

FACTS

- Allegations of sexual abuse are rare in contested custody cases (less than 2%), and most are substantiated (Theonnes).
- 42% of California women report they were molested in childhood. This figure is significantly higher than the 28% rate in the rest of the US (Binkellior).
- Mothers lost custody challenges 70% of the time, often to abusive fathers (Chester).
- Police forces report that 95% of victims of family violence are women and children, and 30% of all women will suffer some form of violence in adult relationships (Jaffee, et al).
- Preschool children who witness violence may suffer from nightmares or other sleep disturbances, regression, and fears (Gelles & Straus).
- The after-effects of violence may include PTSD, depression, anxiety, nightmares, flashbacks, hyper arousal, avoidance, panic, substance abuse, revictimization, eating disorders, and multiple medical disabilities (Kilpatrick & Acerno; Felitti, MD).



Dedicated to the Memory
of Josie Cohen and her
Beloved son Jackson

CALIFORNIA PROTECTIVE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

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INTRODUCTION

California Protective Parents Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation formed to provide educational and charitable assistance to the general public regarding the protection of children from physical and/or sexual abuse by providing:

- outreach & advocacy
- support to non-abusive parents
- research & articles
- resources & referrals
- educational seminars & presentations
- interviews
- review of procedures, protocols, & policies for child abuse investigation

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Protective Parents Association is to protect children through research, education, resource referral, support, and advocacy.

RESEARCH STATISTICS

Preliminary data from the national Protective Parents Survey indicate that children in custody disputes are endangered.

- 90% of mothers had custody at the beginning of the family court process.
- 87% were domestic violence victims.
- An average of \$74,000 was spent by each non-violent mother to protect their children from reported sexual (76%) and/or physical abuse (67%).
- Over three-quarters of the mothers lost custody and half received supervised visits or no contact with their children.
- 75% of the children continue to report abuse after custody was changed to the identified perpetrators.

Stahly et al, 2003

This recent study echoes the results of a 1998 survey of 13 California Counties:

- 91% of fathers accused of sex abuse by their children received custody.
- 54% of non-violent mothers received supervised visitation or were denied all contact with their children.
- 38% of the children were reported to have medical evidence of abuse.
- 32% of the children received Victims of Crime funding from the State of California for therapy due to the crimes against them.

Mothers of Lost Children, 1998
www.mothers-of-lost-children.com

Over a decade ago, a survey of shelter staff in California found that unsupervised visitation was granted to the father in 12,401 cases where physical violence had been alleged.

Shelter staff reported knowing of 3,881 battered women forced into hiding by court orders they felt endangered their children's (and their own) safety.

Stahly et al, 1989

SERVICES AND EVENTS

Please contact our Speakers Bureau at (866) 874-9815 for more information.

Please contact us to arrange training for court-connected professionals regarding changes in the California Family Code and new statutory requirements (MCLE and CEUs available).

Attend our Annual Northern California Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Conference in April at the Veterans Memorial Center, 203 E 14th Street, in Davis. This no-cost, no-registration annual conference is funded by many personal donations, the Davis Rotary Club, California HealthCare Foundation, and the City of Davis. Continuing education units are offered.

We accept donations of any amount.
Your donations are tax-deductible.