

Hearing on plan to change laws about missing adults

by News Channel 8's Jodi Latina
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(Hartford-WTNH) __ A Waterbury couple wants to change the way police handle adult missing persons cases, and today lawmakers will hold a public hearing on a bill designed to do just that.

The family of Billy Smolinski, a Waterbury man who went missing in 2004, says the measure would save lives or at least help families get answers.

A billboard of the missing Waterbury man was put up on Route 8 last week, three years after he disappeared and only after a group that helps families of missing adults stepped up.

Smolinski asked a neighbor to watch his dog back in 2004. He left his keys, wallet and car, and no one has seen him since.

Smolinski's parents say police made them wait three days to file a missing persons report and there was no Amber Alert. Authorities believed the 31-year old may have left on his own.

The Smolinski's want Connecticut law to include more training for law enforcement in dealing with missing persons, and they want a 48 hour window imposed in which a search would have to begin.

The FBI is now involved in the Smolinski case. This morning's hearing will involve national exposure. Representatives from the group Campaign for the Missing are expected to be here.