

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

UPDATE: April 2, 2025



Case file: John Santine – “The coward from the city who could not pull the trigger!”

Age: 64 (born 7/25/1960)

Incarcerated: Richland Correctional Institution

Parole hearing: April 2025. This will be Santine’s first hearing.

Convicted on March 20, 1997, on charges of aggravated murder, aggravated burglary, attempted aggravated murder with a three-year gun specification, in the 1995 murder of Ann Serafino and the attempted murder of Charles Serafino, during the early morning hours of July 7, 1995, at the Serafino residence in Hubbard.

He was sentenced to a 43-year-to-life prison sentence by the late Trumbull County Judge John M. Stuard.

Santine was one of four people convicted in the murder-for-hire scheme. One of them, Jason Getsy, was executed by the state of Ohio in August 2009 at the age of 33 after Gov. Strickland rejected his clemency bid.

According to court documents, Santine offered to pay co-defendant Ben Hudach, along with co-defendants Getsy and Rick McNulty, \$5,000 to kill Charles Serafino and any witness.

The crime was orchestrated because Santine was in a dispute over ownership of a landscaping business with Charles Serafino. According to evidence, Charles Serafino was lying wounded on the floor when Getsy struck his mother, Ann, in the head with a revolver, opening a 4-inch gash, and then shot her twice, killing her, saying “die bitch die!” Later, Getsy told a woman at a party that a piece of pizza with no cheese on it “looks like this bitch’s face after we shot her.”

QUOTES: “John Santine, the oldest of four conspirators, hatched a plan to murder, helped with the details along the way, and provided transportation to his accomplices and the actual killer to the victim’s house and then reveled in the murder and mayhem he brought, and afterwards, when the blood lust was finished, he was at 24½ South Main to greet and toast the killers and the deed, telling one of his accomplices after believing two victims were murdered in cold blood: ‘I f---ing love these guys!’ ”

“This man has yet to serve his minimum sentence and deserves no mercy or release by this Parole Board or any other in the future. Every remaining day of him serving his lucky life sentence he should be giving thanks that he didn’t join Getsy earlier. But some day, he may reprise in seeing Getsy again where evil resides eternally. Please, this man deserves no parole! The memory of homeowner Ann Serafino deserves better!”

Dennis Watkins, Trumbull County Prosecutor

Members of the public may submit comments about the potential parole of John Santine. Comments can be made through the ODRC website: <https://drc.ohio.gov/systems-and-services/1-parole/parole-board-hearing-input>

For more information, contact Guy M. Vogrin, public information officer/investigator for the Trumbull County Prosecutor’s Office at 330-675-2485.