

Dear Friends & the Community of Cochise County:

There have been so many times, we have wanted to say something about our situation in the last three years, that we can't count the times on one hand, but we just couldn't, for so many reasons. Legal reasons, therapy reasons, privacy reasons and just plain, being broken-hearted and needing to survive. It's still hard to say the words. No, this isn't a joke; I wish it was.

In April of 2016, in Sierra Vista, Az, 80 miles SE of Tucson, both of our kids, who were 22 months and age 3, revealed to us that they have been victims of the most heinous of crimes; torture, rape and sodomy at the hands of an alleged pedophile couple; ex-neighbors who groomed us for several years before we had children. The most horrendous part, is that this couple remains free! Now, at age 5 and 7, our kids have recounted the exact same details, as they did, when they were nearly babies. Their story has never wavered nor changed. That's how we know, with 100 percent certainty, that it happened. Anyone who endures this kind of trauma, knows their children....and knows when something is horribly wrong.

One might wonder, how in the hell could this happen? We think it every, single day. We blame ourselves, and I'm sure the pain and guilt will follow us to the grave. We trusted these people like family and over lots of time, formed a relationship with them that we implicitly trusted. It's the ultimate and diabolical betrayal, in which will never be forgiven. In all honesty, we are lucky to have our kids alive. We believe this could have had another outcome, one we can't even begin to fathom. We thank God every day, that we are able to hug them.

Why are we telling everyone now? Well, our reasons are two-fold. To obtain some sort of justice for our children; we are hoping by exposing this couple, other victims will come forward, and by telling our story, we will save some of you, the agony of becoming victims yourself, along with your children. We've had a lot time to grieve and be angry as hell; we've struggled with sleepless nights and kids diagnosed with PTSD. We've been in the trenches and the depths of hell, that I hope none of you ever experience. But I will tell you, we are a stronger family for it. What would break most people, has only made us stronger. We have not crumbled. We've fallen down, but we've gotten back up. We've cried, we've prayed, we've wanted vengeance in the worst way. We've still experienced joy in the smallest of things, the accomplishments of healing, that only God can provide. There is light at the end of this tunnel, and we tell our kids every day, no one is allowed to steal our joy. We cannot and will not let these monsters win. Our kids are survivors, not victims. I do not look at them with pity. I'm inspired by their moxie; their warrior-like personalities. When we've asked them about moving on, their desire to protect more kids, is a constant theme. They have been in play therapy for the past three years and will continue to get therapy, as long as they need it. From the experts, we've talked to, the process to healing, can be a life-long journey. We've talked to the kids numerous times about protecting their privacy and they just say....."just get em." "Make sure they go to prison." To say we are proud of them, would be an understatement. We love our kids more than life itself.

Our son, who we once thought was autistic because of the trauma, tested into the Gifted Program at his elementary school and is excelling at baseball. He is not autistic. Our daughter, after struggling a lot with PTSD, is dancing and doing gymnastics, and slowly her inner bright light is coming back and shining for all to see. No one thinks this will happen to them. My husband is a Federal Agent, a criminal investigator and leader in his division, and I'm an investigative journalist. We both knew a lot about sex offenders. I've interviewed them in prison, know their classic, narcissistic ways and thought I'd know one from a mile away. The problem is....you might be distracted and distraught, thinking your child has a behavioral problem like Autism, ADD or some speech problem. These distractions, that seem life-changing at the time, can really be something else. Had I known, the first question, I should have been asking, if you spot a behavioral problem is.....who's watching your child? That one question could have prevented this nightmare. Obviously, sometimes, it's truly a behavioral problem, but trauma can mimic these disorders, such as autism. Predators use threats to keep kids quiet. Our children have told us they put guns to their heads and told them they would kill me in the shower and hang my husband from a ceiling fan. It doesn't get much worse than that! A child will never jeopardize your life.....therefore they will never tell, to protect you. You must tell them what threats look and sound like. Give examples; it's nearly the only thing that will keep them safe. Threats almost always come before touching. I often say to them, I can't protect you from things I don't know about. Nearly 98 percent of sex crimes are committed by people you know directly. The stranger danger scenario is only about 1 to 2 percent.

So how does this couple remain free? Search warrants were obtained and served by the Cochise County Sheriff's Dept, on April 28, 2016, but once detectives didn't find a picture or video, they dropped the case like a hot potato, despite new evidence and the fact that our kids are now 5 & 7 and can easily recall all of the details. Back in 2016, the Cochise County Attorney told us because our children were under 6, they don't typically prosecute those cases, because the kids make horrible victim witnesses on the stand and don't understand taking an oath to tell the truth. We were appalled and disgusted that no one is protecting vulnerable children! While we realize the difficulties with children in court, it seemed like a lazy and outrageous excuse. We already had major disclosures to medical professionals of what happened. How could they not pursue charges? We even have medical records that show various injuries to our children, as well. After the search warrant, there were a series of mis-steps and lackluster efforts, as these detectives, who bust down doors with my husband, turned their backs and looked the other way. Meanwhile, the people on the inside of the Cochise County's Sheriff's Dept are being busted.....the Jail Chaplain Douglas Packer plead guilty of raping women for the past 10 years, and a woman Sheriff dispatcher and her DCS (CPS) husband, who adopted several children, are accused of stripping them naked for hours, tasing them with tasers and other unspeakable acts. How can you properly investigate sex crimes, when you have crimes happening internally in your own department? After knowing this, it comes as no surprised, they weren't particularly motivated to solve our case, prosecute and obtain justice for our two children.....which is what our tax dollars pay them to do! If you don't care about the most violent of crimes on two small

children....what else matters? There are so many more details in this case. I've posted them inside a letter that our attorney wrote to ask the Cochise County Attorney to re-open our case and prosecute these vile monsters.

I'm asking only one thing of each of you, and that is for you to share our story and make it go viral, so these monsters cannot hurt any more children and so that our kids have a chance of obtaining justice. If you want to take the extra step, after reading our case files, please call the County Attorney, Brian McIntyre to voice your displeasure, and urge him to prosecute. We welcome that. All of these records are public documents and this couple was officially under investigation by the Cochise County Sheriff's Dept. We thank those of you who have stood by us, through thick and thin, and have literally been the backbone to hold us up. We are forever grateful. This has been so very hard on our family members and grandparents. We appreciate all of their support and encouragement. If you have questions, please ask us directly. Many of our family members are private people and we do not want to cause additional stress. We did not want to put this out there in December...a time meant for joy and family, but we found out that these suspects are in the process of selling their home and are moving to a new location. We believe they are fleeing, because they know, we are about to expose them. We have been working on a documentary film for the last 3 years. The trailer is nearly complete and we are hoping to release it, in a few weeks. We hope that during this difficult journey, some good can come of this unimaginable experience. Love, peace, healing and joy to all of you this holiday season.