

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

**Dominick DeFrancesco Testified August 10, 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)**

---

**08/10/12: Prosecutor Kathleen Patton on direct examination**

---

In Session

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

August 10

WATCH THIS THREAD FOR LIVE UPDATES FROM THE DREW PETERSON MURDER TRIAL!

The next witness is Dominick DeFrancesco (questioned by Kathy Patton).

He moved to Pheasant Chase Drive in 1997 (with his extended family).

"Did you know Kathleen Savio Peterson?"

"Yes."

Mary Pontarelli is his sister.

"How did you know the Petersons?"

"They moved next door to us . . . December, 1999, I believe, or 2000."

He says the Peterson home was directly next door to the home where he lived.

"Did you come to know the Petersons when they moved to that residence?"

"Yes."

"Do you know if the defendant was living in that house in 2004?"

"He was not . . . I believe he was living down the block, on Pheasant Chase Street."

"Did you see Kathleen frequently?"

"Yes."

“What was the last time you saw Kathleen Savio Peterson?”

“That Saturday, Feb. 29 . . . I had just gotten back from the grocery store with my sister. We pulled into the driveway, and she pulled up to her house, too.” Objection/Sustained.

“We met midway on the sidewalk, after we had both pulled into the driveway . . . 11:30 [am].”

“Did you have a conversation with her at that time?”

“Yes, it was a short conversation; we had just gotten back from vacation in Florida the night before, and she asked how the trip was.”

---

In Session

That night, he drove his parents to a family party, leaving around 5:00 pm and returning about 2:00 am. He parked outside, in the driveway.

“I pulled straight in, facing the garage . . . I noticed that her bedroom light was on, and I remarked to my parents that it was kind of odd that her lights were still on at that hour of the morning.”

August 10 at 5:14pm · Like

---

In Session

“Did you see any exterior lights on?”

“No, that was the only light that was on.”

“Was there a car in Kathleen’s driveway?”

“No.”

“Did you see or speak to Kathleen Savio on Sunday?”

“No . . . that evening, around 6:00, I went back to my vehicle to retrieve something from my glove compartment. And I noticed that none of her lights were on. It was completely dark.”

This ends the direct examination of this witness.

August 10 at 5:14pm · Like · 8

---

**08/10/12: Defense Attorney Ralph Meczyk on cross examination**

---

In Session

The defense begins its cross-examination (I can't tell who this attorney is).

"Fair to say that you've driven away from your home hundreds of times?"

"Yes."

"Shades are up, shades are down; light are on, lights are off?"

"Yes."

"And you literally came from your home back and forth, winter, summer, thousands of times?"

"Yes."

"Lights are on some times, and lights are off some times in the neighborhood?"

"Yes."

"Did there come a time when police officers came to your home, in 2007?"

"Yes."

"Two officers, a male and a female, from the Illinois State Police?"

"Yes."

"They came to your home?"

"I had just driven into the driveway, and they were outside. And they approached me, to come in and talk to my parents."

"This was approximately three years after you claim you saw the light on in Savio's bedroom?"

"Yes."

"While you speaking, they were taking notes?"

"Yes."

"Contemporaneously?"

"Yes."

"As you were in your driveway, you told them you saw the light on?"

"Yes."

“And this afternoon, you told His Honor and the jurors that you thought it was unusual for the light to be on?”

“Yes.”

“But back when you talked to the officers, you said it was your mother who thought it was unusual, didn’t you?”

“I don’t remember.”

The witness is asked if looking at the police report would help, and he responds that it would.

August 10 at 5:24pm · Like · 3

---

In Session

The witness is handed the report, and reads it silently to himself.

“Is your memory now refreshed, independent of what I just showed you?”

“Yes.”

“You told the police that it was your mother who thought it was unusual that she was still awake at the time?”

“I remember that we both basically made the comment at the same time.”

“True you told them that your mother made the comment and not you?”

“I don’t recall.”

Once again, the witness is shown the document in question.

“This is a document prepared by the police that says your mother made the comment, and not you . . . it’s true you told them that your mother said it was unusual, and not you?”

“Yes.”

“When the police came to your home on Dec. 10, 2004, they were interviewing you and your mother and father?” Objection/Sustained.

“There came a time on Dec. 10, 2007, they came to your home and your parents’ home?”

“Yes.”

“They asked you to do your best to remember what happened three years earlier?”

“Yes.”

“You grew up in a very, very traditional Italian home?”

“Yes.”

“Your extended family lived there?”

“Yes.”

“The police asked the family if they could remember anything at all?”

“Yes.”

“And everyone was part of that discussion?”

“Yes.”

“It was part of a group discussion?”

“Yes.’

“And people were having a hard time remembering?”

“I don’t remember people having a hard time remembering.”

“Growing up in a traditional Italian household, if your mother was wrong about something, you wouldn’t correct her in front of strangers, because it would be disrespectful?”

“Yes.”

“You would not have corrected her?” Objection/Overruled

August 10 at 5:27pm · Like · 4

---

In Session

“The police came to your home three years after you saw the light on in Ms. Savio’s window?”

“Yes.”

“And you told the police she was like an older sister to her?”

“Yes.”

“And you said today that you thought it was unusual for her to have the light on?”

"At that hour."

"And her porch light was off, and you were concerned and troubled by that?"

"At that time, no."

"But after she was found dead, you didn't tell anyone in law enforcement, did you?"

"No." Objection/Sustained.

"You were interviewed a second time the next day, at state police headquarters, a second time?"

"Yes."

"And they asked you what you saw?"

"Yes."

"And they asked you why you didn't tell anyone for three years?"

"Yes."

"And you told them that you didn't want to interfere with a police investigation?"

"Yes."

"This was a person you considered to be like an older sister, like family?"

"Yes."

"For three years, you knew about this claim . . . but you didn't say anything for three years?"

"No."

"You didn't contact any law enforcement agency, did you?"

"No."

"It's only when they came to you in December of 2007 that you said anything?"

"Yes."

"And they kept pressing you about what you saw?"

"No, I wouldn't say that."

"They wanted to know if you had a sexual relationship with Ms. Savio, didn't they?"

“Yes.”

“And they even asked you to take a lie detector test, didn’t they?” Objection.

The attorneys go to a sidebar.

August 10 at 5:31pm · Like · 5

---

In Session

The sidebar has now ended.

The witness and the jurors are excused from the courtroom.

Prosecutor Patton objects to the question about the lie detector.

Judge: “This is cross-examination . . . it’s appropriate cross-examination . . . a device for testing truthfulness.”

The judge then sends for the witness and the jury.

August 10 at 5:34pm · Like · 5

---

In Session

The witness and the jurors have returned to the courtroom.

“You were at the state police station, alone in a room with the officers?”

“Yes.”

“And they asked about a relationship they thought you might have had with Ms. Savio?”

“Yes.”

“And that interrogation lasted several hours, didn’t it?”

“I don’t recall it lasting several hours.”

“You didn’t have a lawyer present, did you?”

“No.”

“At some point, they asked you for fingerprints?”

“I don’t remember that.” Objection.

The attorneys had to yet another sidebar.

August 10 at 5:37pm · Like · 3

---

In Session

The sidebar ends.

The witness is shown a copy of the police report in question.

“Is your memory now jogged?”

“Yes.”

“They did ask you to provide fingerprints, didn’t they?”

“Yes.”

“And they asked you to take a polygraph test?”

“Yes.”

“And at that point, you were so sick and tired of them that you would just about say anything to get out of there?”

“No.” Objection/Sustained.

“When the police came to you three years later, a light suddenly came on in your head, pun intended?”

“No, I always remembered that that happened.”

“But you didn’t say anything for 1095 days?” Objection/Sustained.

That ends the cross-examination of this witness.

FYI – the attorney doing the cross was Ralph Meczyk.

August 10 at 5:40pm · Like · 4

---

**08/10/12: Prosecutor Kathleen Patton on redirect examination**

---

In Session

Patton begins her redirect.



The witness denies again that he had a sexual relationship with Kathleen Savio.

“When you went to the police department, you freely cooperated and answered all their questions?”

“Yes.”

“And you offered to provide the police with fingerprints, polygraph, and everything they asked?”

“Yes.”

“You told the police you were reluctant to come forward because you were afraid to contradict the police?”

“Yes.”

That ends the redirect. There is no recross, and the witness is excused.

August 10 at 5:42pm · Like · 10

---

In Session

That ends the testimony for today.

Judge: “Everyone have a very good weekend. We’ll see you Tuesday.”

The judge leaves the bench, and the trial is in recess until 9:00 CT/10:00 ET Tuesday morning.

August 10 at 5:42pm · Like · 2

---