

NBC 30 NEWS

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Police Search Vehicle of Man Missing Since 2004

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HARTFORD, Conn. -- On Tuesday, police searched the truck of a [Waterbury](#) man who has been missing for more than four years.

Billy Smolinski disappeared from his Waterbury home in 2004.

State police did a forensic analysis of Smolinski's truck looking for evidence such as fingerprints and blood.

[Janice Smolinski](#) was sharing her son's story at a missing person's conference in [Denver](#) on Wednesday night when she heard about the search.

"All along we had thought there was a problem with the truck, and we still do," she said.

She said his family thinks the truck might hold clues because it was parked in the wrong place in his driveway.

"It was parked at Billy's house at the end of his driveway, and we had brought that to the police's attention at the beginning when Billy first went missing," she said.

"And the truck was also broken into, and we had asked them to take fingerprints, and we felt there may have been a problem. We were totally ignored."

The Smolinski family covered the truck up and stored it at a family member's home, where it was kept until state police took it into custody on Tuesday morning.

"We're grateful now they are looking into it," Janice Smolinski said.

State police and the [FBI](#) are both working on the case.

The have followed leads that led them to search properties in [Shelton](#) and Seymour.

Although Smolinski is still classified as a missing person's case, police suspect foul play.

Janice Smolinski said the family hopes the search of the truck will help detectives finally solve the case.

"We're not going to give up until we get answers," she said.

She said investigators are doing a remarkable job and said she knows it takes one step at a time.