

The second Lake Barcroft Village Symposium, titled "Crime and Custody" featured Lake Barcroft neighbor Dr. Stanton Samenow, Mansfield Road, a forensic psychologist and psychotherapist. Dr. Samenow discussed juvenile crime and child custody issues and revealed areas in which there is overlap between criminal behavior and the behavior of some individuals in extremely contentious child custody cases.

Regarding criminal cases, Dr. Samenow stated that all criminals believe they are "good guys." No matter what crime they have committed, they always assert that they are basically good people and point to crimes they would not think of committing. Often they describe themselves as working people or family people. They do not have a concept as how the crime affects others. They tend to blame the victim.

Dr. Samenow said that when dealing with criminals and investigating their sanity, he works to establish a conversation with the accused. He wants to learn about the individual, the person, not only the accused criminal. He said that often those accused of a crime will talk to him more than to their own court-appointed psychiatrist.

In child custody cases, Dr. Samenow talks to many people outside the family, such as teachers, clergy, grandparents. He reads all the police records and the medical and psychiatric records. The goal is to establish a picture of the individual and to discover what is best for the child.

Dr. Samenow has written several books, including *Inside the Criminal Mind*, *The Myth of the Out of Character Crime*, *In the Best Interest of the Child: How to Protect Your Child from the Pain of Your Divorce*, and *Before It's Too Late: Why Some Kids Get into Trouble and What Parents Can Do About It*. Together with Dr. Samuel Yochelson, Dr. Samenow wrote the three-volume study *The Criminal Personality*.