

**Drew Peterson Trial 2012 - Murder of Kathleen Savio
People of the State of Illinois v. Drew Peterson (09CF-1048)
Will County, Joliet, Illinois**

Mary Pontarelli Testified on July 31, 2012

**A Personal Collection of Found Materials ("as is")
(Note: This is "not" an official legal court transcript)
(Dialog spacing done below for format and reading ease)**

In Session

<https://www.facebook.com/InSession>

July 31

Judge Burmila is back on the bench in the Drew Peterson Murder trial.

Watch this thread for live updates from court.

In Session

Before the first witness can be called, the defense objects to a photo that the prosecution apparently intends to use. This is a photo of a hole the defendant allegedly cut through a wall in Kathleen Savio's home; the defense says that it should not be allowed, since the prior bad act to which it refers has previously been excluded by Judge White.

The State argues it's important "to show what the defendant will do to get into that house."

July 31 at 2:37pm

In Session

Ultimately, Judge Burmila rules in favor of the defense.

"As far as I know, he had every right to go in there . . . you're drawing a number of conclusions from that (the hole in the wall) that I'm not sure are going to be substantiated by the evidence."

Defense attorney Steve Greenbeerg charges "this is the second time today they've tried to sneak something in that was deemed improper by the preceding judge."

July 31 at 2:37pm

In Session

All rise as the jurors enter the courtroom.

July 31 at 2:40pm

07/31/12: Prosecutor Kathleen Patton on direct examination

In Session

Mary Pontarelli is called as the first prosecution witness. She lives in Bolingbrook, living next door to Drew and Kathy Peterson since 1997. She identifies a photo of herself with Kathleen Savio.

July 31 at 2:43pm

In Session

The Petersons moved in next door in December, 1997.

Pontarelli: "Our friendship started with our kids . . . they were great people."

She and Kathleen became fast friends. "We've seen each other almost every day."

July 31 at 2:47pm · Like · 1

In Session

The witness says that Savio became very upset when she learned Drew was cheating on her, and the couple subsequently split up. He later moved into another home only a few blocks away.

July 31 at 2:47pm · Like · 1

In Session

The witness went into the Savio/Peterson residence "frequently . . . at least three times a week."

She says that in 2002, after the couple split up, Savio put a deadbolt lock on her bedroom door (it was installed by Tom Pontarelli, the witness' husband).

July 31 at 2:49pm · Like · 6

In Session

Mrs. Pontarelli identifies a photo of the bedroom door. She points out the deadbolt, as well as a hole in the door itself. That hole was not there when the bolt was installed.

July 31 at 2:50pm · Like · 5

In Session

The witness is asked about an incident in late May, 2002, when Savio was arrested in her front yard.

Before she can answer, the defense objects, and the jury and the witness are both excused from the courtroom.

July 31 at 2:52pm · Like · 3

In Session

Steve Greenberg argues that this incident is not relevant.

But prosecutor Patton says it shows the degree of control that Drew had over Kathleen.

"He took her down in the front yard, and made a citizen's arrest in front of her own children . . . this was to frighten Kathleen, to show her what he's capable of, and to help gain control of the children. We believe it is relevant"

July 31 at 2:55pm · Like · 8

In Session

Judge Burmila questions the conclusions that might be drawn by this testimony.

Greenberg: "This was specifically excluded by Judge White. This is now Number Three!"

Patton: "If this isn't relevant, why did they bring it up during their opening statement?"

Judge: "Why didn't you object?"

July 31 at 2:58pm

In Session

Judge Burmila rules against the prosecution.

"It isn't well-founded, and it isn't relevant."

The witness and the jurors then return to the courtroom.

July 31 at 2:59pm · Like · 4

In Session

Prosecutor Patton continues her direct examination by asking the witness about February 28, 2004.

Mrs. Pontarelli says she saw Savio that afternoon (and then identifies Peterson in the courtroom).

"Me and Kathy met up in front of my porch . . . she said that she had a great week at school, helped deliver a baby . . . she was studying to become a nurse."

According to the witness, Savio said she was going to stay home and study that night (despite the witness' invitation to a party).

July 31 at 3:03pm · Like · 2

In Session

The Pontarellis returned about midnight that night.

"I made a comment to Tom, 'Wow, Kathy's still up.'. Because the light in her bedroom was on . . . I only remember the light in her bedroom."

July 31 at 3:04pm · Like · 2

In Session

"I said, 'She's still studying up there.'"

She then identifies a photo of Savio's house.

"Recall seeing any vehicles in her driveway?"

"No, I did not."

July 31 at 3:07pm · Like · 2

In Session

Prosecution: The following day, Sunday, Pontarelli asked her son, Nick, to contact Kathleen.

But Kathleen responded to neither Nick's knock on the door nor to phone calls.

July 31 at 3:08pm · Like · 1

In Session

On the evening of Monday, March 1, Peterson came to Pontarelli's home.

"He asked me if I'd heard from Kathleen that day . . . he said he'd tried to bring the kids back, but Kathleen still wasn't home."

July 31 at 3:10pm · Like · 1

In Session

"He asked me if he got a locksmith if I would go in the house with him . . . I tried to contact Kathy; it went straight to voicemail."

"Were you concerned?"

"Yes, I did . . . I called Drew and said I'd go in with him. I went outside, and the locksmith was already working on the door."

July 31 at 3:12pm · Like · 1

In Session

Pontarelli: "When we went in, all the lights were off . . . Steve Carcerano and I went up the stairs toward Kathy's bedroom. He (Drew) was still down by the bottom of the steps."

She believes Drew turned the first light on, but isn't positive.

July 31 at 3:13pm · Like · 1

In Session

The witness identifies photos of the stairway, and of the doorway to Savio's bedroom.

She entered the bedroom, but Savio wasn't there. The room was originally dark.

Pontarelli says "I turned the light on".

July 31 at 3:15pm · Like · 1

In Session

Mrs. Pontarelli now identifies a photograph of Savio's bedroom.

"The first thing I noticed was the covers; it looked like someone was under the covers. I lifted them up, but there was no one there."

At the same time, Steve Carcerano walked over to the bedroom, and then called her name.

July 31 at 3:17pm · Like · 1

In Session

Mrs. Pontarelli identifies photos of Savio's bedroom and bed.

She points out nursing books, which she says show Savio had been studying that night.

July 31 at 3:19pm · Like · 2

In Session

The next photo shows the door to the bathroom.

A second photo shows "the bathtub, where we found Kathy... when he called out my name, I went into the bathroom and seen Kathy in the tub. I ran out of the bathroom, threw myself down, and started screaming."

The witness starts to cry as she identifies a photograph of Savio in the tub.

July 31 at 3:23pm · Like · 1

In Session

When she screamed, her son, her husband, and the defendant ran up.

"Drew did take her pulse. I said, 'Is she dead?' and he said, 'Yes, Mary, she is.'

She wanted to cover up the body, but Petersin said they shouldn't. According to Pontarelli, Savio put her hair up in a clip when she wanted to take a bath; she saw no such clip on this

occasion.

July 31 at 3:28pm · Edited · Like · 7

In Session

That ends Mrs. Pontarelli's direct examination.

July 31 at 3:30pm · Like ·

07/31/12: Defense Attorney Joseph Lopez on cross examination

In Session

July 31

The defense begins its cross-examination of Maria Pontarelli.

Follow this thread for continuing updates on the Drew Peterson trial.

In Session

The defense begins its cross-examination of Mary Pontarelli.

The witness describes the subdivision in which she lives ("Pheasant Run"). She acknowledges that her family is close to the Carcerano family.

Defense: "When Kathy and Drew lived there, the neighbors were friendly with one another?"

Pontarelli: "Yes."

When asked if she felt safe having a police officer next door, Mrs. Pontarelli responds, "Absolutely."

July 31 at 3:40pm · Like · 2

In Session

Mrs. Pontarelli agrees that Kathleen Savio could be "tough . . . I wouldn't call her bossy . . . she had strong passions."

July 31 at 3:42pm · Like

In Session

The witness says she and Savio used to "chit-chat" about their lives.

Defense: "Sometimes she would over-exaggerate about things."

Pontarelli: "No."

July 31 at 3:43pm · Like

In Session

The attorney starts to ask the witness about her earlier testimony in 2008. But he can't find the passage he's looking for, so he decides to move on. When she first saw Savio on February 28, it appeared Kathleen had just returned from grocery shopping.

Pontarelli: "She said she had finals in two weeks. That's what she was studying for."

July 31 at 3:44pm · Like · 2

In Session

Pontarelli describes the Pheasant Chase subdivision where she lives. She repeats she thought nothing of it when she saw Savio's bedroom light on that Saturday night.

July 31 at 3:53pm · Like · 2

In Session

The witness acknowledges that Savio hoped to marry her boyfriend, Steve, and move away. "Drew had started over, and she could, too."

She knew that Savio knew that Drew had had girlfriends, and wasn't happy about it. She says "the first hint she (Savio) got of what was going on" with Stacy and Drew was when she received an anonymous letter in 2002.

July 31 at 3:57pm · Like · 3

In Session

The first time she saw Drew that weekend was on Monday.

Her only conversation with Savio that weekend was Saturday afternoon.

July 31 at 3:59pm · Like · 2

In Session

Mrs. Pontarelli recalls that Peterson came to her house Monday night, March 1, 2004.

He was wearing his police sergeant's uniform, and was looking for Kathleen.

July 31 at 3:59pm · Like

In Session

After speaking to Steve, Savio's boyfriend, she learned that he had last seen Kathleen Saturday evening.

Pontarelli: "That's when I called Drew and said, 'OK. I'll go in the house with you.'"

July 31 at 4:03pm · Like

In Session

Judge Burmila decides this is a good time to take the afternoon break.

Court is in recess until 3:10 CT.

July 31 at 4:04pm · Like · 2

In Session

Judge Burmila returns to the bench. He sends for the witness and the jury.

July 31 at 4:25pm · Like · 1

In Session

Mary Pontarelli says she doesn't remember seeing a robe inside the bathroom (even though Lopez suggests a blue robe was present).

Mrs. Pontarelli denies she told a police officer in 2008 that Savio always bathed with her hair up in a towel.

"No, a clip."

July 31 at 4:54pm · Like

In Session

In the master bathroom, there's a skylight above the tub.

"You've never taken a bath with Kathy?"

"No . . ."

This answer prompts laughter in the courtroom.

She repeats that Steve Carcerano was the first person to enter the master bathroom.

"Steve is the one who opened the door, and I went in after him."

July 31 at 4:54pm · Like

In Session

The witness is shown a new photograph.

But before she can identify it, the State asks for a sidebar.

July 31 at 4:54pm · Like

In Session

The sidebar ends.

The witness now identifies the photo as showing "Kathy's sink" in the master bathroom.

She now notices a towel or robe hanging on the back of the door.

July 31 at 4:55pm · Like

In Session

"The first time I went into the bathroom, the light was still off. And I ran out of the bathroom.

The second time I went in, the light was on . . . I went back in after my son, Nick, and Drew came up."

July 31 at 4:56pm · Like

In Session

In total, she was at the house for maybe 10 minutes.

"You didn't see that blue towel in Mr. Peterson's hands, did you?"

"No."

She acknowledges that Drew appeared to be upset.

July 31 at 4:56pm · Edited · Like

In Session

In total, she was at the house for maybe 10 minutes.

"You didn't see that blue towel in Mr. Peterson's hands, did you?"

"No."

She acknowledges that Drew appeared to be upset.

July 31 at 4:56pm · Like

In Session

The witness says she remembers speaking to two Bolingbrook cops that night.

"There might have been police who came after the incident; I don't recall . . . I don't remember exactly what I told them."

July 31 at 4:56pm · Like

In Session

Street lights from outside were coming through the bathroom skylight. So that partially illuminated the bathroom.

July 31 at 4:57pm · Like

In Session

The witness can't recall seeing a bath mat or carpet in Kathleen's bathroom.

"I wasn't up there (Savio's bedroom) that often . . . maybe a handful of times."

July 31 at 4:57pm · Like

In Session

That night, she didn't let Nick speak to the police (even though he had spoken to Kathy on Saturday afternoon).

"He was 14 years old."

July 31 at 4:57pm · Like

In Session

The witness recalls an interview she had with the IL State Police.

"You never told them anything about a bath mat or a towel?"

"I don't remember exactly." S

he denies telling Drew that he should call a locksmith.

"It wasn't my idea to call a locksmith to begin with."

July 31 at 4:57pm · Like · 1

In Session

We will continue our live coverage of the Drew Peterson trial tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. ET.

July 31 at 5:00pm · Like · 2

In Session

Here is some info on Mary Pontarelli's testimony from yesterday:

* Became friends with Drew and Kathleen Savio Peterson when the Petersons moved next door in 1997. She was especially close to Kathleen. "We seen [sic] each other almost every day."

* Recalled how the Petersons split up after Kathleen learned that Drew was having an affair

with Stacy Cales.

* After Drew Peterson moved out, Kathleen had a deadbolt lock installed on her bedroom door.

* Last saw Savio on the afternoon of Saturday, February 28, 2004. "She said that she had a great week at school . . . she was studying to become a nurse." Said that Savio told her she was going to stay home that night and study.

* Saw Savio's bedroom light was still on when she and her husband returned home from a party that night around midnight.

* On Monday, evening (March 1), she received a call from Drew Peterson. "He said he'd tried to bring the kids back, but Kathleen still wasn't home . . . he asked me if he got a locksmith if I would go in the house with him."

* After unsuccessfully trying to reach Savio by phone, Mrs. Pontarelli agreed to go along with Drew Peterson's plan. "I went outside; the locksmith was already working on the door."

* Once the front door was open, Pontarelli went upstairs with another neighbor, Steve Cancerano. "He [Peterson] was still down by the bottom of the steps."

* After she and Cancerano entered Savio's bedroom, Cancerano headed toward the master bathroom. "He called out my name, I went into the bathroom, and seen [sic] Kathy in the tub. I ran out of the bathroom, threw myself down, and started screaming."

* Described injuries she noted on Savio's body. "She had a cut in her head . . . there was dried blood in her hair . . . then I noticed some bruising on her wrists and on her buttocks. She also had some blood coming out of her nose."

* After she screamed, her husband, her son, and Peterson came running up to the bathroom. "Drew did take her pulse. I said, 'Is the dead?' And he said, 'Yes, Mary, she is.'"

* Pontarelli's first impulse was to drape something over Savio's body. But Peterson told that she shouldn't.

* Described the Peterson/Savio divorce as "bitter" . . . but acknowledged that as time went on "it seemed that they were getting along better."

* Agreed that Kathleen Savio could be "tough . . . I wouldn't call her bossy . . . she had strong passions."

August 1 at 9:45am · Edited · Like · 5
