

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

**Thomas Peterson Testified August 29, 2012
“Defense Witness”**

**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)**

08/29/2012: Defense Attorney Joel Brodsky on direct examination

In Session

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

The jurors are back in the courtroom, and the defense calls its next witness:

Thomas Peterson (questioned by attorney Brodsky).

“My name is Thomas Drew Peterson.”

“Who’s your mom?”

“Kathleen Savio.”

“Who’s your dad?”

“Drew Peterson.”

He identifies the defendant in the courtroom.

The witness is 19, and attends the University of Pennsylvania. He was the valedictorian of high school class at Bolingbrook H.S. He hopes to go to medical school and become a doctor.

“Do you live in a dorm?”

“Yes.”

“At home, where do you live?”

“In the basement of my house.”

“The house you lived with your father?”

“For about eight years.”

“Before your mom passed away, who lived at your dad’s house?”

“My father, Drew Peterson, and Stacy Cales. And I believe Anthony Peterson, and Laci, too. And my brother Kristopher; he’s 18.”

His older brother, Stephen, “also lived at the house for a brief time.”

August 29 at 4:42pm · Like · 1

In Session

“Going back to before your mom passed away, in early 2004, you lived with your mom and had visitation with your dad?”

“That’s correct.”

“At any time after your mom passed away, did you ever tell anybody that you suspected that your dad had killed your mom?”

“I have not once suspected that.”

“If anybody said so, they would be telling a lie?” Objection/Sustained.

August 29 at 4:42pm · Like · 2

In Session

The witness says that it was “only weekends” when he and his brother would visit the defendant.

“My father would come to my mother’s household, and pick up both Kristopher and I. He’d take us back to his house, and we’d spend the weekend with my father, until Sunday night, when he’d bring us back . . . if it was a three-day weekend, I was never fully clear of when we were supposed to be brought back. But if there was a three-day weekend, we would stay until Monday.”

He describes the defendant as “a fun guy . . . we all had a really good time. Stacy was very fun, like my dad was very fun. Just very enjoyable weekends.”

He describes Drew as “very genial, just very happy with his job and his life . . . I was very glad to be over there.”

August 29 at 4:45pm · Like

In Session

“When you would come back from visitations, was your mom’s screen door always locked?”

“Sometimes it was locked.”

“And sometimes it was unlocked?”

“Yes.”

“And if it was unlocked, that wasn’t unusual?”

“That’s right.”

“What time would you come back from visitations, normally?”

“Sometimes it was dark outside, so I’d say around 7:00.”

“Were the lights always on in your mom’s house?”

“It varied; it wasn’t always on or always off.”

“If you came home and all the lights were off, did that mean your mom wasn’t home?”

“More times than not, if all the lights were off it meant she wasn’t home. But we would check anyway . . . I don’t remember coming back and all the lights being on.”

August 29 at 4:48pm · Like · 5

In Session

The weekend that Kathleen died, Drew picked the boys up as usual.

“Did you notice any change in his demeanor in any way . . . any change in his personality at all?”

“There was nothing odd at all. I would remember if there was. But there was nothing out of the ordinary, to my recollection.”

“When he went to drop you off Sunday night, what was your dad’s demeanor?”

“He was a little bit concerned. And then I think we came to the conclusion that we’d forgotten it was a three day weekend, and she was out with a friend or someone else at that time . . . he just took care of us for the rest of the night, and then the day after.”

“Did you notice anything unusual that night about your dad’s demeanor?”

“No . . . we just figured that because it was a three day weekend she was out, and we’d leave her to her business.”

“After spending the holiday with your dad, he again tried to drop you off on Monday?”

“That’s correct.”

“And again your mom didn’t answer the door?”

“Correct . . . he was definitely more concerned, because that was the day we were definitely supposed to be back with my mother . . . he was kind of, like, more concerned about the situation. So he brought us back, told us to go to bed, and said he would try to figure out what was going on.”

“Did you try to call your mom when you got home?”

“Yes. There was no answer.”

August 29 at 4:52pm · Like

In Session

The next morning, Drew informed the witness that Savio was dead.

“My brother and I were both downstairs, and he told us to come upstairs. He brought us into his room, and told us that our mother had died. He was very shaken up about it; I’d never seen anyone so sad . . . it was very troubling to see him so shaken up.”

“He was sincerely shaken up by your mother’s death?”

“Yes.”

“Your mom liked to take baths?”

“Yes.” “Up until a certain age, you used to take baths with her?”

“Yes, both Kristopher and I . . . until we were about five or six. She definitely liked to have hot baths; I wouldn’t say scalding, but very hot.”

“Would she always put her hair up when she was taking a bath?”

“She would sometimes have her hair up; she would sometimes have her hair down . . . when she would get out of the bath, she would put her hair up in a towel . . . I would know that she at least had gotten her hair wet.”

“You’d see her washing her hair in the bathtub?”

“Yes.”

“Are you here voluntarily?”

“I’m here completely voluntarily . . . because I believe my dad is innocent.”
Objection/Sustained.

August 29 at 5:02pm · Like

08/29/21012: Prosecutor Chris Koch on cross examination

In Session

Prosecutor Koch begins his cross.

“Do you recall being in front of the grand jury back in 2008?”

“I do.”

“Recall being asked . . .” Objection/Withdrawn.

“Recall being asked . . .”

The judge asks for the jury to be excused from the courtroom.

August 29 at 5:03pm · Like

In Session

The witness and the jurors are now out of the courtroom.

The attorneys are having a problem agreeing on what exactly is contained in a specific grand jury transcript (from June 26, 2008).

Eventually, they work out the confusion.

However Brodsky then objects to this line of testimony, saying that he does not believe it is impeaching.

Koch: “This is in relationship to the testimony where he said he had seen his mom bathing.”

Judge: “OK, you can ask those questions.”

The judge then sends for the jury.

August 29 at 5:04pm · Like · 9

In Session

The witness and the jurors have returned to the courtroom.

Prosecutor Koch continues his cross-examination.

“Do you recall being asked about your memories of your mother taking a bath, and saying you didn’t recall anything specific?”

“That sounds like a strange answer. I don’t recall.”

“Recall being asked if you’d be in bed before she’d doing that normal, and you answered ‘yeah?’”

“I’m so sorry. I still don’t understand the question.”

The question is repeated.

“It doesn’t sound like a question at all.”

The parties then go to a sidebar.

August 29 at 5:10pm · Like

In Session

The sidebar ends.

“Let me try this again . . . you were asked if you recalled your mom taking a bath, and you said you recalled nothing specific?”

“Yes. I don’t recall that.”

“And you said you guys would normally be in bed before she’d do that?”

Do you remember saying that on June 26, 2008?”

“Yes.”

That ends the cross-examination of this witness.

August 29 at 5:11pm · Like

08/29/21012: Defense Attorney Joel Brodsky on redirect examination

In Session

“What you know about what she did inside the bath is from when you were younger?”

“Yes.”

“When she was older, you probably don’t have any specific memories about her taking baths?”

“That’s correct.”

“But you know she washed her hair, because when she came out her hair was wet?”

“Yes.”

“And you knew she didn’t take a shower, because you didn’t hear the shower running?”

“I wouldn’t know that, if it was a shower or a bath.”

“Your mother sometimes took baths at night, to relax?”

“I wouldn’t know that.”

August 29 at 5:12pm · Like · 3

In Session

“When she would take as bath, she would sometimes have a glass of wine?”
Objection/Sustained.

The judge excuses the jurors.

August 29 at 5:13pm · Like · 3

In Session

The judge calls a brief recess, because another judge in the courthouse needs some equipment that the prosecution is using.

Once that can be accomplished, the Peterson trial should resume.

August 29 at 5:14pm · Like · 2

In Session

Both sides have decided that they have no further questions for Tom Peterson.

So his testimony has ended.

August 29 at 5:30pm · Like · 6
