



## EPISODE 42: Bowen Turner Is Arrested Again + the 911 Call from the Night of Sara Lynn Colucci's Death

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**Mandy Matney** 00:02

I don't know what it will take for the justice system to prioritize victims' concerns over privileged defendants. But this weekend, Bowen Turner proved to the world how dangerous it gets when the system shows young defendants just how much they can get away with. My name is Mandy Matney. This is True Sunlight, a podcast exposing crime and corruption previously known as the Murdaugh Murders Podcast. True Sunlight is a Luna Shark production written with journalist Liz Farrell. Hello, we are back after a big exciting week visiting the beautiful state of Arizona. Arizona friends, I just want to say from the bottom of my heart, thank you. I still have impostor syndrome when it comes to the whole author book space. I met authors this weekend who dedicated several years of their lives through their book in their book alone. Admittedly, my book was written in a rush during some of the lowest mental health moments of my life, and it simply wouldn't exist without my co-author Carolyn Murnick, hard work, tenacity and relentless support of my story. During a time when the trolls almost convinced me to give up. Carolyn reminded me over and over that my book was important to inspire women to stand their ground and find their voices like I found mine. So my journey was a lot different from the authors that I spoke with this weekend. But the Luna shark fans in the audience reminded me that I belonged there. Thank you to not only the fans who went to both panels, but also stayed after to chat and get your book signed. It was humbling and inspiring to meet y'all to hear your stories and to hear why you listen to true sunlight. You the fans have made me feel validated and supported through every step of this process. And get this you're making this introvert actually look forward to public appearances. For someone who spent years essentially hiding from the public. That is a big deal. So thank you that said Columbia, South Carolina. We will be back to see you next week. Please join the South Carolina Victims Assistance Network and I for the victims for the victims

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matter rally at 9am March 21st at the steps of the South Carolina statehouse in Columbia. This event is so timely and important. It gives us the opportunity to show those in power just how much we care about changing the system for the better, especially after Bowman Turner was arrested this weekend, which we will talk about in a minute. The victims matter rally is an opportunity to raise our voices loud enough so lawmakers can hear especially about the two cases in particular that we have been covering for two years, Stephen Smith's case and the Bowen Turner case. We need to show our lawmakers that we're not going to be quiet about either one of them, and we simply will not accept them saying that nothing can be done. We need to show them that people from all over the world want Stephens' case solved. That Stephen's case could show the world that things are different now in South Carolina. And no matter how much time has passed, people like Sandy Smith can still get justice. We need to show up for Stephen for Dallas, for Chloe and for Sandy Smith and remind the system that victims can't and won't be silenced. We owe it to the victims for the systems to correct the mistakes that were made in their investigations and to fix the issues that have prevented them from getting justice. And we need to spread the word about this rally on social media. Be sure to tag your local TV stations and newspapers so they will care enough to cover it. So for those of you all in SC asking us every week what can be done in Stephen's case, please be there next Thursday. Make the T shirts, the signs, the friendship bracelets, make it impossible for them to ignore us. And for them to ignore the victims make them feel compelled to do something instead of ignoring the problem that has only gotten worse in the last few years. This event was created by Attorney Sarah Ford in 2022. Soon after thrice accused rapist Bowen Turner got a sweetheart deal due to the actions of Judge Markley Dennis, prosecutor David Miller and State Senator Brad Hutto. Sarah Ford, who wholeheartedly fought for the victims in the Bowen

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Turner case started the annual rally as her work made her realize that it was necessary to show support for all victims of crime and South Carolina because too often the justice system forgets the victims. It is wild to think about days before the first ever Victims Matter rally was held. Bowen Turner was arrested for public disorderly conduct, a violation of his parole conditions under the youthful offenders act. That arrest ultimately led to Turner serving over a year in prison before he was released in November. And guess what, this weekend, less than two weeks before this year's victims matter rally where we will scream until our voices shake about how important it is that the system actually listens to victims and prioritizes their concerns and public safety over privileged defendants? Well, this weekend, Turner was arrested again. I keep thinking about this. What if Markley Dennis and David Miller actually listened to the concerns of the victims back in April 2022? How do those men feel now about their decision and allowing a thrice accused rapist off easy despite the cries from victims in the public? How do they feel? Now that once again, Bowen Turner has proven to be a danger to the public? How did they feel knowing that they essentially taught this young man that he can get away with anything as long as his family has power and privilege?

**Liz Farrell** 06:55

So let's talk about Bowen Turner again, like again again, or really, if we're being accurate. It's again, again, again, because predictably, Bowen is back in the headlines for yet another arrest. That's right, just four months after he was released from the South Carolina Department of Corrections where he was serving out part of his suspended sentence because of a previous arrest while out on probation. He's back in jail. He lasted four months, you guys, which I guess to be fair is longer than the last time this happened in 2022 when he held it together for just about a month before reoffending. To add insult to injury. He was released

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from a CDC last fall after serving just 16 months of his sweetheart deal of a four year suspended sentence. Worse, he was released the day after the two year anniversary of Dallas dollars death. Dallas was one of at least three teenagers in three separate counties who reported being sexually assaulted by Bowen, when he was 16 and 17 years old. And it's Dallas who has been on our minds a lot since hearing about this latest arrest. Dallas wanted Bowen to get help. She wanted the adults in his life and in the justice system to do their jobs and get this very troubled young man the help he needed so that he wouldn't continue to hurt people so that he could be rehabilitated and live a productive life. She didn't just want justice for herself and the other victims, she wanted accountability for his sake to instead, Bowen was shone through a different door, one that allowed him to have some cognitive dissonance and pretend that nothing happened because instead of being held to account for the sexual assault charges against him, remember, one of those sexual assault charges came while he was out on bond for a another sexual assault charge. Bowen was allowed to plead guilty to a plain old first degree assault and battery charge, as if he had just gotten into a fight with someone and not violated them in the most traumatic of ways. He was sentenced under the youthful offender act giving him the chance of a lifetime to make meaningful change in his life. It's a sentence that his parents essentially paid for by hiring a legislator lawyer who was able to use his influence within the system to their benefit. They bought this resolution, but appear to have made the mistake of thinking that in and of itself was the goal, meaning had Bowen just abided by the sentence he wouldn't have had to serve any time behind bars, nor would he have had to register as a sex offender. His parents bought him a future but they did not invest in him as a human being but we'll get into that. Let's talk about what happened. On March 9, the South Carolina Highway Patrol charged Bowen with a number of crimes after he was in a vehicle crash in which he luckily

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missed hitting another driver but flipped his own vehicle several times. Here's Karl Stoller, the father of Dallas Stoller who is also an Orangeburg County Sheriff's deputy with what Bowen was charged with.

### **Karl Stoller** 10:11

Bowen Turner was arrested over the weekend in Florence County for DUI, public disorderly conduct, an open container of beer wine, seatbelt violation, and then it was originally listed as an undisclosed charge. That was pending in the course that turned out to be resisting arrest.

### **Mandy Matney** 10:32

Florence County is about two hours from Orangeburg County where Bowen lives according to his sex offender registry profile. Speaking of that profile, according to the online portal, it appears that he first registered as a sex offender just five days before his latest arrest. Now, Bowen was arrested on Saturday night under normal circumstances he would have been released on bond on Sunday, but because of the circumstances involving the violation of his parole, he was held till Monday when the court had a hearing. Karl Stoller along with South Carolina Victims Assistance Network attorney Sarah Ford, who represents Bowen's sexual assault victims, those went up to Florence on Monday to make sure that the victims voices were heard by the court. Here is Sarah.

### **Sarah Ford** 11:26

Because Bowen is on supervised release on a charge in which their victims are notified and can and are encouraged to attend subsequent bond hearings. I did attend that bond hearing with Mr. Karl Stoller and of course, was in contact with all the other victims who were certainly concerned and wanted to be involved in the process. At the bond hearing, Mr. Turner got a bond of \$2,500 on all of his all of his new





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charges, we were then informed that there was a hole there was a warrant from the Department of Corrections for him so that he would not be released, even if he made that bond, because of his violation or alleged violation of the conditions of his way away supervised release. And certainly that was a relief for us. Knowing that he would not be released, he would have to go through the administrative hearing to determine whether he would be continued on his way away parole, or if he would be sent back to the Department of Corrections. So it was a bit of a long day, a bit of a confusing day. But thankfully, we got the answers that are from folks that we were, we were looking forward trying to track down and to our knowledge, Mr. Turner is still being held on that hole from the Department of Corrections.

**Liz Farrell** 12:45

Here's Karl on how Monday went from his perspective.

**Karl Stoller** 12:49

The judge was setting mind on the highway patrol charges because obviously he chose one that charged him with those offenses. And you know, the normal procedures of a bond hearing the magistrate rarely molars, rights information, etc. And the judge took some testimony from the advocate for SATCOM on how it patrol in that office there. And she made a statement as to what took place with the abandons etc. And the judge listens to that, of course. And then she mentioned that Sarah Ford, you know, victims advocate, attorney or attorney was present and of course, myself and we were there in reference to Turner's previous charges, which he was currently at under intense Department of Corrections. And under my understanding is under supervision of probation and parole. And he said, Yes, his question was that he didn't know how that was relevant to the case or are the inch in basically show response to the judge was, that was to reinforce the information that he



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had on the criminal history right in front of him Oh, Mr. Turner, about his tendencies to be a repeat offender, obviously. And so the judge listened to a couple more things she had to say. And at that point, he did allow Sarah Ford to make a statement, after inserting the mind when he initially said he wasn't going to hear anything on that because he didn't really have any information as to the violation of intensive supervision terms, if you will. And that was, would have been would have been a misdemeanor charge, from probation and parole and Department of Corrections, but they didn't have that warrant available. And he had not actually been served with that warrant or that charging document at that point. So there was some conversation. He was there that three o'clock that afternoon, which was a little surprise. But nevertheless, Sara gave a statement and then I gave a statement. I don't know why he wanted us to do that. Because at that point he had already said he wasn't hearing that until those charging documents had been served almost to turn them. But he asked us to speak anyhow. So that's basically what happened at the initial portion of the bond hearing.

### **Liz Farrell** 15:25

Can we take a moment to talk about this headache, because it's one we hear about a lot, just general confusion at a bond hearing when someone really offends, it's almost like it's a disruption to the process when it would seem to be something that happens with some amount of regularity given how much we talk about recidivism. Meaning, there needs to be some solution to streamline this process better, because as Carl pointed out to us, Boeing almost walked out of the jail on Monday, because there was confusion over the warrant, all he would have been required to pay was \$250 of his \$2,500 bond, and he'd be back in business. This kind of confusion is something that deeply affects victims, and not just victims. By the way, it also affects the people who



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have put their necks on the line along the way, such as witnesses to crimes, calling for justice and protecting victims rights in the courtroom isn't just a moment, it's not a one and done thing. It's basically a game of Whack a Mole where you always have to be poised and ready to knock down the next challenge. So I want to take a second here to acknowledge something Carl and Sarah have shown up for the victims physically and emotionally and intellectually. Every time there's a new challenge. In this case, they show up every time there's an opportunity to make this system work better, they show up. Their dedication isn't just helping bring sunlight to the broken parts of the system. It's showing us all how very necessary people like them are in this. They deserve so much praise and support for what they're doing. And they are nothing short of inspirational. We talked to Sarah a little bit about one of the challenges she's faced how the work she and se van are doing protecting victims rights is still seen as a new thing in South Carolina, even though the victims Bill of Rights has been around for around 30 years now.

### **Sarah Ford** 17:25

I think it's one of those things that you know, it's been around since the late 90s. I think that the work of victims rights attorneys in the criminal court arena is relatively new. So I mean, I did though, you know, for me and lawyers that I work with, it's not uncommon for say, hi, you know, we are the victims lawyer, we represent them, we wish to be heard at the appropriate time, you know, even to the court and having judges say, Well, I've never had a victim employer, you know, involved? Well, I like to say, you know, just because you've always been something in some way doesn't mean we've got to continue doing that and victims have these rights. And, you know, continuously I see whether it's from judges or you know, in some Prosecutors Offices, members of the JMSC, it's shocking that victims would want to be represented. It just makes

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sense to me, you know, everyone has rights and what those rights to be protected. The defendant has the defense attorney, the state is roughly identified by the prosecutor, the prosecutor doesn't represent the victim. And it's important for them to know this, that they have these rights and that they can assert these rights. And in fact, we can fight to make sure that these rights are enforced, if all people are looking at what's victims rights is that it's a checkmark, like check, we did talk to the to the victim, you know, check. You know, we let them know about the vine here, but we're not making it meaningful for them, then what's the point? It's useless? And we would certainly never do that to a descendant. So why would we ever you know, the person who has been hurt the most who should be at the center of this process? Why would we ever push them out and not make them a welcome addition and inclusion in in the system in the you know, in the hearing at the table that's just never made a whole lot of censure for me, even as a prosecutor. It just doesn't make sense.

EXPOSING CRIME & CORRUPTION

**Mandy Matney** 19:26

Having victims at the table is something that the good ol boy system was not built for. The victims' voices are not only inconvenient to defense attorneys, they force law enforcement and prosecutors to have to work harder to be more thorough and diligent and building their cases. Which brings us back to Bowen. When we first brought the Boland Turner case to your attention and 2022. It was to help bring it was to help bring sunlight to a secret plea deal. That Bowens legislator attorney State Senator Brad has dough had struck with the prosecutor David Miller. Miller needed Hutto and his legislator friends to support his ongoing bid to become a circuit court judge Miller is still trying to become a judge. By the way, write your legislators back in 2022. It was clear that Bowen was a troubled teenager who desperately needed at least one adult to recognize that he needs serious help. Because he did.

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He needed serious help. He stood accused of raping three teenage girls in three different counties. And while those teenage girls suffered one to the point of ending her own life by a self-inflicted wound, the certain circles of the Orangeburg community seem to rally around Bowen, grown adults were advocating on his behalf, not advocating for him to be rehabilitated, but rather advocating for him not to be held accountable. While they shame the girls who accused him of rape. Dallas Staler, on the other hand, knew that accountability would offer Bowen some sort of salvation.

### **Karl Stoller** 21:14

My wife, and I definitely want to respect our daughters' wishes, initially and when everything originally happened, and we supported her in that, and then it was hurting her decision. And she did advertise that to the solicitor's office at the time. And that was even prior to when, say Sarah Ford got involved as her attorney. So that was talked about early on. But you know, now and, you know, everybody knows kind of the history that Leah bog and went down and, and of course, Dallas passed away. And we are, you know, we were still respecting her wishes, even after her death. But, of course, you know, Senator Hutto was ran out, it was his attorney and Deputy Solicitor, David Miller of digital circuit was the prosecutor for the state. And somewhere along the line, all that got lost, and, of course, they chose to, to make make a defense, which he's entitled to, obviously, but, you know, nothing, nothing that we got entertain further with, saying, Hey, this is this young man's offended at least three times that we know of. He's a, he's a young man at that point in time, 1617 years old, when he I think he was 16, when he assaulted my daughter. And we felt that there was a legitimate chance for rehabilitation, if our, you know, to help him out, he's obviously sick, and are in is sick, and would have a chance to change the, the direction of his life in a in a positive manner, I still feel a degree of sorrow for him,

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believe it or not, and, of course, his family as well, that he's had all these chances to do the right thing and, and he just doesn't seem to want to take advantage of them. And so I guess, my pity can only go so far, when you when you don't take advantage of situations that were handed to you. That I dare say most people would not have gotten in those situations, and it did nothing with them. And here you are sitting back in jail at this point.

**Liz Farrell** 23:34

Here's Sarah:

**Sarah Ford** 23:36

I mean, it's it's terribly sad. I mean, to look at it a young person 21 years old standing there for I can't tell you how many bond hearings I feel like I've been in it for for the winter. And just seeing that he doesn't get it. And maybe it's, you know, maybe everyone doesn't get I don't know, but I don't know if he's not getting the support clearly appears that he's not getting the support, you know, of his support team, his family. I you know, I certainly can't speak specifically to that, but it doesn't appear that way. If we have a person that continues to offend and offend and reinvent and I, you know, I just keep thinking back to, to what Dallas wanted to see happen, what Dallas saw or what it just happened. And even you know, we're clearly better than before. You know, this was not about sticking Bowen Turner under the under the jail for life. That was not what any of these victims wanted. And yet, here we are still dealing with this. You know, what they wanted was not taken seriously by the people who should have taken it seriously. And here we are, you know, years later now. With Dallas gone and, you know, Kobe grown up and still dealing with this On, and there's no you know, what's the resolution? Mean? He would be provoked potentially for 10 to 14 months and back on why away parole back on Community Supervision back

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out on the streets of South Carolina. That's a scary thought. That's a scary thought. If he's not, he's not changing. He's not adjusting, because he has been given so many chances. And it is sad. It's incredibly sad to see.

**Liz Farrell** 25:30

And it's incredibly sad because it was foreseeable and preventable. So every time Boland Turner's name comes back up, we get a slew of people who want to have the same old argument with us, about us supposedly not understanding the rights of a defendant. Our criticism of Senator Brad Hutto and the lawyer legislator system, as it were, is taken usually by defense attorneys, as us saying that we don't think defendants deserve to be defended, that we want them all thrown in jail immediately after they're accused of committing a crime and just have the key thrown away. But that's not it. Not even close. No one can deny that bone escaped initial prosecution on sex assault charges because of who his attorney was. Not only was Senator howtos influence felt by the prosecutor, he was able to get judge Markley dentists to agree to a closed door plea hearing. Remember, our legislators have immense influence over the judges they elect, they put them in office, and they can remove them from office. Now, defense attorneys will say all of this was just good lawyering. But it is not good lawyering is holding the state accountable to its investigation, and making them prove the allegations that are being made against their clients. But we've gotten so far away from that definition in South Carolina, that it's basically allowed an entire economy to form around legislator lawyers. We asked Sarah for her thoughts on the argument that criticism of the system that mounts to a criticism of defense attorneys just doing their jobs.



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**Sarah Ford** 27:13

I would argue that Bowen Turner had multiple defense attorneys in that courtroom that day that he pled on those charges, and in August of 2022. You know, there's a prosecutor, there's defense attorneys, there's a judge, you know, and everybody has a job to do, you know, Prosecutor should be pursuing justice, you know, doing everything they can to protect the public, to help victims support victims. In defense attorney, their job is to represent the interests of their clients of the defendant. Those are very different interests. In this particular case, we had a prosecutor David Miller, who designed this incredible deal that I can't imagine many other folks would ever receive. So when you have, you know, a prosecutor that is giving a probationary sentence on someone who's been charged multiple times in sexual assault, you know, has disregarded bond conditions over and over and over again, without ensuring any accountability for the offender. I mean, at that point, you really need to dismiss the train. I started my career as a public defender, I was a public defender for a couple of years before I became an assistant solicitor. And before I became a victim, sir, I swear, I've always looked at being a defense attorney in this way. If the state did everything they were supposed to do, then the defense was loose every time the defense is supposed to protect the rights of the defense. And that's making sure that law enforcement did everything they were supposed to do, that the prosecutor, you know, prosecuted to the fullest extent that they complied with everything. And so, you know, I don't necessarily blame defense attorneys for doing your job. That's their job. And certainly the way that they handled themselves and doing that job. We certainly can, can make judgments on that for sure. But we absolutely need everybody at the table, you know, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, I think victims rights attorneys, making sure that victims are represented, because, I mean, we can see that what happens in situations where, you know, victims aren't aware of what

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their rights are, they don't know if they have the right to participate. They don't know that they have the right to be heard, or to to meet with prosecutors or any of the rights that they have. So everybody is needed, everybody's necessary now to help people do their job. You know, that's, that's up for discussion. Surely, but you know, certainly I don't blame anybody for for doing their job if they're actually doing their job. And I think what what folks are getting at is that there's a there's a ways that people can do their job without flesh shaming a 16 year old girl Oh, you know, I agree with that. I agree with that. I think that, you know, different strings have a tough job and and but there was nobody on the stand was at that bond hearing. And I mean, this is we're talking years ago, but nobody was on the standard upon hearing. This is just, you know, at a bond hearing. And it was disappointing, I think, but I don't think, you know, if we're looking to blame, obviously we have to point though in China, but I think there are other people that had a more serious hand and how we got to where we are today. In this in this case.

### EXPOSING CRIME & CORRUPTION

**Mandy Matney** 30:39

We are going to continue to follow the Bowen Turner story because it is a cautionary tale on so many levels from the start. Bowen Turner's case reminded us so much upon Murdaugh's boat crash case, right down to their mug shots, which looked nothing like your typical mug shots, instead of wearing jail uniforms or some sort of jail covering. Both boys were allowed to take pictures that just as easily could have served as their senior portraits in their yearbooks. Then there were the loose bond terms, Paul was even barred from drinking, and from all accounts continued to do so. Even on a boat right up to his death and 2021. Bowen repeatedly breached the boundaries of his ankle monitor. And no matter how many times the victims brought this to the attention of the prosecutor, it went unchecked. According to some of Paul's friends, despite appearances, and despite his father's attempts to buy him out

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of trouble. Paul was affected by what happened to Mallory Beach because of him, a source close to Paul told us that even if Paul wanted to face accountability for his own actions his parents would have never allowed him to that has always stuck with us. And we wonder the same thing about Bowen. We know that at least one of the breaches of his bond before his ultimate sentencing was when he visited Dallas, his grave site. Did he do that because of guilt? Is he continuing to break the law because he wants to be punished? These are questions worth asking. Because it all goes back to the good ol boy system. It doesn't serve anyone's best interests, not even those who benefit from it. Like we told you last week, as we continue our deep dive into Stephen Smith's case, we are also going to take on a new case that is set to go to retrial on May 13. And Berkeley County, which is just outside of Charleston, South Carolina. Again, it is a case that needs a whole lot of sunshine on it, and one we think will be of interest to you because of not only how complex it is, but how familiar it is, like we said, there are so many elements here that we saw in the Murdaugh case as well, including some of the players. The first trial was in 2018, and it was originally covered by Court TV. In fact, it was the first trial that Court TV covered after its relaunch. Core TV called it a southern murder mystery, not knowing then that 2021 was going to be like hold my beer because I've got a southern murder mystery for you. But this case holds its own when it comes to intrigue and when it comes to piecing together the evidence to try and understand something that is simply not meant for us to understand.

**Liz Farrell** 34:01

Now let's talk about the Michael Colucci Case. This case starts on the evening of May 20, 2015, shortly after seven o'clock in the evening, when Michael made a frantic call to 911 from outside of a storefront that he and his wife Sarah Lynn rented in Summerville, which is a town just

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outside of Charleston. The store was called the gold standard. Michael stepfather Ivo Colucci was a well known jeweler in Charleston, and Michael attempted to follow an Ivo's footsteps. The gold standard was used for storage and also as a place where the couple bought gold for resale. The building itself looks sort of rough. If you want to look it up. It's at 2206 North Main Street in Summerville, South Carolina. The gold standard wasn't the only business house there at the time, according to testimony from their landlord in 2018. There was also a driving school. The building feature to exterior entry bathrooms at the front. According to the landlord, the Colucci's didn't have access to either restroom because their warehouse had its own interior bathroom. This is important because on the night of Sara Lynn's death, the couple had been out and had been drinking. The reason Michael says he and Sara Lynn Stopped at the warehouse was so that she could go to the bathroom. We should also note that the warehouse was a short distance from their home at the time. One more thing before we play the 911 Call Michael, who was 45 at the time and Sara Lynn, who was 38 years old, were in Sara Lynn's Silver Toyota Prius that night, Michael told investigators that he remained in the car while Sara Lynn went to go to the bathroom. The car was about 25 feet or so from where Sarah Lynn's body was found. Now, Michael's defense attorney Andy Savage mounted two defenses in Michael's first trial. The first is that Sarah Lynn was so depressed over the anniversary of her second husband's death. Michael was her third husband that she took her own life by wrapping a garden hose around her neck. The second is that she accidentally fell into the hose and snagged herself by the neck when she attempted to squeeze through a fence on the side of the building so that she could pee outside the building. Obviously, the state's contention is that Michael and Sara Lynn got into a physical fight at some point before her death and that Michael strangled her and then tried to cover it up by grabbing a nearby garden hose. We should note, according to EMT

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testimony in 2018 Sara Lin's body was cold to the touch when they arrived shortly after this call. The audio of this call is really hard to understand it part so we're going to break it into chunks and interpret it as best we can for you as we go along.

### **Michael Collucci** 37:11

Main Street. North Main Street

### **Mandy Matney** 37:26

It sounds like he says, "My wife my wife is my wife is not well, she tried to kill herself." Then he gives the wrong address of where they're located, and before telling the dispatcher that he is attempting to give Sara Lynn CPR. Sara Lynn's body was found lying on the ground to the side of the building her feet were positioned toward the chain link fence on the concrete wall of the building was a rack for a garden hose. With a length of hose still wrapped loosely in it. Part of the hose was looped around post at the top of the chain link fence. a strand of her blonde hair was found on a portion of that hose. One end of the hose was under her body. When first responders arrived on scene, they would also find Michael with a cut and bloodied lip. His explanation for it was that he got the cut while giving CPR.

### **911 Operator** 38:38

Right How old is she? She's gonna be okay, what happened to her?  
What's your name?

### **Michael Collucci** 39:05

Michael.



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### **Liz Farrell** 39:12

The dispatcher asks what happened? And Michael says I think she tried to kill herself. The dispatcher then tries to confirm the address Michael gave him 2209 North Main Street in Somerville again, even though it's slightly off Michael confirms that this is in fact the address and asks the dispatcher to please hurry. The dispatcher asks How old saralyn is and Michael attempts to give him her age but either can't remember how old she is offhand or is too flustered to say it. He starts to say the first part of her age 30 But then gives the dispatcher the year she was born instead. 1976 which the dispatcher misinterprets as her age. Michael again tells the dispatcher to please hurry. The dispatcher asks what happened to Carolyn and Michael stumbles over his words and says, I don't know, then the rest is too garbled to understand. We're working on getting a cleaner copy of this call. By the way, we're going to make the whole call available online for premium subscribers to Luna shark. If you think you're able to understand what Michaels saying here or in any other part, please let us know on our Discord channel or go to Luna shark media.com click on contact us and send us a message that way. After Michael's garbled explanation of what happened to saralyn he again begs the dispatcher, please, the dispatcher asks for his name. Michael says Michael Colucci and then something else that's not discernible.

### **Michael Collucci** 40:55

Or what

### **Mandy Matney** 41:05

The dispatcher tells Michael to stay with him. Michael says he's not going to hang up. I promise you then it sounds like he moans and says Come on. Sarah. Come on, baby. Come on.





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### 911 Dispatcher 41:32

What did she do? Did she do it to herself?

### Mandy Matney 41:39

The dispatcher asked him what makes him think that Sarah Lynn tried to kill herself. It sounds like Michael responds by saying she's turning purple. Come on, please. Then he says she put herself around a hose or something? I don't know. Then it sounds like he might have said she couldn't breathe

### Michael Collucci 42:09

Carbon monoxide

### Mandy Matney 42:18

The dispatcher asked Michael, "What did he do to hurt herself? Michael responds with a sound and then says I'm at the warehouse then tries to get out a series of words before saying I have no idea. The dispatcher responds by saying is it carbon monoxide? Is that what she did? And Michael either says No sir or no Sarah, and then come on baby. Come on, baby. Come on. The dispatcher then tries to get the address situation cleared up.

### 911 Dispatcher 42:52

The correct address what is it? Okay, that's not the right address.

### Michael Collucci 43:00

2206 across the road.

### 911 Dispatcher 43:26

They're on the way, okay? Are you okay? They're on the way, Michael.



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**Liz Farrell** 43:33

He repeats the wrong address then says my apologies and corrects it to 2206 the dispatcher asks if it's across from the hotspot, which is a gas station and convenience store. Then Michael says Please help. The dispatcher tells him that first responders are on the way for your reference. This point is about three minutes into the 911 call. The dispatcher asks for the name of the business, Michael tells them and he repeats it. Upset. Michael again tells the dispatcher to quote please send somebody now. The dispatcher again tells him they're on their way and asks if Michael is still doing CPR to which Michael says he is. Then there's sort of a wailing sound. It's not clear if that's Michael crying. He then yells Come on. Breathe. Come on. Breathe.

**911 Dispatcher** 44:24

Is she breathing? Michael? They're on the way okay? I need to figure out what she did. She tried to hang herself with a hose? Okay, Michael, did you cut her down or what? They're on their way okay?

**Liz Farrell** 45:23

The dispatcher asks Michael if Sara Lynn is breathing. It sounds like he says, I don't know twice. And then please, the dispatcher says I need to figure out what she did. Michael says she tried to hang herself with the hose, and the dispatcher repeats his response. Michael appears to tell Sarah Lynn to just breathe. Then he says, Come on, baby. Come on, Sarah. The dispatcher cuts in and says, Okay, Michael, did you cut her down? Or what? Michael replies, No, I didn't cut her down. Then it sounds like he says something like she was standing by the door and she tried to open it. But it's hard to know for sure because he starts to stumble on his words, but the dispatcher cuts in again to say okay, they're on their way. Are you still doing CPR? Michael yells out Yes, sir.



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### 911 Dispatcher 46:21

Is she on the ground right now? Was she on the ground when you found her? Okay.

### Mandy Matney 46:28

The dispatcher asked Michael if there's anyone else there with him? And he says no, sir. The dispatcher asked him if Sara Lynn was on the ground when he found her and he says yes sir. Then four minutes and 48 seconds into the call the dispatcher asked Michael if he hear sirens

### 911 Dispatcher 46:53

Okay do you hear the sirens? Okay let him know where you are. Michael?

### Mandy Matney 47:40

Michael shouts out oh my god. Please, sir help come on. Sarah. Please baby louder than before.

### 911 Dispatcher 47:53

Okay, Michael, they're there. Make sure they find you okay? I'm going to hang up, okay? Michael? Michael? Michael?

### Mandy Matney 48:29

The entire call was just under six and a half minutes, experts testified that this was not enough time for a body to go cold. Now, we almost got through a full episode without saying the name Alex Murdaugh. But I just have to say the vibes are everywhere in that call. In fact, I can't hear the words please hurry without hearing Alex's voice. But it's beyond that. Both Michael Colucci and Alex Murdaugh initially told stories that simply did not match the evidence. Here is David reading a paragraph from the civil lawsuit filed against Michael by Sarah's family.



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### **DAVID MOSES** 49:12

In the days and weeks following Sara Lynn's death Colucci's version of the events surrounding Sarah Lynn's death varied considerably. Colucci initially informed Sara Lynn's family that he had not been drinking when Sara Lynn died, but then recanted this and informed them that he had been drinking Fireball Cinnamon Whiskey. Colucci also informed Sara Lynn's family that he never took his eyes off of Sara Lynn from the time she exited his car to the time he found her dead, but then recanted this version of events and informed them that Sara Lynn tripped and fell into the garden hose causing her death. Colucci further informed Sara Lynn's family that he discovered Sara Lynn's lifeless body standing straight up up against the storage shed but then recanted this and informed Sara Lynn's mother that he discovered Sara Lynn's body leaning forward at a 45 degree angle from a fence.

### **Mandy Matney** 50:14

In fact, according to reporting from the Post and Courier, Michael Colucci stayed with his wife's family in the weeks following her death, but the relationship ended sometime after because it became clear to them that Michael's story of Sara's death just didn't add up. Sources told us that Alex Murdaugh stayed with Maggie's family in the weeks after the murders, likely to keep an eye on them, and perhaps to remind them that the sweet son in law staying with them couldn't possibly have killed their daughter. I have to ask, was Michael doing the same, adding to the family suspicions Michael didn't bother holding a funeral for his wife, and he reportedly waited six months just to pick up her ashes. Like everything else. In this case, it is difficult to know what those facts mean. Does it point to Michael simply not caring about Sara Lynn? Had he already moved on? Because he knew who was responsible for her death? Or was he a man in the throes of grief behaving strangely because of the trauma he felt after his wife's death? Was he angry with



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Sara Lynn because of how she died? Or again? Are these just acts of a guilty man? The question on a lot of people's minds, including ours is how could a man just except that in one moment, his wife was getting out of the car to use the restroom at their business while he was just a few feet away, by the way, and then she died via asphyxia by neck compression. Unlike the Murdaugh case, the Colucci case includes strong evidence of a marriage on the verge of ending, Sara Lynn appears to have been a lot more open about the stress that she felt in her marriage than Maggie Murdaugh was text messages, police reports and testimony, all of which we will talk about in a later episode show a clear history of an unhealthy relationship on its last legs at the time of Sara Lynn's death. In fact, Sara Lynn's mother testified on the day that her daughter died that Sara Lynn told her that she had plans of leaving Michael that upcoming weekend, after Maggie and Paul were killed. We were repeatedly told by people that even though they believe Alex did it that we would never see charges in the case. And then if we did see charges, we would never see a prosecution. Obviously, that is not how things went down. But people said this to us because the Murdaugh martyrs case was circumstantial. That word got thrown around all of the time. By those and Alex corner. All the state has is a circumstantial case. Like we said back then, most cases are circumstantial, unless someone directly witnesses a murder happening, the case is going to be one in which law enforcement and prosecutors have to show a certain collection of facts, when taken all together will show that a defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. That is what this case was and still is. The first trial ended in a mistrial with half of the jury, including the foreperson, believing that the state had not done his job, and half of the jury believing that Michael killed Sara Lynn In the heat of passion. In future episodes, we're going to share some pivotal moments with you from the two week trial and 2018. And in a lot of ways, this case is like the murder case. But the trial was so different, and we can't wait to

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share that with you. It's one of the most fascinating cases and trials we've seen so far. So there is a lot to discuss, starting with how old this case is. Sara Lynn was killed almost nine years ago, Michael was arrested for her murder almost eight years ago. And he was tried for her murder almost six years ago. The entire time. He has been out on bond. Oh, and one last thing about that. Guess who set Michael's bond back in 2016? Judge Markley Dennis. That name should sound familiar, because we mentioned it earlier in this episode, when we talked about the Bowen Turner case Judge Dennis is who approved the secret surprise plea deal for Bowen, and who allowed it to be struck behind closed doors. You know, the sweetheart of the plea deal that Bolin appears to have violated at least two times since then. We will talk more about Michael's bond hearing in a future episode, but that is how small the good ol boy world is in South Carolina. That is how tight these circles really are. Stay tuned, stay pesky, and stay in the sunlight. True Sunlight is a Luna Shark production created by me Mandy Matney and co-hosted by journalist Liz Farrell. Learn more about our mission and membership at [lunasharkmedia.com](https://lunasharkmedia.com). Interruptions provided by Luna and Joe Pesky.