associated with the separation detail a single aspect of misbehavior on the part of the ex-wife. Once having been his wife and, in what seemed like another life, loved Tim, she--rationally, unavoidably--had simply to have faith that once he was out of her presence, he calmed himself and the overwhelming priorities of fatherhood took precedence. While the

former was, in fact, true, she had no idea of the kind of atmosphere that settled in once calm had been established.

The first indicators of abuse came in the form of curiosities. The ex-wife heard from the children that they slept in bed with daddy. Their rooms in his apartment, they said, were too hot. How could this be? She'd given Symington one of the two AC units she owned. The better one, at that. When she questioned him, he claimed the unit didn't work, and, as the children continued to report that they were sleeping in bed with daddy, she found herself having to implore him to knock it off. She even prevailed upon his parents to convince him to stop. The children were way too old. "It was frightening to me to hear that this behavior was still occurring," she wrote. The new bed she had ensured he buy the boy, she was horrified to learn, hadn't even been taken out of its plastic cover.

The kids said too that they were forbidden from any reference to Paul in their father's presence, and that he became stormy and frightened them if they did. They didn't even want to tell anyone about this "rule," at first. When the girl, younger and freer in expression, let word of it slip in front of the maternal grandmother, the boy demanded that she zip it up. He explained to her that this and other happenings at daddy's must remain secret lest they suffer his wrath (according to

affidavits associated with the separation and custody of the children).

Just as he'd encouraged the children to run and dance around his apartment nude so he could photograph them that way, Tim Symington had encouraged them to become secret keepers too. In early 2004, their secrets went atomic. The kids could keep the lid on no longer. The reveal progressed slowly. It was something like the discovery of a tumor: suggestive and concerning, one hopes the mass is benign. Potentially, it's cancerous.

The children started having "trouble with sleeping, regressing to bedwetting, difficulty eating, and functioning at school has become compromised," the ex-wife wrote in a probate court affidavit which was echoed by another therapist, Dr. Margaret Kierstein, who argued that Symington should be prevented from seeing the children alone. They displayed markedly increased anxiety and complained of stomach aches. Paul Silvernail, in an affidavit of his own, added, "On numerous occasions I have witnessed the children arriving home from a visit with their father, being exhausted from lack of sleep and being in a state of emotional distress characterized by social withdrawal at home—staring off in the distance with vacant, haunting eyes. After the vast majority of visits, it will take

each child an hour to begin to re-emerge as the happy vibrant children I know them to be.”

Things intensified, around then. The children started fighting desperately when the time came to visit dad. Crying, protestations, begging, refusal to go. It got so bad that their mother finally had enough. Their intensity was proof enough to her that something was dreadfully wrong. She unilaterally stopped bringing the kids to Tim’s. After she reported the children’s behavior and the abuse they’d suffered in court, Judge Gail L. Perlman granted her wish to demand that Tim be granted supervised visitation only. Symington refused the terms. (Later, when further revelations concerning Tim Symington hit the court, Perlman suspended all visitation whatsoever. The children, now grown, have not seen or had any contact with their father since 2004.) Remember, at the exact same time, David Sullivan reassured the entire Town of Longmeadow that Symington should keep teaching there. And he would, until multiple Longmeadow school children also became Symington’s victims - all because of people like David Sullivan and Jennifer Sattler.

“I have seen (the boy) crying, laying in the fetal position, shaking, sweating, and displaying wide, dilated eyes when talking about Mr. Symington,” wrote the ex-wife’s sister in an affidavit. “I have witnessed (the girl) crying, shaking,



sweating, with wide, dilated eyes and freezing her body and face when she has said she thought she saw Mr. Symington, when she has talked about him or heard others talk about him."

"(The girl) continues to complain of headaches and bellyaches, which she says are caused by her worries," her teacher, Michelle M. Smiarowski, wrote in an affidavit. "The worries that (the girl) tells me about continue to be her 'daddy calling momma a bad name' and 'daddy yelling at me and (the boy).' She is unable to rest at our rest time at class. She spends that time sitting beside me drawing the 'bad dreams' that she's had. These pictures are angry and violent in nature. Most are of monsters and some are of her father." The school nurse also wrote an affidavit attesting to the kids' frequent visits, when they complained of the same: headaches and bellyaches.

After the children had been a month without seeing their father, the tumor's full size began to show. The crucial moment came in the car with Paul Silvernail, on the way to school: "I don't really remember what dad looks like other than when he's wet," the boy said. Paul, an abuse survivor himself, gingerly tugged the thread. Feeling he had no choice in the matter, he gently asked the boy what he meant by that. The boy told him he remembered often seeing his father naked in the shower. When

Silvernail returned home from dropping the kids off at school, he tells me, he "beat a futon with a baseball bat."

The children, he'd learned, had been sexually abused.

#

The boy's first therapist, John Maloney, with whom he started meeting almost immediately after the disclosures began, wrote that he "remembers in great detail his father making them watch him shower and watching them while they did. He remembers the father's penis being erect both in the bathroom and when he would make the children sleep with him."

The boy, seconded another therapist he saw later named Randy Bradbury, suffers "intrusive images of a sexually explicit nature; specifically 'penises.'" These images were upsetting and frightening to (him)." This stands in stark contrast to the lie Jennifer Sattler would tell anyone who would listen: The children never talked.

The following comprises a selection of the boy's writings about his experiences with his father between the ages of 8 and 9, memories which Bradbury encouraged him to record. His sister, whose symptoms and memories we will move on to next, was between 4 and 5 during the same time period.

- "I do not want you to let me see you naked and your privet parts are stiking up."
- "One night when I was in bed with him he hugged me and I would face the opposit direction of were his face was because I was afrad he would kiss me and I looked under the bed and his peanuss was stiking up."
- "Tim took picturs of me in my underwaer. I saw a picture of (my sister) naked wearing only sunglasses when she was five or four years old."
- "Tim sawed me his peanus when he was peaing."
- "I remember Tim being mad when I wet the bed and he said 'Shit!'"

The boy wrote down these observations at Bradbury's behest in March 2005. Around then, too, the boy also spoke mysteriously and repeatedly of "green shootings," thought by the Silvernails to be a child's way of referencing what happened when Timothy Symington ejaculated. He also recounted how Symington had encouraged him to reach out and touch his penis one day while he was getting out of the shower.

In 2014, the Silvernails, still battling, trying to finally have Symington held accountable for his crimes, went to see a forensic psychologist who has taught for decades at Yale Medical

School in New Haven, Ct., his fourth abuse therapist. Dr. David R. Johnson reported the boy as having suffered "a full blown anxiety attack in my office" while talking about how his father exposed himself to him "tens of times," how his father used to walk "around the house with an erect penis," and how he would sleep "in the same bed with (him)" with "an erection." On one occasion, Johnson writes, the boy said his father pressed his erect penis against him while in bed. "(The boy) was clearly emotionally and psychologically injured by his father's exhibitionistic behaviors during their visits when he was about 5-9. This injury has resulted in a chronic, permanent but mild PTSD, which interferes with his functioning when (he) is reminded of the events."

The girl, meanwhile, displayed the trauma she suffered while she was in Symington's care in equally upsetting ways. The girl "also continues to make disclosures," the ex-wife wrote in a 2004 affidavit, and "talks about her 'privates' and her father 'doing bad things in the bathroom.'" She repeatedly spoke about how she didn't like how her father "watched" her defecate, and began, repeatedly, as a five-year old, to behave in sexualized ways. Her mother found her masturbating in a tub and Silvernail in his affidavits recounts how she constantly rubbed and pulled at her privates and told them Symington "used to touch her (there)."

On the Easthampton Police Department website, it explains that "inappropriate sex play or premature understanding of sex," "frequent urinary or yeast infections," and "frequent complaints of stomachaches and headaches" are all indicators of the scourge of sexual abuse of children. The girl, affidavits of the family say, suffered urinary infections right up until the children's visits with Symington ceased. As will be discussed later in the narrative, Easthampton PD got its own crack at prosecuting Tim, but failed to attend to the wisdom of its own website.

The girl also experienced extremely distressing phantom sightings of her father. Whenever the family went out, they were in danger of the child flying into a fit of screams and tears. "'There's daddy! Daddy is following us!'" the ex-wife wrote in an affidavit, describing one such episode. "She put her head on her lap, covered her head with her hands and cried. I turned around, looked out the truck window and tried to reassure her that he wasn't here, that everything was OK. (The boy) grabbed (the girl's) hand and said in a very calm voice, 'It's OK. You're safe. Momma's here to keep you safe.'"

Meanwhile, she expressed herself artistically, through drawings and pictures, while seeing her own therapist. Around the same time as when the boy wrote down his disclosures, she, in therapy, drew pictures of their home life with their father.

These pictures, viewed by this reporter, often depict Symington naked, clutching a towel around his waist. Featured prominently is the bathroom, where both the kids said that he'd undress them, wash and dry every part of their bodies, watch them use the toilet, and expose himself to them. Both recall being shown his erect penis. The girl also drew pictures of a little girl, on her knees, hands manacled behind her back, and another of a little girl in prison. Several are of a frantically scribbled black bush (therapists interpreted this as Symington's pubic hair) attacking a little girl.

One, finally, depicted her rape.

"The child disclosed that the father had sexually abused her in the winter of 2000 {incorrect date put in DCF report}," a 51A one of the social workers who interviewed the girl in 2006 wrote. "The child stated to the reporter that the 'father put his finger into her vagina' and 'it hurt and felt like' and the child pinched the reporter's arm." The 51A continues, stating, "The child drew a picture of the sexual assault before the disclosure and, while disclosing, the child was quiet, wide-eyed and scared."

#

The reason behind going into this level of detail is to impress upon the reader that, though it is without question a

difficult job to get to the bottom of what happened to a child behind closed doors, in this case, the evidence is clear. Taken as a collective, it leaves no doubt: These children were abused by their father. It was "Detective" Sattler's job to take a look at it and determined what happened.

And what she ultimately concluded was that there was no evidence upon which to base a prosecution of Timothy Symington. Let's take a look at her process.

Well, we know she never spoke with the parents. That was discussed in the introduction. Then she obviously didn't speak with the other family members who wrote affidavits. What about the therapists or teachers? Each of the kids had several.

Nope.

John Maloney and Randy Bradbury both attempted to reach "Detective" Sattler about this case, the Silvernails later learned from her police report when they finally saw it in 2016. Though she mentions this in the document, there's no follow-up regarding what was discussed when she returned their calls. Because she didn't. Why can't a police detective, who, according to the federal government, "should be aware that statements made to doctors by the child during the medical examination may be admissible in court" pick up a phone and make a call? Mrs. Sattler was provided information to contact the girl's

therapists, too, but she didn't contact them, either. In 2016, while reporting to Detective Popielarczyk and Robinson in Easthampton, Silvernail was informed that investigators always interview the parents, and that statements made by the child to a parent are admissible in court. This was clearly not Mrs. Sattler's understanding.

There's the additional fact as well that the instance referenced above of the girl describing and drawing a picture of her rape... Mrs. Sattler bore firsthand witness to it. In 2006, she was behind a one-way window during the children's MIT interviews with social workers. She heard that and all the boy's stories, yet, in 2007, she testified in court that the children "never talked." How could she claim that? Just as damning for Sattler is the fact that she involved a junior police officer, Lawrence Cournoyer, Jr., to conduct the third interview. Why was another junior officer used to write the third report when "Detective" Sattler was right there?

It seems like Jennifer Sattler understood that she needed another officer to help confirm her lie that the children "never spoke" in case anyone ever found out about her friendship with the child rapist's family. Obviously, the Holyoke PD had other officers who could have investigated Symington who weren't Facebook friends with him. Why didn't Sattler recuse herself?



A significant reason was that Sattler's interviews with the children never entered the objective record. None of the three were recorded, and Mrs. Sattler herself was the reason why. She misclassified, while punching the allegations into the police system, the felonies for which Symington was being investigated--indecent assault and battery on a person under 14, among others--as misdemeanors. This is, of course, an obvious felony, as Sattler later conceded to during her 2016 deposition. It's a fact one would think a police detective ought to know.

Can we claim that Sattler deliberately misclassified her police reports so nobody would be able to look over her shoulder at the decisions she made related to this case? Not yet. But it's one of the many straws we add to the camel's back, too many of which must eventually break the threshold of coincidence and credibility. We invite you to decide when that point had been reached - if not already.

As I return to the Strzempko case, you'll notice more continuity. She didn't interview the parents or the therapists there, either.

#

Just like Monica Strzempko's daughter, then, did the Silvernails' children first display textbook signs and symptoms of sexual abuse, before there came a drip, drip of increasingly

vivid and upsetting disclosures. When Rebecca Everett of The Daily Hampshire Gazette spoke to Holyoke Police Capt. Denise Duguay about sexual abuse, Everett paraphrased the captain as saying: "it is fairly common for a sexual assault victim to minimize crimes or delay giving details about what happened. She said that could be due to embarrassment, shame, or denial, as well as fear of not being believed or of the reactions or judgment of loved ones, the offender, and others."

Exactly how it should be perceived. There's a strong indication, though, that this is only theory, not practice in Holyoke. At least by Mrs. Sattler. The Strzempkos' daughter's expansion of the scope of the abuse she'd suffered was seen as disqualifying by investigating authorities, as an issue of conflicting accounts. Similarly, the Silvernails' two children had a strike counted against them by authorities like "Detective" Sattler because they were so intimidated by speaking about their private abuse with strange people in a strange place that they couldn't tell the whole story the first time. Shockingly, these regular and understandable behaviors by the victims were used as reasons not to prosecute Randall Smith or Timothy Symington!

In the Strzempkos case, the DCF decision to reverse its support of their daughter's sexual abuse allegation came largely

as a result of the same issue: her "delay" in "giving details about what happened," which Duguay tells us we should expect but practice tells us invalidates the victims.

In the document regarding DCF's about-face, imminently notable is the fact that the agency never says the Strzempkos daughter wasn't raped, repeatedly, by her swim coach. What it says, instead, is that the department's investigation was "not in conformity with departmental regulations" and so it failed to produce evidence enough to prove Smith raped the girl. The department "failed to assess several key components," it reads, and "did not attempt to corroborate or disprove any information it was given by Mr. Smith" and "failed to assess the surrounding circumstances and credibility of (the girl) and her parents." The document was signed off on by the hearing officer, an attorney named Linda A. Horvath.

It put the Strzempkos in the preposterous position of having to accept that their daughter's rape would very possibly go unpunished because one of the agencies charged with looking into the matter failed to do a thorough job, or follow its own guidelines. Notice, there's a theme emerging. Agencies charged with investigating rape and abuse can very safely do a piss-poor job of it. The shelf life on any family's will to go on fighting that fight, carrying the stigma, and reliving their trauma is a

short one. The subject itself has a built-in deterrent against speaking out publicly: the embarrassment at having one's dirty laundry aired. It seems there's a guiding belief that you can just let them flap themselves dead and they'll shut up before too long.

The main, indeed the only, document cited in the DCF decision to reverse its support of the Strzempkos daughter was, you guessed right -- Mrs. Sattler's police report. Mind you, nobody outside law enforcement and DCF have seen the report, because Holyoke police, reliably, refuse to release it. They denied this reporter's records request and that of Rebecca Everett before me. But, it's quoted from extensively in the DCF reversal document, which I did obtain a copy of from Monica Strzempko. What it reveals is interesting.

Namely, that while Sattler did not manage to speak with the victim's parents, therapists, medical doctors, or friends (again, flouting the federal guidelines), she did find a whole bunch of Randy Smith supporters in the halls of the Holyoke YMCA. The passages of Mrs. Sattler's report cited by DCF mostly comprise a bunch of jaded victim-blaming, but even these Smithes contradict their master's account, which was, when he was first interviewed by DCF, that he was "never alone with these kids." (Later, during that same, initial interview with

DCF, Randy found himself admitting that he did, in fact, meet one-on-one in his office with the children regularly, which appears to be the main reason DCF supported the Strzempkos daughter in the first place. If there's nothing to hide, why lie? Maybe someone should ask Mrs. Sattler?) His supporters, in speaking with Mrs. Sattler, contradicted him as well, saying he liked to meet "one-on-one" "to go over future plans" and that "the door would be closed if the fitness room was noisy" during these meetings.

OK, so let's get this straight. Even Smith supporters describe a situation ripe for potential abuse of exactly the kind the Strzempkos described, and we have the additional tidbit that he told DCF a bald-faced lie about it after the fact. And Mrs. Sattler, a trained police detective, can't think to maybe examine the discrepancy? Another straw.

Stanley Strzempko, an emergency room M.D. at Noble Hospital in Westfield, wrote Sattler and the Holyoke police chief a year after things calmed down in his family, in 2013, to collect his feelings. "At a time when we were overwhelmed by what we were going through as a family and had significant questions, you were unavailable and impossible to get a hold of for long stretches of time," he wrote. "More specifically, I am concerned that you may have been complicit in getting a finding by DCF

against a predator overturned on appeal before (my daughter) ever got a chance to completely tell her story."

Neither responded.

#

The Silvernails didn't even get the courtesy of an explanation from DCF as to why it reversed its support of the sexual abuse allegations of their two children. The children's mother simply received a letter saying it had been done. Again, the decision had been approved by Linda Horvath, whose apparent job description in Massachusetts government must be similar to that of certain Vatican officials. **It was Horvath's decision to reverse the DCF finding against the Silvernails WITHOUT A HEARING.** The mother ended up resorting to contacting the DCF investigator who visited the Silvernail home herself, Martha Stewart--the only member of any government agency ever to visit the home and speak with the children--to find out what happened.

"I have no idea why" the decision was reversed, was what Paul's wife told me Stewart said in response. These reversals on nonexistent grounds which violated DCF's own hearing protocols, enabled by the help of Mrs. Sattler, is yet another thing the two families share. Regarding the Silvernails case, Sattler went so far as to contact the head of the Western Regional Office of Massachusetts' Executive Office of Health and Human Services to

throw cold water on any possibility that the case would be prosecuted. Paul G. Fitzsimons wrote the family on January 17, 2005, and reported that "based on the children's conflicting reporting, highlighted by their adamant denial of any inappropriate behavior when questioned by Detective Sattler (sic), we are not able to conclude that abuse occurred."

Conflicting reporting? Adamant denial? Clearly, he's paraphrasing Sattler's interpretation of what occurred, which we've already established was a lie to exonerate a family friend of any wrongdoing. And when you compare the timeline with the police report Mrs. Sattler filed on the case, you find that by this time in 2005, she'd received a handwritten letter from the boy saying he "did not want his father to show him his private parts when they are sticking up." Yet she calls this an "adamant denial" of abuse when speaking with supervising authorities - how much clearer can her lie be? Jennifer Sattler is engaging in what is called "willful blindness." The actual crime is called obstruction of justice under color of law - which we will read later is, unfortunately, endemic within District Attorney David Sullivan's office when it comes to the Silvernails. You'll also read about Linda Pisano's and Steve Gagne's help in continuing the cover-up for David Sullivan in 2016.

Unlike the Strzempkos, who won their lawsuit against USA Swimming and then resolved to put the whole thing behind them, the Silvernails count Paul among them, a cosmic sort with a sense of Biblical justice which no doubt kicked into high gear at that point. He was not going to let it go. If the DCF denies you, and the police investigator denies you, where then does one turn?

Well, Paul's also a conservative/libertarian sort who believes one's self-reliance is the only means of getting a fair shake in this world. And so, in 2005, he anonymously sent out the court documents detailing the sex abuse Timothy Symington perpetrated on his stepchildren to officials of Glenbrook Middle School in Longmeadow, where the latter worked. The manila envelopes subsequently received by the district superintendent, the school principal, school committee members, and all members of the teaching staff contained documents that ran the gamut of the horrors he and his wife experienced and named the school's history teacher, Tim Symington, as their agent. All bore cover sheets which read, "PROTECTING CHILDREN IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD" and the case number directing people to the Northampton Probate Court case file.

#



That's where this story begins to involve higher authorities, beyond (a) a single police detective who sought to absolve the brother of her high school buddies and the much-celebrated "hard-ass" swim coach in her town; and (b) the pathetic DCF admins who cast their own employees' work into the dustbin. The issue expands further when the Longmeadow superintendent of the school district Symington taught in took the matter seriously enough that he wrote to then Register of Probate, David Sullivan, asking the aforementioned, crucial question: "if there is any information I should know" about Symington "relative to the health and safety of our students and staff?"

At which point the Longmeadow superintendent should have received notice from David Sullivan that, you know, there's a history of years of abuse allegations against this guy, and that abuse transcends regular domestic violence and moves into the dark area of interfamilial pedophilia. Even if David Sullivan wasn't comfortable with saying the guy should be fired outright, it would've satisfied the demands of responsibility if he'd only, perhaps, told the truth about what was in the Court files or conducted a proper and thorough investigation, before Symington was allowed back into a realm where he'd be able to abuse more children.

That's not what happened, though. Instead, David E. Sullivan, now Northwestern District Attorney, reviewed these years of interfamilial pedophilia and abuse allegations and wrote the superintendent back with the answer "no." **"No court activities lead me to believe there is any threat to the health and safety of any staff or students,"** reads Sullivan's official response. "I am very sorry to learn that this very private information was shared with members of your school department. This is most unfortunate. **Please ask your staff and the school committee members to destroy any documents they received."** Register of Probate, David Sullivan, instructed the entire Longmeadow school system, which possessed evidence that a Longmeadow teacher was unfit to teach, to destroy that very evidence.

#

Symington's attorney, after Silvernail sent out the mailers, moved in court to impound all documents relative to the case, a motion which was granted. A period which Paul refers to as the Dark Age ensued, when the family considered themselves prisoners with their knowledge. Paul tells me that for years he would wake up in the middle of night, seething with rage that Symington was getting away with the horrible crimes he had committed against his beloved step-children. It continued, until

2014, when his stepson came of legal age to pursue his rights as a man.

This is when the boy reported to Easthampton PD and, six months later, the Silvernails initiated a civil lawsuit against Symington. The lawsuit ended in a win for the family; their attempt to pursue justice through Easthampton PD did not. Though Detective Mark J. Popielarczyk notes in his report that the young man told him that his father had "made him touch his" erect "penis with his hand" when he was a boy, when he subsequently brought in Symington for questioning, who told him it "never happened," he dropped the investigation like a hot potato.

"Timothy said that (the young man) was being coached what to say by his stepfather, Paul Silvernail," Popielarczyk's report reads.

No further investigation occurred. "Detective" Popielarczyk, like "Detective" Jennifer Sattler who investigated the same case before him, does not report making a single additional phone call to interview ANYONE. He does not explain if, or why, he believed Timothy Symington.

As you look at "Detective" Popielarczyk's report you will notice that he mentions that Paul and Cheryl Silvernail were interviewed by him, but he doesn't include any narrative details

of what they reported. Those tapes describe the sexual abuse and rape of their children. But "Detective" Popilarczyk doesn't mention any of that evidence. Instead, he only highlights Symington's lie that Paul Silvernail coached his step-son. Nor does "Detective" Popielarczyk quote from any of the numerous therapists' affidavits he was given all describing the sexual abuse of the children by Symington. Just like "Detective" Sattler before him, "Detective" Popielarczyk didn't "detect" anything to investigate.

A second detective had taken Symington at his word which meant that Symington was free to hunt more children. And he wasted little time by victimizing Longmeadow school children shortly after "Detective" Mark Popielarczyk's "investigation."

And it wasn't just a second detective that didn't want to investigate anything of substance regarding Timothy Symington - there was also Assistant District Attorney Linda Pisano. If we go back to the letter from Attorney Tracy Montalbano, a partner at Halloran and Sage, we see that she tried to inform Linda Pisano about Jennifer Sattler in 2016. Linda Pisano did not respond to the letter nor did she respond to repeated phone messages left by Tracy Montalbano. Immediately after the boy had finished his 1.5 hour SAIN interview, he and his mother were told by Linda Pisano that he had described two crimes she would

prosecute, but that she could not prosecute because of Sattler's report. She said this as she laid her hand down on a pile of papers inferring it was Sattler's report.

When Cheryl Silvernail then asked her for a copy of Sattler's report, Pisano said she could not give it to her. Starting to see a pattern here? After the SAIN interview in January 2014, the Silvernails NEVER heard from anyone in the DA's office until they received a letter from First Assistant District Attorney Steve Gagne on April 18, 2017 telling the Silvernails "As far as your other allegations and aspersions are concerned, they do not merit a response." He wrote that to a 19 year-old female rape survivor.

#

A report that appeared on the website Masslive, dated April 16, 2017, said:

"The students told district officials Symington seemed to have 'no limits' to what he would say, and made students 'very uncomfortable.'

One girl Symington allegedly 'targeted,' referring to her as 'good girl' or 'bad girl' in front of the class and repeatedly initiating unwanted physical contact.

The girl told school Principal Nikcole Allen she feared Symington and two students reported seeing Symington look down her shirt, Doyle told the attorneys.

Allen ended up filing several reports of suspected abuse -- known as 51As -- with the state Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education and Children's Services based on the second investigation of Symington.

Symington, the students said, would threaten to "hit (students) with a golf club, a baseball bat" or "fake swords" and he called students "stupid" and once publicly mocked a student for having "no friends," Doyle said in the deposition.

One of the more bizarre allegations reported was Symington's penchant for unsettling drawings.

"He put a stick figure on the board, and he would put a red mark of blood at the head, and he would write above it 'kill' a certain student, or such-and-such student 'is dead,'" District Superintendent Marie Doyle said.

"(Students) feel he responds in a more angry fashion than other teachers. He gets upset about things, and that scares them," Doyle said. "He gets angry. His face turns red. He yells at them. They weren't sure, when he would say he had a golf club and would hit someone with it, whether he really meant it or not. Some students will tell you they thought he was joking, and others will tell you they weren't sure if he was serious."

Bridget Dullea, a guidance counselor at Glenbrook, provided Doyle a written statement saying "a number" of students were 'fearful' of Symington's potential return from leave, and thought "he maybe verbally attack them or even physically harm them," according to (Marie Doyle's) deposition.

During the deposition, Doyle discussed Symington's habit of frequently touching female students.

One of the attorneys present asked whether it made students uncomfortable "due to the length of time (Symington) maintained the contact.

The superintendent agreed, adding, "They mentioned, in particular, that he didn't let go. One of the students said it was cold in the room, a female. So, he went and got his jacket, put his jacket over her shoulders and then kept his hand on her shoulders for what the student described as an uncomfortable amount of time."

The "targeted" child reported Symington approaching her and hugging her from behind. There's not a school in the nation that wouldn't consider this sexual harassment, and a cause for termination. Coming from an accused pedophile, the behavior is even more alarming.

This is what happens when corrupt police officers, like Jennifer Sattler and Mark Popielarczk, are allowed to commit crimes that go unpunished. If she weren't a criminal, Sattler would have stopped Symington in 2004, 2005, or 2006. If he weren't a criminal, Popielarczyk would have stopped Symington in 2014. If he weren't a criminal, Sullivan would have brought Symington to attention in 2005 and prosecuted him in 2014. If she weren't a criminal, Linda Pisano would have investigated Symington and prosecuted him in 2014. Take note, both "lead prosecutors" in this case, Sattler and Popielarczk, never interviewed any of the children's therapists, doctors, teachers



or family members - other than Popielarczyk burying the parent's interview in his 2014 report. Take note, the "lead prosecutor" in this case, Linda Pisano, did not interview anyone other than the victim - she literally did not speak to anyone else about this case according to her report. In June 2014, Pisano, Popielarczk, Robinson and Sattler had a "round table" and decided the "case will not proceed" and it would be closed. **The reason it was closed? NO MORE LEADS.** Wow, can you file a police report containing a more bald-faced lie?

Seven children at Glenbrook Middle School in Longmeadow reported abuse or harassment by Symington in 2016. This occurred only after a second volley of documents--unimpounded earlier the same year--mailed out by Paul to school parents, hit the mark, triggering a second school investigation into Symington's conduct.

He was forced to resign shortly thereafter.

But just as we have seen time and time again with other criminals, they never know when to quit. In 2016, a week after Timothy Symington was given a gift by his ex-wife - a settlement agreement that meant he never had to financially support his children ever again - Symington's attorney, Elaine O'Donnell from the law offices of Thomas Kenefick (Yes, you

read that correctly. A rich Longmeadow attorney was representing the Longmeadow pedophile teacher who was still teaching Longmeadow children!) violated the terms of the settlement agreement. O'Donnell and Symington's violation of the settlement agreement forced Silvernail to continue his fight. Imagine that, Jennifer, Dave, Mark, Steve and Linda, your crimes wouldn't be written about in 2019 if you hadn't emboldened a crazy pedophile to believe he could do anything he wanted to and almost get away with it.

Later in 2016, Silvernail would start contacting news outlets to cover the story and, after 9 agonizing months, the MassLive article would finally come out -- on Easter morning! In January 2017, the Silvernails met with three FBI agents in Springfield to discuss Symington and Sattler. The three FBI agents told them that the US Attorney may not want to prosecute Sattler because a Giglio investigation like that would cause all of Sattler's cases to be brought under new scrutiny like the Amherst drug lab scandal. Upon hearing that, the agents told Paul they would forcibly remove him from the room if he didn't calm down. They ended the meeting by saying they would contact the Silvernails in a month to month and a half. They never contacted the Silvernails.

(The question the Silvernails have not found an answer to is: Did David Sullivan help child rapist, Timothy Symington, because of Kenna Symington's life-long friendship with Judge Peter Velis' wife, Susan, or did David Sullivan cover up for Timothy Symington all by himself while Register of Probate and then DA because District Attorney David Sullivan is a criminal with the same "values" as Symington?)

Silvernail then went about attempting to hold accountable other law enforcement officials who he knew had participated in the cover-up. He and his daughter wrote to David Sullivan on April 2, 2017 asking for an investigation into Linda Pisano's willful blindness in the case. Not knowing if the MassLive story would ever be published, Paul kept digging through documents - he has thousands after 15 years of hell - and came across the infamous 2005 letter from David Sullivan telling the entire town of Longmeadow that Symington was a great guy and that they should destroy the evidence showing the opposite to be true. It hit him like a ton of bricks. "This is the same David Sullivan who is now the District Attorney, you idiot" he said to himself. Silvernail realized he had just asked Sullivan to investigate Linda Pisano, a person who was taking direction from Sullivan to be willfully blind and NOT PROSECUTE!

His next letter to Sullivan on April 13, 2017 was very direct: "Why you have not recused yourself from any aspect of this case, given your involvement in 2005, appears unethical at best. You, like a whole lot of other 'adults' involved in this case, should be ashamed of your actions and their painful consequences for innocent children. We urge you to resign your position immediately."

And then, the unthinkable (at least to Silvernail) happened. On April 16, 2017, the MassLive article appeared. The Silvernails had finally succeeded in warning the world about the evil pedophile who had harmed their children. There was resounding joy throughout the Silvernail household. Now, they could finally put this all behind them. It was over!!

That is until a guy who Paul likes to call "Smart Steve" Gagne darkened the Silvernails' lives. When you look at Steve Gagne's April 18, 2017 letter, you realize the depths and extent of the corruption in the State of Massachusetts.

Let's start with First ADA Steve Gagne's subject heading: T.S. Investigation. You can't make this up. Steve Gagne didn't feel comfortable even using Symington's name. Over 50,000 people (Sullivan must have had a heart attack that morning!) read the story about Symington the day before and

heard it on the radio, but Steve apparently thinks his identity should be protected. His first sentence is another lie. Steve Gagne wasn't responding to the April 2, 2017 letter because he didn't need to - law enforcement's custom and practice is to ignore victims when they ask for information, as we have seen.

Steve Gagne, of course, was responding to the April 13, 2017 letter and the fact that David Sullivan's child rapist protection project - T.S. according to Steve - just made the front page of the papers. **This would prove to be the end of David Sullivan's political career if the innocent people in Longmeadow found out what he had done in 2005 and he knew it.**

So, of course, Dave thought it wise to try to silence the Silvernails by forcing his minion, Smart Steve, to write a nasty letter to scare them away. In so doing, First ADA Steve Gagne involved himself in a stunning criminal conspiracy that should see multiple law enforcement personnel arrested and prosecuted. That probably wasn't smart, right, Smart Steve?

Steve Gagne wrote: "... there was insufficient credible evidence to support the issuance of criminal charges ... I concur in their conclusion." So, First ADA Steve Gagne is telling the parents in Longmeadow, as an official of the Commonwealth, as of April 2017 there wasn't any evidence that Symington harmed his own children? Of course there wasn't any

evidence in YOUR reports or files, Steve, that is what willful blindness is all about. Thankfully, what happens now to Sullivan, Sattler, Pisano and Popielarczk will also happen to Steve Gagne since he "concur(s) in their conclusion."

"As a law enforcement official," read a virtue signaling 2018 Twitter post from Maura Healey concerning Christine Blasey Ford, "I am appalled by the Senate's unwillingness to conduct a full, fair investigation and by their continued efforts to rush through this nomination."

One wonders, is she similarly "appalled" by the unwillingness of her own office to properly investigate cases of rape and indecent assault and battery on children, cases about which she and those under her have been repeatedly informed? Is Mrs. Healey's capacity to be "appalled" related, as she claims here, to the failure of law enforcement to properly investigate, or a desire to mine a perceived failure for political capital? Don't the seven new child student victims in Longmeadow deserve any type of investigation, Maura?

Just remember, when a teenage female rape victim asked for Maura Healey's help in investigating this blatant conspiracy, a computer program sent her a letter telling her to go away days

after First ADA Steve Gagne told the same teenage female rape victim that her concerns "do not merit a response." #MetooGagne

It makes this reporter ask one more question: Does Jennifer Sattler today feel that HER victims are acting like she thought "regular victims" of HER crimes should act?