

Rocha Family statements

A compilation of documents issued by the
family of Laci Peterson.

In Loving Memory of Laci & Connor

On behalf of our family we want to thank you. The generous hearts of many volunteers, law enforcement agencies, continued media coverage, and the prayers of thousands, did more than just ease the burden. It gave us hope & faith that our efforts were not in vain. It demonstrated love. You may think that you have just been doing your part, but to us, you are a miracle. Above all, you should know that you are a vital part of this healing process. The hearts & hands of everyone have joined together in compassion that has changed people's lives forever. The world adopted Laci as their own. She became everyone's daughter, sister, friend, and neighbor. We gladly share her love with you. Please accept our sincere and heartfelt thanks for your time, support and prayers.

Sincerely,

Laci Rochas Family & Friends

Special thanks to Modesto Police Department & The Sund/Carrington Foundation

"Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in Heaven where the love of our lost ones pour through and shine down upon us to let us know they are happy. There is sorrow on earth, but joy in heaven".

Laci Peterson's parents and siblings have asked me to read this statement on their behalf. Earlier this week the Modesto Police Department was made aware of an article that was to appear in the National Enquirer ^{revealing} with new information regarding Laci's case. Out of respect for the family, the Police Department felt they should provide the information to them directly so they wouldn't have to read it in the media. ^{At that time} The family members were shown very recent pictures of Scott and a girlfriend. Approximately two weeks ago, Ron Grantski, Laci's stepfather asked Scott if he had a girlfriend. Scott told him NO and Ron believed him. Now however, they believe he has lied to them about this and possibly other things as well. The family is asking that Scott tell EVERYTHING he knows and fully cooperate with the Modesto Police Department. Their family is the most important thing to them. If Scott has nothing to hide, they ask that he prove it. He has continually allowed family members and friends to support him personally as well as on television.

The family knows the police are doing their job and understand that they can't tell them everything and that's fine with them. They don't want to do anything to hurt their chances of finding Laci. They will not give up until they find her.

Laci's family cares about Scott's family and what they're going through. They have become close to them throughout this nightmare.

They can't begin to express how thankful they are to everyone who has been supporting them throughout this horrific ordeal: their family, friends, volunteers, the Modesto community, the police department as well as people around the world who have sent them cards and e-mails as well as prayers. You'll never know just how much your support is helping them. They ask that all of you continue to search for Laci and appeal to farmers and those who live in rural areas to search their fields, barns, etc. as well as

hunters, fishermen, and realtors showing empty homes to search those areas as well.

We ask that you respect the family's privacy and allow them quiet time together as a family. Laci's family will not be conducting any interviews until possibly sometime late next week unless there is a major break in the case prior to that time. Please direct ALL media requests for her family to Kim Petersen. Do not call them directly. Please do not submit any requests to Kim over the weekend unless there is a major break in the case.

We feel that through the efforts of the volunteers at the volunteer center we have accomplished our goal of creating awareness of Laci's disappearance and getting her face out in the public. We thank all of the volunteers and businesses who have helped us, especially the Red Lion, for allowing us to set up our volunteer center in their hotel.

Please continue to do all that you can to help us find Laci. We won't give up until we bring her home. We will continue to monitor the website which is www.lacipeterson.com. Also, if you have any information, please call the Modesto Police Department tipline (209) 342-6166.

Sincerely,
Laci's family

July 7, 2003

Senator John Kerry
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

FAX NUMBER: 202-224-8525

Dear Senator Kerry:

I am the mother of Laci Peterson and the grandmother of Conner Peterson. I am writing to ask you to support the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which is now also referred to as "Laci and Conner's Law" at my family's request.

You have seen the press coverage regarding the brutal murders of my daughter and grandson, and I expect that you are aware that two homicide charges have been filed by state authorities. However, if my daughter had been killed in a federal jurisdiction, or during commission of a federal crime, my grandson's murder would not be recognized or charged. It is that gap in federal law that we seek to correct with Laci and Conner's Law.

When a criminal attacks a woman who carries an unborn child, he claims two victims. I am told that 28 states (including Massachusetts) now recognize the unborn child as a separate crime victim in at least some circumstances -- counting Texas, where the governor signed a comprehensive law within the past month.

I have seen a letter that you recently sent to constituents, in which you said, "I have serious concerns about this legislation because the law cannot simultaneously provide that a fetus is a human being and protect the right of the mother to choose to terminate her pregnancy. Therefore, I do not support the Unborn Victims of Violence Act."

Senator, this is not an abortion issue. California's unborn victim law has been the books since 1970 and it does not affect the availability of legal abortion, nor have any of the similar laws in effect in more than half the states. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act explicitly says that it does not apply to abortion, or to any acts of the mother herself. Having said that, I have no difficulty understanding that any legislator or group opposed to abortion logically would also support this bill to protect the lives of unborn children like Conner from violent criminal actions, and I welcome their support. What I find difficult to understand is why groups and senators who champion the pro-choice cause are blind to the fact that these two-victim crimes are the ultimate violation of choice.

Sponsors of the federal bill have told me that when the Senate takes up Laci and Conner's Law, a "single-victim" bill will be offered in its place -- a bill that would increase

penalties for federal crimes if the victim happens to be pregnant, but without recognizing the killing of an unborn child as a loss of life. Then the Senate will have to choose between the two bills. Judging from your letter, it seems that you are currently inclined towards this single-victim approach. But I urge you to oppose the single-victim bill. That bill would not recognize that there are two victims in cases like my family's. In fact, it would enshrine in law the offensive concept that such crimes have only a single victim -- the pregnant woman.

Please understand how adoption of such a single-victim proposal would be a painful blow to those, like me, who are left to grieve after a two-victim crime, because Congress would be saying that Conner and other innocent victims like him are not really victims -- indeed, that they never really existed at all. But our grandson did live. He had a name, he was loved, and his life was violently taken from him before he ever saw the sun.

And what about mothers who survive criminal attacks but lose their babies? I don't understand how any senator can vote to force prosecutors to tell such a grieving mother that she didn't really lose a baby -- when she knows to the depths of her soul that she did.

The single-victim bill seems to be based on the idea that the only thing that matters is how severe a sentence can be imposed -- but that is wrong. It is important that the punishment be severe, definitely. But it is also important that the true nature of the crime be recognized. This is a question not only of severity, but of justice. The single-victim proposal would be a step away from justice, not toward it. If this single-victim bill were the law in California, there would be no second homicide charge for the murder of Conner. But there were two bodies that washed up in San Francisco Bay, and the law should recognize that reality.

Senator Kerry, in the interests of justice, I implore you to reject the single-victim proposal and support the Unborn Victims of Violence Act.

Sincerely,



Sharon Rocha

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August 13, 2003

Via Facsimile

San Francisco Chronicle	(415) 896-1107
Stockton Record	(209) 367-7432
Associated Press - Jim Wasserman	(916) 446-2756
KXTV 10 Assignment Editor	(916) 447-6107
Fox 40 Assignment Editor	(916) 739-0559
KCRA 3 Assignment Editor	(916) 441-4050
KOVR 13 Assignment Editor	(209) 464-1017
CNN Washington DC/Larry King Live	(202) 898-7686

Statement

by news

Sharon Rocha and all of Laci's family have asked that the following statement be issued on their behalf in response to numerous requests from the media for comment:

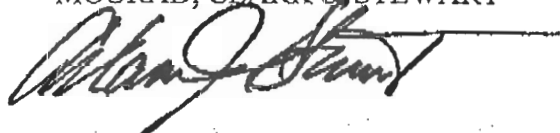
"These past eight months have been tremendously difficult for our family as we put so much hope and energy behind searching for Laci only to have our worst fears confirmed in April. There are no words to describe the pain we felt when we learned the remains were those of our beautiful daughter and unborn grandson. We have spent these past four months enduring this pain every day, every hour, every minute.

The events of this week have once again added pain to our daily grief as we read in the newspaper details regarding our daughter and grandson's remains and hear unnecessary graphic details when we turn on the television. We respectfully ask that all deliberate attention and effort be made by Mr. Geragos to return Laci and Conner to us. As the family, we plead with the media to be sensitive to the fact that this is not a media story to us. This is our Laci and Conner whom we love with all our hearts. This is not a story....this is our life.

Please treat her in death respectfully so that we as her family will be allowed to lay her and Conner to rest in dignity and peace when the time comes. We ask that you respect our privacy and understand our pain as we grieve for our beautiful Laci and baby Conner."

Very truly yours,

MOORAD, CLARK & STEWART



ADAM J. STEWART

Garth Stapley

From: Shawnrocha [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2003 9:39 AM
To: Garth Stapley
Subject: quick letter-I'll call at 1pm

Greg, how it started: It was very troubling to see how this whole ordeal had turned only towards Scott, or the trial & lawyers. Laci had somehow become only referred to as the expectant wife of the alledged suspect. Not for who she was, or for the emotional response that the nation responded to. And I wasn't ready for that. ~~Alot of folks aren't ready for that.~~ I was actually closer to her brother than her being closer in age. And I don't portray being Laci's closest relative. Truth be known, I've grown to care for Laci deeper than I probably would have through the normal courses of our lives. But I surely don't stand alone. ~~Who I'm focussed on with this day is not the family. It's the folks who walked the streets - some went door to door with us.~~ And all the millions who prayed for Laci & Connors safe return & the strength and sent emails of encouragement. ~~There are terrible people out there that do horrible things. And unfortunately the victims become merely part of the story. I don't feel Laci deserves that, nor do I feel that she has.~~ Alot of families have loved ones missing and my heart goes out to them. More now than before I admit. And sadly the nation becomes more tolerant or excepting of these acts as life continues. Pauly Klaus was a tragic end to a beautiful life. And Chandra Levy had a future more full of promise than most of us would dream of. But I think a slight difference with this instance is the scenerio itself. It happened at a time where the nation was vulnerable with war pending. She was a young wife with expecting her first child. It was here in the valley where you take for granted a certain level of safety & security. She was also a college graduate and ~~the world awoke on Christmas morning to learn the evil that lurks amongst us.~~ People aren't letting go, or excepting this.

I started by searching for a place to have it. I'd already gotten the encouragement from family & friends that this was needed, not for us, but for the people. But I didn't know how big it would be, but I knew I wanted it here in Modesto. I tied in with Joe Trena & his family out at the Fruityard & that turned out to be an awesome resource. Before you new it he was giving me contacts & phoning them before I could. I called Mike & Bill King from A&A Potables & he says, "yah, Joe just called, we're in 100%, you just tell us what you need". Art & Linda Mitchell from Mitchell's Harley Davidson were equally cooperative saying we could have free run of the place that morning to give out the pins to riders. Billy Laws, President of Modesto HOG, invited me to come out and tell the club what we were doing at their monthly meeting. From there it just snowballed. SLM Designs created the website & InReach donated the running of it.

The Fabulous Blue Notes & The HomeWreckers and Dave Brown are local bands with members spread out throughout the valley. When they agreed to play & wouldn't take any money that ws a big boost.

I've ridden bikes for 15 years & I've yet to see another group of people support those in need or a good cause than bikers. I started emailing a lot of people I've met & many I hadn't. I go down south for Jay Leno & Peter Fondas Love Ride every year so I knew certain celebrities ride & join in support as well. To my surprise I got many responses. But it's more the responses with a message. They didn't just say, "thanks, but no".

They sent sentiments & words of encouragement & a lot wanted to make sure I notified them if this ends up being an annual event. Tommy Castro was disappointed he couldn't make it, but called back to see if

we'd considered doing a raffle. Two days later I got a package with his complete CD set he opened & autographed every one. I'd seen Mickey Jones at rides down in southern CA & when I approached him he & his wife were all over it. He just got done shooting The Fighting Temptations & rescheduled his knee surgery to be here which was awful nice.

The only setback I've had is in the insurance. We aren't able to have an actual "ride" due to the jump in cost so it's only the event itself at the Fruiyard. But I'm sure folks will still come out in support whether it's a ride or not. They can pick up their pin at Mitchells & head over at any time. The main thing anyway is that we see you there. We ordered pins which we'll give out that morning but we're forced to limit to motorcyclist only due to intention and if any are left over they'll be at the grounds later. What wasn't donated was given at great prices or without commissions so it's made it easier. This has absolutely nothing to do with the Laci Fund monies. It's important that people everywhere know that. It's the families money sponsoring this. I just don't want people to worry about their donations going to something only locals can attend. The only thing left is security guards, a sound system, and stage at a reasonable price. Right now we're looking at semi trailers for stage because that's what we can afford. There also won't be alcohol served due partially because of costs of permits, but mainly because the functions intent. So it's not your typical run or concert. It's what it's called: Laci & Connor Memorial Day.

Just like the webiste states, "Good fun, Good music, Good Cause". People can check the web afterwards for pictures. [Lacipetersonmemorial](#)

Greg: I have to head into a meeting I'm actually late for. But I wated to send this to you asap. I will call you at 1pm if that's ok with you.

Shawn

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February 10, 2004

Via Facsimile

San Francisco Chronicle	(415) 896-1107
Stockton Record	(209) 367-7432
Associated Press - Jim Wasserman	(916) 446-2756
KXTV 10 Assignment Editor	(916) 447-6107
Fox 40 Assignment Editor	(916) 739-0559
KCRA 3 Assignment Editor	(916) 441-4050
KOVR 13 Assignment Editor	(209) 464-1017
CNN Washington DC/Larry King Live	(202) 898-7686

Sharon Rocha and all of Laci's family have asked that the following statement be issued on their behalf in response to numerous requests from the media for comment:

"Laci's family was not involved in any way with the making of "The Perfect Husband". Releasing this movie just as the trial is about to begin is of concern to us. After viewing the movie, one very important concern we all have is about the inaccuracies portrayed and how they may impact the potential jury pool, as well as the public. The movie combines fictional and actual characters, making it difficult to differentiate fact from fiction. Even we did not know who some of the characters were supposed to be.

We feel the movie offers a poor and inaccurate representation of the facts. We hope the public will keep in mind that this movie is only a "story", a "made for TV movie".

Our focus is on the truth and justice for Laci and Conner.

Very truly yours,

MOORAD, CLARK & STEWART


ADAM J. STEWART

AJS/pjb

Written By
Sharon Rocha

I would like to first address the issue regarding a victim and/or subpoenaed members of the victim's immediate family attending court proceedings against the accused.

Current law is written to favor the rights of the defendant. The defense has the option of allowing, or not allowing, the victim's family inside the courtroom. As the law stands now it is the defenses' prerogative to exercise this right, however, what happened to us was nothing short of cruel and inhumane treatment. In our case, the defense attorneys first agreed to allow us into the courtroom but then changed their minds. This happened several times, we were allowed in, and then we weren't. We were kept in the dark as to whether we would be allowed to attend the trial of the man, Scott Peterson, accused of murdering my daughter, Laci, right up until the morning the trial started. Our family had already suffered unbearable pain and loss. In my opinion this was an example of a gross abuse of the law and caused more undue hardship for our family.

Situations, such as this, cry out for these laws to be changed. In abiding by the laws, law enforcement did not keep us in the loop as to the evidence they had obtained against the defendant. We were told again and again, they weren't allowed to give us certain information because if the case goes to trial we would be potential witnesses and they did not want to jeopardize our testimony.

Imagine the horror, the heartache, and the pain of learning that your beautiful daughter and her precious baby have been murdered. Imagine the unbelievable frustration of not knowing what happened to them. Imagine believing you know who was responsible, but needing to know every piece of information that had been gathered just to prove beyond a doubt to yourself, that this is the person who murdered your daughter. Imagine, almost daily for a year and half, hearing and reading media reports about evidence that was found, or possible theories, or witnesses who claim they know what happened to your family members only to be told by law enforcement that they can't comment on these reports (doing the job they are supposed to do) because you might be called to testify during the trial. As difficult and frustrating as it was, I understood. Imagine being able to endure this endless torture of 'not knowing what happened' for one reason only; you know you will be inside the courtroom during the trial listening to and seeing, first hand, the evidence as it unfolds before the jury.

Now, imagine, the unthinkable. You are told the defense will not allow you to be in the courtroom. They are concerned the defendant won't get a fair trial because the jury might be sympathetic to the victim or the victim's family if they are in the courtroom. Or a family member might change his/her testimony after listening to other witnesses testify.

This is incomprehensible to a family who has suffered and is seeking truth and justice. Why should any family (or immediate family member) who has been subpoenaed to testify have to be excluded from attending a trial simply because a defense attorney can claim, without any proof at all, that it would be prejudicial to their client to have the

victim or victims' families seen by the jury? Or, be excluded because, again, without any proof at all, they might change their testimony after listening to other witnesses' testimony.

Other than sitting on a jury for a 3-day trial several years ago, the trial of Scott Peterson is the only other trial I have experienced. From what I observed during this trial excluding a witness from being in the courtroom when other witnesses testified did NOT prevent them from changing, altering or adding to their testimony. I recall an incident when both the prosecution and the defense informed the judge that the witness on the stand was giving testimony neither had heard before that moment. This witness was not a family member, nor had he/she been in the courtroom when other witnesses testified. The judge dealt with it accordingly.

Victims and/or their families should never be excluded from attending the court proceedings based solely on the fact they have been subpoenaed as witnesses. I believe if the defense requests that a witness be excluded from attending they should provide good cause and proof for this request. The witness should also be he opportunity to respond in their defense.

Second I would like to address the issue regarding seating in the courtroom.

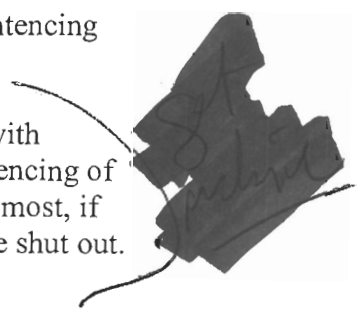
During the preliminary hearing and the trial of Scott Peterson we had an ongoing problem regarding enough seating in the courtroom for family and close friends. There was never enough seating available.

I understand the media is entitled, as is the public, to attend a trial. However, I feel it is extremely important to consider the family and close friends of the victim. Our loved one has been murdered. We suffer the greatest loss. Our lives will be affected by what goes on inside the courtroom. We want to know what happened and we need to hear this information first hand to form our own opinions of the facts presented in the courtroom. We can't rely on receiving unbiased, factual information through the media outlets.

Throughout our trial I spent countless hours relaying information about what transpired inside the courtroom to family and friends who couldn't attend the proceedings, due to lack of available seating. We couldn't always rely on the media reports to be accurate.

The following excerpts are from a letter I wrote regarding the seating for the sentencing for Scott Peterson.

“There is something terribly wrong when a courtroom is allowed to be packed with people, complete strangers to Laci (except for us), who want to witness the sentencing of the man who murdered her, yet, the people who have known and loved Laci for most, if not all, her life, the people who SHOULD and NEED to be in that courtroom are shut out.



The men and women who devoted more than 2 years of their lives working on this case, and the people who mean the most to Laci aren't even allowed to witness here murderer's due justice. All of these 'strangers' who were given priority seating will walk out of that courtroom and be able to say "I was in the courtroom when Scott Peterson was sentenced". To them, it's a show, entertainment, a status quo. They will go on with their lives and put all this behind them.

To the people who have lived this nightmare every day since 12/24/02 this is just one more example of what has been taken away from us. This is NOT a show for us. This is NOT entertainment for us. This IS a huge part of our lives.

Laci would be so upset to know that the people who worked so hard to find her, and to put Scott in prison won't be allowed to witness his sentencing. She would be heartbroken to know her family and dearest, lifelong friends won't be allowed to witness the sentencing of the man who murdered her because their seats were taken by people who felt the need to be a part of the circus atmosphere in the courtroom far outweighs the needs of Laci's loved ones to witness justice being served on her and Conner's behalf.

I have to wonder if the party/parties that decides who will and will not be allowed into the courtroom has ever considered what the murder victim might have wanted. I guarantee that Laci would want her family and friends to be in that courtroom."

It is crucial to families and friends of victims to be allowed to attend the court proceedings. Attending these proceedings, and listening to the facts can contribute significantly to their healing process. Especially in high profile cases, when their only source of information is derived from the media, which, unfortunately, can't possibly cover every single aspect that goes on inside the courtroom.

We are asking that the court reserves at least one third of the available seating in a courtroom for the victim and the victim's family and support people, the support staff from a victim services agency, and staff from the prosecuting agency.

Thank you for your attention to these crucial matters.

Sharon Rocha
Mother of Laci Peterson
Grandmother of Conner Peterson