

EXCLUSIVE: Father Whose Two Sons Died When He Led Police On High Speed Chase Had Been Free On Bond For Over Three Years On Gun Case Slow-Walked By Liberal Milwaukee County Judge
By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

Had a notoriously lenient Milwaukee County Circuit Judge not allowed a felony gun case to languish in his court for over three years, the children who died in a crash caused by their father running from police on I-94 in Waukesha County would still be alive.

The ten year olds were killed December 20 when their father fled from sheriff's deputies attempting to stop him. The car violently crashed with five passengers, including four children, inside. The two ten year olds were both sons of the driver, 29-year old Paul D. Vinson.

Vinson was charged in August of 2020 with felony charges for being a felon in possession of a gun. Despite missed court appearances and a bench warrant for his arrest, Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Milton Childs continued to allow Vinson's attorneys to get delay after delay. All the while, Vinson was free on a mere \$1,000 cash bond. There is nothing in the online court record to indicate Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm's office sought to raise the bond.

Many Milwaukee County cases have languished for years because lazy judges refused to hold court during Covid and have allowed massive backlogs to develop. Childs is well-known as one of the most lenient judges in the county. Among Vinson's current charges is bail jumping but even though he missed a court appearance and had a bench warrant issued for him, Childs never increased the bail amount.

In August of 2022, the case was assigned out of Childs' court to Circuit Judge Christopher Dee but not one thing occurred during the year Dee had the case in his court. In July of this year it was transferred again to Judge Hannah Dugan. A mere two weeks after that it landed back in Childs' court but he hasn't scheduled a single hearing. He got the case again in August but hasn't gotten around to doing anything with it.

Vinson has a long criminal record dating back to when he became an adult. His charges range from multiple drunk driving to drug charges and numerous driving infractions. As a felon, he can't possess a gun and was charged with that in 2020. But because of Childs' inaction on his case, he hasn't been punished for it.

It is unclear why Childs ran from authorities last week (causing the crash) but it is certainly plausible that he was in possession of something illegal which would have violated the terms of his still active 40-month old bond.

The Milwaukee County court system often resembles a clown show. Two ten year olds are dead as a result. Now that he has allegedly killed off his own children, Vinson is being held on \$1.5 million bond. That bond has been set in Waukesha County.

Mark Belling
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