

STATEMENT OF THE LONDONDERRY FISH & GAME CLUB REGARDING THE CONCLUSION OF LFGC, INC. V. Janine Anctil, Et al. Rockingham Sup. Ct. No. 218-2022-CV-00857

The Londonderry Fish & Game Club recently concluded its legal proceedings against Janine and Kevin Anctil of Litchfield. Following more than three years of litigation, which included extensive motion practice, discovery, and depositions, the Anctil's' home insurance carrier provided a settlement payment of \$75,000.00 to the Club, thereby resolving the matter prior to a trial in the Rockingham County Superior Court.

This outcome represents a significant achievement for LFGC. While it is wholly regrettable that legal action was required, this resolution affirms the Club's commitment to defending its reputation against unfounded allegations. In a climate where firearms remain a contentious issue despite their constitutional status, safeguarding our standing is essential to ensuring our continued 75-year legacy.

On September 14, 2021, Kevin and Janine Anctil reported discovering damage to their garage window, which they believed had been caused by a bullet. Immediately following this discovery, the Anctil's attributed the damage to the Club without any supporting evidence. They proceeded to communicate these claims to public officials and members of the community, initiating a campaign that sought to discredit the Club.

Despite the absence of physical evidence or confirmation that a bullet was involved, and before any projectile had been found, the Anctil's sent an email on September 15, 2021, to both state and local officials. In this correspondence, they asserted that the Club was responsible for multiple bullet strikes within their neighborhood and accused the Club of creating an "urgent safety matter" through "irresponsible behavior."

The accusations presented by Janine and Kevin against the Club were entirely without foundation and were not supported by any factual evidence. Their claims were fabricated and disseminated prematurely, causing unwarranted concern among public officials and the community writ large.

In December 2021, the Anctil's sent a cease-and-desist letter to the Club demanding it stop using its 200/400 Yard ranges or face litigation. Responding on behalf of the club, Attorney Sean R. List, Esq, provided evidence by way of ballistic data, showing the substantial unlikelihood the Club was the source of bullet strikes. The Club continued normal use of its ranges, and the Anctil's filed no lawsuit as was previously threatened.

Despite the apparent realization by the Anctil's that they had no grounds for a lawsuit, and after receiving extensive data from Attorney List clearly demonstrating that the alleged bullet strike on their garage did not originate from the Club, the Anctil's persisted in making defamatory statements about the Club. They ignored the facts and continued to publicly blame the Club for incidents that could not have involved the Club's facilities. For example, the Anctil's attributed alleged bullet strikes in their neighborhood to the 200- and 400-yard ranges, even though these incidents occurred before those ranges existed.

On June 13, 2022, the Anctil's, along with their allies, attended a meeting of the Litchfield Select Board. At this meeting, Kevin and Janine continued to falsely accuse the Londonderry Fish & Game Club of responsibility for these alleged bullet strike events. They not only made numerous defamatory statements, including unsubstantiated claims that police investigations had identified the Club as the likely source of the incidents, but expanded their defamation further alleging that Club members were firing from the backs of pickup trucks.

Londonderry Fish & Game Club, through its Counsel Attorney List, subsequently appeared before the Litchfield Selectboard to respond to these egregious characterizations. However, it became evident that the Anctil's' continued statements were having a substantial and negative effect on the Club's reputation and standing within the community.

In July of 2022, the Londonderry Fish & Game Club subsequently retained a nationally renowned expert in ballistics and forensic trajectory analysis who made expert findings demonstrating that the Anctil's' blame of the Club was misplaced and erroneous. Moreover, despite legal direction in the prior correspondences to do so, the Anctil's did not preserve the damaged window and screen for further scientific analysis.

The Full Board of Directors and Club Officers convened shortly thereafter and with advice and counsel of Club Attorney Sean List, it was unanimously decided to undertake and initiate litigation against Kevin and Janine Anctil. Kevin and Janine Anctil were served in October of 2022 with the Summons and complaint of the LFGC, alleging defamation and defamation per se., The Anctil's moved to have to suit dismissed unsuccessfully.

Throughout the three-year course of this litigation, discovery, motion practice interrogatories and depositions, revealed substantial evidence underscoring the unfounded and negligent nature of the Anctil's specious allegations against the Londonderry Fish & Game Club. The materials presented during these proceedings revealed that the claims lacked factual support and exhibited a solipsistic and blatant disregard for accuracy and wanton suspension of the truth.

During his deposition, Attorney List questioned Kevin Anctil regarding the alleged bullet strike in his garage and his subsequent attribution of responsibility to LFGC. Under oath, Mr. Anctil stated:

"I do not know where the bullet came from. I don't care where the bullet came from."

In the deposition of Janine Anctil, she acknowledged on record to Attorney List that her sole rationale for attributing the alleged bullet strike on her garage to the Club was based on the range's proximity to her residence—1.3 miles—and previous incidents of bullet strikes in her neighborhood. Ms. Anctil additionally conceded that she possessed no tangible evidence linking the Club to the occurrence and was aware of the numerous examples of reckless shooting activities documented within the wooded areas

surrounding her neighborhood. Despite this, she proceeded with and doubled down on accusations against the Club without substantiation.

Throughout this three-year litigation, it appeared the Ancil's made decisions and moved forward in this litigation with unstated motives not guided by facts, evidence or truth. It also became apparent that no number of contradictory facts would cause them to self-reflect, change their narrative or stop their reckless campaign of defamation against the Londonderry Fish & Game Club, making this civil action necessary. The case was slated for Trial in January of 2026, only to be concluded prior to trial by a reasonable offer and acceptable terms to settle this matter. Londonderry Fish & Game Club remained resolved to see this through to trial.

By:

LONDONDERRY FISH & GAME CLUB, INC.

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