

Kim Bassett

It is a civilized society's responsibility to protect the victim. The witness.

Who will call 911 if there is the risk that if you do, you will be subject to threats and intimidation? You cannot argue that this is mere conjecture; just having your name on a staff list at Sandy Hook Elementary made you a target. Inundated first with media phone calls, and "journalists" knocking at your door. Eventually that gave way to "hoaxers", who threatened and intimidated, with swears and accusations. The proper exercise of the judicial processes does not require victims to endure re-victimization. To release the 911 calls would cause a secondary victimization and function as an impediment to recovery from the crime and potentially affect the entire school community's recovery as well.

Because of our association with this event, our safety and privacy have already been threatened. Many people called 911 on 12/14 from Sandy Hook Elementary. Many people spoke with the Police and the FBI. Should fear that their names and statements be released or be referred to in reports kept these people from communicating truthfully with the officers? If it is decided that their privacy is not protected from disclosure, will that affect people from speaking freely with officers in the future? If it is known that a 911 call will be released, will people hesitate to make that call? What repercussions will come from treating victims and witnesses in a manner that jeopardizes their safety? How does that benefit our society as a whole?

Of what use are our laws if those most vulnerable, the victim, the witness to violent crime, are left unprotected? What does that say about us as a people?

Stephen Sedensky the state's attorney in Danbury put it best "This is a case about crime victims and witnesses who shouldn't have to worry that their calls for help, at their most vulnerable moments, will become fodder for the evening news,"

Please protect the innocent victims of a crime that will never be prosecuted, that will never see justice. That must merely be endured. Please help us.