

<<Back



Hearing on plan to change laws about missing adults

by News Channel 8's Jodi Latina
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(Hartford-WTNH) _ The family of a missing Waterbury man is pushing for change at the state capitol. They want to see new guidelines for police when it comes to missing persons cases such as the one they've been living through for years.

Bill Smolinski Sr. and his wife Janice are dedicating their lives to finding out what happened to their son Billy.

"I feel they (the FBI) are working on it and we'll get our answers soon," Janice Smolinski said.

Federal agents took over Billy Smolinski's missing person's case last fall. It has been nearly three years since the 31-year old Waterbury man was last seen. He asked a neighbor to watch his dog, left his car keys, his wallet and his truck behind, and was never heard from again.

"I think foul play," Bill Smolinski Sr. said.

The Smolinskis believe someone killed their son, but without proof they push on by putting up fliers, passing out buttons and putting up billboards.

The Smolinskis and other families with missing loved ones are in Hartford pushing lawmakers to change the way Connecticut handles adult missing persons cases. Right now in Connecticut entering DNA samples into a national database is not mandated when there is a missing person.

"There needs to be better communication between law enforcement and education for officers on DNA technology," Janice Smolinski said. "We should be using national databases."

The Smolinskis say their fight isn't about Billy anymore. It's about getting answers for all families with missing loved ones.

"I guess that's what's gonna happen the rest of our lives. Our dreams are crushed," Janice said. "We'll make a difference. I'm determined."

The Smolinskis say after years of pushing a DNA sample from their son's case has been entered into a national data base, and they are working with the National Campaign for the Missing.

It's unclear whether these changes will be passed by lawmakers.



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