**Case of Drąsius Kedys**

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The **case of Drąsius Kedys** is a high-profile criminal case in [Lithuania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithuania) centering on allegations of [sexual molestation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_molestation) of the then four-year-old Lithuanian girl and a double homicide. In November 2008, Drąsius Kedys accused Laimutė Stankūnaitė of allowing Andrius Ūsas to sexually molest their underage daughter. Frustrated by lack of progress in the investigation, Kedys took the case public. He published a video with his daughter's testimony, sent out DVDs to politicians, and appeared in the media. Still no case was brought before trial. In October 2009, Jonas Furmanavičius, a district judge and accused [pedophile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pedophile), and Violeta Naruševičienė, aunt of his daughter and accused [procurer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Procuring_(prostitution)), were found dead and Kedys became the main murder suspect.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-1) While Kedys went into hiding, Lithuanian public sided with him portraying Kedys as a desperate father trying to protect his daughter against pedophiles. His body was found in April 2010 near [Kaunas Reservoir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaunas_Reservoir). His death was ruled an accident – choking on vomit after heavy drinking.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-2) The main suspect in the pedophilia case, Andrius Ūsas, was found drowned in a lake after a motorcycle accident in June 2010. Posthumous trial of Ūsas found him innocent. A separate court ruling restored girl's custody to Stankūnaitė. Lithuanian public disagreed with the ruling and began a vigil at the house of Kedys' relatives in [Garliava](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garliava) where the girl lived at the time. Officials were able to take custody of the girl only with the help of riot police in May 2012. [The Way of Courage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Way_of_Courage), a political party founded by Kedys' sister and supporters, participated in the [Lithuanian parliamentary election, 2012](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithuanian_parliamentary_election,_2012) and received almost 8% of the votes.

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**Pedophile scandal[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Pedophile scandal)]**

Drąsius Kedys (born 4 September 1972 in [Garliava](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garliava)) and his former girlfriend Laimutė Stankūnaitė (born 1986) had an out-of-wedlock daughter in February 2004. Stankūnaitė was still underage when she gave birth to Kedys' daughter. The unwed couple split up in 2006 and the parents got embroiled in a bitter custody battle. His former girlfriend, with the help from Andrius Ūsas, politician and advisor to the former [Speaker of the Seimas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speaker_of_the_Seimas) [Viktoras Muntianas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viktoras_Muntianas), obtained custody in November 2006. Kedys got visitation rights every other weekend.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-chron-3)

On 29 November 2008 Kedys submitted a formal complaint to the police, claiming that Ūsas paid Stankūnaitė to sexually molest his daughter. On this basis, in December 2008, Kedys obtained full custody of his daughter with no visitation rights for Stankūnaitė, but the courts repeatedly confirmed that Stankūnaitė had no case to answer, thus dismissing Kedys' allegations against his former girlfriend as unsubstantiated. The pre-trial investigation against Ūsas, nevertheless, continued. In February 2009, Kedys further pressed accusations against Violeta Naruševičienė, sister of Stankūnaitė, claiming the former has taken part in allowing men to molest her 8-year-old daughter.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-chron-3) In July 2009, Kedys also accused Jonas Furmanavičius, a district judge, and an unidentified individual known only as Aidas of partaking in the molestation. All of those people (except for the unidentified Aidas) professed their innocence, and in turn accused Kedys of slander, criminal libel, and death threats.

Frustrated with the apparent lack of progress in official investigations and convinced that the case is being deliberately stonewalled, Kedys sent out some 200 DVDs to Lithuanian politicians, media outlets, and law-enforcement agencies, featuring homemade video footage of his daughter's explicit testimony against three "uncles". He promised to send out the subtitled version to [Members of the European Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Members_of_the_European_Parliament).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-4) Many sources criticized Kedys, who acted as the cameraman, for asking his daughter leading questions and heavily editing the film (it contains some 50 segments filmed over nine separate times).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-reab-5)

**Double homicide[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Double homicide)]**

On 5 October 2009 Furmanavičius and Naruševičienė were shot dead in [Kaunas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaunas). Kedys became the prime suspect.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-rastas-6) On the same day, a national search of Kedys was announced,[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys" \l "cite_note-7) which was soon followed by an announcement of international search, as he was thought to have left the country shortly after the murders.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-8) Kedys' friends Raimundas Ivanauskas and Eglė Barauskaitė were charged with accessory to murder. As of December 2013, that court case is ongoing.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-9)

The story caused an uproar in Lithuania, much of the public siding with Kedys: in the public mind, the case was seen as largely a father's futile attempts in pursuing justice and trying to protect his daughter, and by being driven to desperate measures by anger at the injustice. Others questioned whether the killings were in fact commissioned by Kedys himself.

**Death of Kedys[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Death of Kedys)]**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys-Jonu%C4%8Diai.JPG)

Tombstone of Drąsius Kedys in Jonučiai cemetery

After six months of police search, Drąsius Kedys' body was found near [Kaunas Reservoir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaunas_Reservoir) on 20 April 2010. According to the official report, the cause of death was "choking on the vomit" whilst being heavily intoxicated. However, his relatives were convinced that Kedys was murdered, pointing out to some wounds on his body.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-10) Kedys' relatives demanded a second opinion from independent experts. In April 2011, a report was received from the Swedish National Forensic Service (*Rättsmedicinalverket*) which confirmed that Kedys had indeed died from alcohol and drug poisoning, and that he choked on the contents of his own stomach.

On 24 April the body of Kedys was buried in Jonučiai cemetery. According to various media reports, some six to ten thousand people from across the country attended the ceremony.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-11)

**Death of Ūsas[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: Death of Ūsas)]**

Ūsas, the main suspect in the pedophilia case, was officially charged with sexual molestation of a minor. However, he was found drowned in a swamp in June 2010. The death was ruled an accident. The court case against Ūsas continued. The court found him innocent in November 2012.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-reab-5)

**Custody battle[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys&action=edit&section=5" \o "Edit section: Custody battle)]**

On 17 May 2012, following a court order, Kedys' daughter, who was previously living with Kedys' relatives in [Garliava](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garliava), was reunited with her mother Stankūnaitė.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-12) Due to continuous presence of protesters disagreeing with the 5-month old court decision, the operation was carried out with the assistance of riot police, with 39 protesters detained. Previously, [Seimas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seimas) (Lithuanian parliament) changed a law in order to allow the use of riot police in taking away the child.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys#cite_note-13)

**References[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys&action=edit&section=6" \o "Edit section: References)]**

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**External links[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Case_of_Dr%C4%85sius_Kedys&action=edit&section=7)**]**

* [Video of the testimony of Deimantė Kedytė with English subtitles](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9AfOxLh7QY)
* [Drąsiaus kelias](http://www.drasiauskelias.lt/)