

FROM <https://www.justiceforfoad.com/>

Dr. Foad Afshar is a remarkable man - a “refugee of the heart” on many levels. His backstory as a 17 year-old escaping the oppressive regime of the new Ayatolloah. His emigration from Iran to America was funded by his family who knew that his open heart and mind would not be tolerated in his home country.

Simply put, Foad is a natural born healer of hearts and minds. To fulfill his dream of becoming a psychotherapist upon arriving in America, he learned English, completed his high school and college degrees, earned a Master’s at Harvard, and later a Doctorate of Psychology from California Coast University . Throughout his career, he treated countless children, teenagers, and their families; in the public schools, a rehab facility, and private practice. He has been married for 29 years and raised 3 wonderful children. Foad was elected president of the New Hampshire Psychological Association and was a much beloved professor of psychology and philosophy at the NH Institute of Art. Throughout his unblemished career, Foad epitomized selfless devotion to the welfare of others, earning the highest esteem of his patients, colleagues, students, and others fortunate to know him. Find details about the dubious case against him, the flawed trial, and the tragic injustice that befell him. The good news is that there’s real hope for justice now, though he needs our collective help.

Case Synopsis In his final 5 months before retirement, a troubled 12 year-old boy accused Foad of fondling his genitals for 15 seconds at the end of his therapy session. This incident allegedly occurred while the boy’s father was right outside the office door, and the boy denying that Dr. Afshar neither threatened nor instructed him to keep silent.

In the state of New Hampshire, the law does not require any corroborating evidence to convict someone of aggravated felonious sexual assault. Law enforcement searches of his records and computer, followed by interviews with former patients, not a trace of evidence was found to support the accusation. Foad passed two lie detector tests which were inadmissible in court. Despite the saturation of stories in newspapers and television, no other client(s) came forward to report any instance of mistreatment by Foad (defying the prosecution's predictions). After a grueling trial, a guilty verdict was reached because a tainted jury took the boy’s word over his own.

Foad is presently serving a 3-6 year sentence in a maximum security prison in South Walpole, MA. He has a vast network of committed supporters helping him fight for justice. At his sentencing hearing, the judge declared that in her 30 year legal career, she had never seen a courtroom packed by so many supporters of the convicted. You can view the scene here.

Attorney Ted Lothstein, Foad’s new and highly capable counsel, discovered that 2 of the impaneled jurors failed to disclose that they had been victims of child sexual abuse also, whereas every other prospective juror who disclosed such a history was automatically dismissed from serving. These 2 jurors only revealed their abuse histories during the jury deliberations, swaying 2 other undecided jurors to join the majority in rendering a guilty verdict (news story here). This discovery, as well as ample

evidence that he received ineffective counsel during the trial, provides the basis for a retrial motion, while other arguments have been submitted for an appeal to the state supreme court.

Read the testimonials of Foad's past patients, colleagues, and students about the man they know so well. Explore the extensive media coverage of the case. Learn about the efforts of a newly elected Republican representative, who was inspired by Foad's case, to amend the law by requiring corroborating evidence for a conviction, just as every other felony crime requires.

Based upon the evidence coming to light from the original trial, Foad stands a very real chance of receiving a new trial and being found not guilty of the charge against him. To do this, he needs the support of others. After his own family savings and home were sacrificed for his initial legal expenses, he now relies on the contributions of those who believe in his innocence. Even after he is freed from prison, the loss of his license will hinder his ability to pay off mounting legal debts. [Click here to learn how contact him and/or make a contribution.](#)

After Foad Afshar devoted his whole life to the healing and educating of others, he is now needing our continuing help. Please consider offering any form of support you can for this worthy man, even if only in the form of a letter.

Thank you for working with us to seek justice for this refugee of the heart.

Michael R. Kandle, Psy.D.

Durham, NH

FOAD'S HISTORY

Foad was the youngest of 5 children who were raised in poverty and belonged to a religious minority (the deeply humanitarian Bahá'í faith) threatened by an increasingly fundamentalist Islamic government. For their beliefs, his family endured extreme discrimination, lack of opportunity, threat of physical harm, incarceration and worse. Even as a child, Foad's outspoken nature and passion for social justice signaled to his family that he would face grave danger if he remained in Iran. His older brother scrimped and save all he could to purchase a one-way ticket for Foad to immigrate to the US and pay for his final year of high school at the Shaw Preparatory School.

Those early life challenges forged in Foad's a strength of character and sense of devotion to marginalized people of all manner. He was destined to become an advocate for restoring dignity and respect to other marginalized people. After finishing high school and learning to speak English, Foad earned a bachelors degree in psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. While studying full-time he also worked 60+ hours washing dishes and prep-cooking at two different restaurants, often sleeping or doing homework on public transportation during his commutes. After earning his Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Foad received his Master's degree from Harvard University.

His first professional job was as a counselor at a residential program for homeless adolescents and young adults who exhibited the entire range of psychiatric disorders. At Boston State Hospital he

worked in a detox center with poly-substance abusers and patients undergoing Methadone treatment for heroin addiction. He became the Assistant Executive Director of Noddle Island's Multi Service Agency, an outpatient and residential treatment program for drug-addicted patients. From there he moved to NH to work for Dr. John Docherty, Director of Brookside Psychiatric Hospital, and later became the Director of Pupil Personnel in charge of all special education, nursing, guidance and ESL programs for the City of Manchester school system. He worked at the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Facility providing mental health care to patients suffering from severe physical disabilities. In addition to all of these clinical positions, Foad shared his expanding knowledge by teaching courses at a variety of colleges in the area. With his endless quest for further education and skill, he pursued his doctorate online from California Coast University earning his Psy.D. in 2002.

In order to pursue his love of teaching and balance his need for professional involvement, when the opportunity presented itself, Foad opened a private practice where he could treat individuals struggling with psychological challenges. Because of his fascination with human development and his vast knowledge of special education law, the majority of Foad's clientele were children, adolescents and their families. Foad practiced as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and has had an impeccable professional reputation for 32 years. He has been a longstanding member of the NH Psychological Association and has served as President of the association.

Foad has been married for 29 years to Terry, his best friend for 35 years (and a member of the interview committee that gave him his first professional job in 1981). They have 3 amazing children together, and 2 dogs and 2 cats.