CASE STUDY

# Child Neglect Case Solved. $300K in Fees Avoided.

THE MISSION

The Schenectady County District Attorney's Office Financial Crimes Unit investigates complex fraud, theft, and exploitation cases. Justin Colarossi leads investigations with 18 years of experience, focused on following the flow of funds to identify perpetrators at every level.

THE CHALLENGE

## Proving Financial Motive in a Homicide Case

To prove financial motive in a case where a mother — a trained nurse — withheld life-saving medication from her special-needs daughter while siphoning disability payments for personal use, ultimately leading to the victim's death.

### Massive Data Volume

Over 1,000 pages of financial records across six bank accounts spanning four years required verification.

### Manual Bottleneck

Traditional methods would require weeks of manual data entry, prone to errors and risking missed evidence.

### Auditor Cost Barrier

Hiring an external forensic auditor would have cost the small county over $300,000 in retainer fees and caused delays of 6 to 12 months due to limited auditor availability.

### Evidence of Intent

Proving deliberate financial neglect, not accidental, required comprehensive, gap-free analysis across every transaction to demonstrate a clear pattern.

### Cross-Account Tracing

Tracking disability payments across six accounts required precise matching to expose the deliberate redirection of funds away from the victim's care.

SOLUTION

## Valid8 Delivers Justice and Avoids Costs

Valid8 processed all financial evidence in hours — delivering irrefutable proof while avoiding six-figure external costs.

- **Rapid Data Processing:** All 1,000 pages of financial evidence were uploaded to Valid8 and made actionable in hours — compressed from potential months of manual processing.
- **Automated Fraud Tracing:** Custom visualization categories exposed how the mother siphoned the victim's disability checks for personal items: Wayfair, Sephora, personal loans, and utility bills.
- **Absence as Evidence:** Crucially, the analysis confirmed no spending on the victim's personal care — and most notably, no record of life-saving prescription drug purchases.

RESULTS

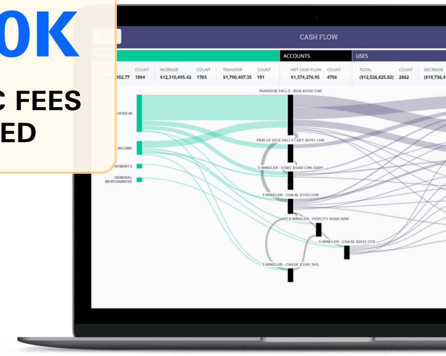
## Case Won. $300K in External Fees Avoided.

Valid8 provided the Schenectady DA's office with irrefutable, evidence-backed proof of fraud and motive needed to prosecute the case — saving over $300,000 in forensic fees and up to 12 months of investigative delays.

**6 BANK ACCOUNTS**

**$300K**

**FORENSIC FEES AVOIDED**



## Performance Wins

**Processed in Hours**

**1K Pgs**

Financial records from 6 banks made actionable quickly

**Fees Avoided**

**$300K**

External forensic auditor fees avoided

**Efficiency Gain**

**100%**

Analyst continued other cases while Valid8 worked

**Delays Avoided**

**12 Mos**

Up to 12 months saved vs. hiring an external auditor

> *"Without Valid8, we'd still be working the case — or worse, it might have been closed without answers. Our solving rates have gone up, and it lets me keep working while it's working in the background, and I just get my answers."*
>
> **Justin Colarossi, Financial Crimes Analyst and Digital Forensics Specialist, Schenectady County DA's Office**

WRAP UP

## Absence of Care, Proven by the Data

When financial neglect is the weapon, absence of spending is the evidence. Valid8 found what wasn't there — and that proved everything.