HB 1029, 5505, 6927, 6848, 6964
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Joan Kloth-Zanard,
Author, GAL, RSS, ABI & LC
Southbury, CT

I am not only a parent but have spent the past 2 decades working with parents who have lost a once healthy relationship with their children because of our failed family courts and lack of appropriate legislation to protect their constitutional rights to be a parent. I am the author of 2 books on that subject that are going into their 3 editions. I have written over 50 peer-review articles on this topic. I am State of CT Guardian Ad Litem, with extensive training in Marriage & Family Therapy, Child Psychology, Psychology, Family Consultant with additional certifications in RSS and ABI. I ask that the following be seriously considered.

So to start a non-adversarial dissolution of marriage would greatly reduce the toxicity of divorce cases. But this without this, it then extends even further into the custodial and other issues. While I understand that Family court Attorneys feel that their livelihoods would be affected by have a more collaborative and cooperative shared parenting statute, this is NOT about the money and should only be about the children. The point of this amendment is to ensure that children retain their equal God-given birthrights to both parents without impediment, constant disruption, anger, hatred and rage by the other parent. Shared parenting should be a natural given and never removed unless proven substantiated charges are established based on clear solid evidence.

As to GALs, their legal job description says that they are NOT attorneys but advocates for the children. Thus they are not working in a position as an attorney and should not be paid as if an attorney capacity. They should be paid at the rate of a GAL, of $50 an hour. The point of being a GAL is to do what is in the 'best interest of the children". How is it in the children's best interest to take all of their parents money that should have gone to caring and raising the children?

As to supervised visitation, the courts and it's offers often abuse this process. In fact, to force a parent to pay to see their kids is outrageous when it is their parental right to be able to have this relationship. While I understand that there are certain circumstances, the cost must be affordable so that parents can continue to see their children until such time that supervised visitation is no longer necessary. The problem comes in when this idea of supervised visitation is used to abuse a parent who has no substantiated charges against them. This is a constitutional violation of their parental rights.

As to Alimony, the whole point of divorce is to separate and sever the couples legal ties. When a parent is ordered to pay lifetime alimony this is disservice to not only the payer but to the receiver. While I understand the need to allow a once stay at home parent time to obtain training, a degree or other skills to become gainfully employed, this does not require a lifetime alimony. Just because one marries into money does not mean they are entitled to it for life. What about all of the intact families who lost everything do to the

economy, under this premise the should be entitled to live in the life are accustomed to. In addition, alimony never gives the receiving parent a chance to independence to stand on their own to feet. Reality is that if the paying spouse were to die suddenly, the receiving spouse would loose their source of income immediately and have no way to care for themselves or their children. We need to stop life time alimony so that parents are able to separate their lives and so that the receiver gets a chance to become independent and self-sufficient so they can feel good about themselves and not just a gold digging spouse with no moral compass.

As to restraining orders, these are too easily abused which takes needed money and resources for true victims. 10 years ago Steve Grant, of Family Court Services even admitted this to me. He knew that were serious issues with restraining orders that we falsely filed to gain control over their ex and the children. This is abuse of the system that was put in place to protect true victims. Those filing false allegations are never fined or face any penalties, despite it being illegal.

Please Amend Section 4 of the general statutes section 46b-56 to include the following: § (j) In cases involving an existing Parental Responsibility Plan (PRP), or any existing custodial order, statutory factors (6) and (7) of Conn. Gen. Sats 46b-56(c) shall determine the resolution of any dispute. A pattern of noncompliance with existing custodial orders, or with an existing PRP provides evidence of unwillingness to foster a good parent-child relationship (violation of factor 6) and/or manipulative or coercive behavior (factor 7). Such pattern of noncompliance will result in a finding in favor of the other parent.

Below are a list of just 3 of the possible DSM 5 Diagnosis's that these children end up with when shared parenting is denied.

Parent-child relational problem is cognitive problems in parent-child relational problem "may include negative attributions of the other's intentions, hostility toward or scapegoating of the other, and unwarranted feelings of estrangement."

Child psychological abuse are "non-accidental verbal or symbolic acts by a child's parent or caregiver that result, or have reasonable potential to result, in significant psychological harm to the child." And where this behavior of the aggressive caregiver/parent constitutes child psychological abuse.

Child affected by parental relationship distress is diagnosis in DSM-5 that is used "when the focus of clinical attention is the negative effects of parental relationship discord (e.g., high levels of conflict, distress, or disparagement) on a child in the family, including effects on the child's mental or other physical disorders."

In addition, to the psychological damages that these terrorized and bullied innocent child victims face, the following statistics from my book, "Where Did I Go Wrong? How Did I Miss the Sigs?" explain the gravity of this problem.

Chapter 13
Statistical Information from
Massachusetts General Hospital

Research, Dr. Amy J. Baker and Dr. Lowenstein, Dr. Kruk of Canada
March 2009

Recently, Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) conducted a research project on the effects of High Conflict Divorce on the children. What they discovered was an overwhelming and profound impact on the emotional wellbeing of the children. The age of the child did not matter. The anxiety of the high conflict divorce was devastating. In their minds, no matter the age, they think, "If Mommy and Daddy no longer love each other, then will they stop loving me too?" This fear ultimately leads to anxiety, which invariably can cause an emotional meltdown at various levels. MGH also discovered that the more the parents fought or were at odds with each other, the more intense or disturbed the children became mentally and emotionally. And the more disturbed and upset the children became, the more their emotional wellbeing was affected. The following are the statistical results from MGH's project on the Impact of High Conflict Divorce on Children:

65% had anxiety severe enough to require therapy
56% Developed Attachment disorder;
48% had abnormal fears and phobias;
44% of both boys and girls became physically aggressive;
31% had sleep disorders
29% withdrew from activities including ones that they loved to do
24% developed opposition defiant behavior, including temper tantrums and uncontrolled outbursts
21% prematurely became involved in sexual activity
13% began bed wetting
10% developed dissociative personality disorders (once known as multiple personality disorders)

Amy J. Baker, Ph.D backs this up with her research in her article, The Cult of Parenthood: A Qualitative Study of Parental Alienation, Cultic Studies Review and in her book, Adult Children of Parental Alienation Syndrome – Breaking the Ties that Bind (2007). Dr. Baker's research and interviews of 38 adults who were victims of PAS as children revealed seven (7) precedents about the effects of PAS. Furthermore, as Baker points out, these abused interviewees suffered lifelong pain as a result of being alienated from a once loved parent (36). Ms. Baker's results from her interviews are as follows:

High rates of low self-esteem to a point of self-hatred
70 % of the adults suffered with serious depression episodes in their adult life.
30% had substance abuse problems with drugs and alcohol
42% had trust issues with themselves and/or others
50% were alienated from their own children, thus proving that PAS is multigenerational

66% had been divorced and of those, 25% were divorced more than once
And the last pattern was Identity issues

Dr. F. L. Lowenstein of Southern England Psychology Services also describes the problems that the child of PAS suffers. His list includes:
Anger
Loss or lack of impulse control in conduct
Loss of self-confidence and self-esteem
Clinging in separation anxiety
Developing fears and phobias
Depression and suicidal ideation
Sleep disorders
Eating disorders
Educational problems
Enuresis
Encopresis
Drug abuse
Self-destructive behavior
Obsessive compulsive behavior
Anxiety and panic attacks
Damaged sexual identity problems
Poor peer relationships
Excessive feelings of quilt.

According to Dr. Edward Kruk, associate professor of social work at the University of British Columbia, whose three-year study is now in the hands of Canada's justice minister, "Some 85 per cent of youth in prison are fatherless; 71 per cent of high school dropouts grew up without fathers, as did 90 per cent of runaway children. Fatherless youth are also more prone to depression, suicide, delinquency, promiscuity, drug abuse, behavioral problems and teen pregnancy", warns the 84-page report, which is a compilation of dozens of studies about divorce and custody, including some of his own research over the past 20 years. I believe that this statistic about the Harm of Fatherless Families will soon include Motherless families where PAS is concerned, thus making these statistics ominous and of serious concern. Though the stats on Motherless families related to PAS have not had a chance to be studied, I can almost guarantee that the stats would be quite similar where PAS is involved. It is not just the lack of a father or mother, (think families where a father or mother has passed away in an intact family), but instead think about the psychological abuse from PAS which pushes these kids to react so horribly.
What this means is that these children are losing the battle to have a normal life. Because of the anxiety disorder, which leads to attachment disorders, they never learn how to have a normal emotional relationship with others. If the fighting continues, the child has no choice but to spiral out of control, becoming more and more anti-social in their behavior and responses. Ultimately, if the war is not ended, the weaker of these children can and will end up with personal and mental problems for the rest of their lives. This is why it is so important for parents to put aside their differences, angers and need for

retaliation/revenge. This is why a program like PIPI, Prevention and Intervention Program Initiative is so important. If we can get to these parents before this happens, then we can stop the ravages of high conflict divorce on the children.
For more information go to the following websites:
http://paao-us.com/StatsandCharts.asp
http://www.prevent-abuse-now.com/stats.htm

Citations:

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