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MARCH 17, 1987

# The mother of accused child molester David Harrington, stunned...



WARWICK, R.I. -- The mother of accused child molester David Harrington, stunned to learn he's alive, urged her son to surrender to authorities, saying he's 'not the David we knew.'

'We want to support him in any way we can to get help,' Anne Harrington of Warwick said. 'He should contact us ... turn himself in.'

She said she was was shocked to learn Harrington, who apparently faked his death in 1970 to escape Vermont authorities, was alive and charged with child sexual abuse in Maryland.

'It was a tremendous shock -- to find out through the news media,' said Paul Harrington, his brother, who lives in the San Francisco Bay area.

Harrington, 43, formerly of Warwick, is charged in Maryland with four counts of child sexual abuse. He has since fled and drained his \$16,000 bank account, authorities said.

Harrington, most recently a high school principal in Silver Spring, Md., is a member of the Big Brothers association in Montgomery County, Md., and is accused of sexually abusing one of his 'little brothers' and other youngsters.

'(He's) not the David we knew,' Mrs. Harrington, 69, told the Providence Journal-Bulletin in today's editions. She said she and her husband, Robert Harrington Jr., 77, last saw their son in 1970.

Harrington, a 1965 graduate of the University of Rhode Island who his brother described as a 'very smart kid,' was convicted in 1969 in Litchfield County, Conn., of one count of risk of injury to children. In 1970, Harrington was a teacher at a Burlington, Vt., private school when he came under investigation in Winooski, Vt., on allegations of child molestation.

He faked his own drowning in Lake Champlain a day before he was scheduled to take a lie detector test, police said.

'He's led two perfectly different lives -- one that he shows to people at work, the professional educator where he helps a lot of the masses,' Paul Harrington said. 'The other side is his own little personal world where maybe he never grew up. And he's sick. And if he's sick, he should be treated.'

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