

## **Crimes Against Fathers**

Sometime in the last 20 years we have developed a consciousness that appears to be worldwide about the intrinsic value of the male gender. I suspect it has happened because financially (which equals power), women have gotten the short end of the stick. That translates into women often experiencing themselves as the victim in their life story. And, I am not saying that isn't true in many cases, but I also believe that when we relegate ourselves into the victim mentality, we end up making someone else the perpetrator by connotation.

Looking at a constant trend in laws put into place over the past 20 years, I am convinced that something drastic needs to happen. We women need to jump to the aid of our partners and sons. The current political/legal system is endangering our mens lives, and the children they help us bring into the world.

I've seen this in my practice, and in the laws being enacted. I'm going to say some things that are, indeed, controversial but I think you'll agree if you listen to the whole story.

As a marriage and family therapist and professional counselor I've heard a lot of stories and witnessed a lot of injustice and abuse. I am an advocate for human rights, and for children's rights. I am anti-domestic violence and a promotor of peace. I am also a "liberal" when it comes to social issues, but I think there are many areas today where "left meets right".

The truth is that our legal system has set us up to decay our family system (whether that is a conspiracy or not I fail to have evidence) and we have to do something to change it or our society is in real danger. There are a number of areas which have to be addressed urgently.

1. Family Court - Provided each party has equal dollars to spend, the weight of most judgements falls in favor of the wife, and totally devalues the father's role in a child's life. Its as if the only value the court see's in a father is the amount of child support he can pay. In spite of the fact that our laws are set up to have both parents pay child support if the custody is shared, and to allow shared custody unless there is a compelling reason not to do so, it is rarely done in Texas. Many of our judges are so prejudiced against fathers that even when the father is doing what he has agreed to do, he will still go to jail. The system is set up to incarcerate father's whose financial agreement is with the mother and not through the court system. I have seen father's repeatedly punished for not paying child support they simply could not pay, even when they were doing everything they could to do so. I've seen clients paying 50% of their income to child support, preventing them from providing a safe home for their child so they could not even have their child come for a visit. I've seen clients lose custody of their child while they were being incarcerated for back child support even though they had paid the woman directly, the court refused to see the evidence. This can happen to women, too, but it is FAR more likely to happen to men. Honestly, I don't know why any many would ever want to have children!
2. "Crimes Against Women" - Explain to me why there has to be a law protecting women against crimes that are already a illegal? Why? Because we think of women as the victim and men as the perpetrators. Women get beaten as men do, its true that men can usually do more damage, but does that mean beating a man is acceptable? Women can do whatever they want to and if I man reacts, he is thrown into custody and prosecuted. What man is going to claim their woman beats them? They will be laughed out of the court. Never mind that women can (and do) hurt men very badly and if the man reacts he will go to jail. I had a client whose girlfriend dug her long fake nails into his testicles and when he reacted instinctively by punching her he was sent to "anger management". Its an unprecedented occurrence for a woman to be arrested in a domestic violence case. I even had a director of a domestic violence shelter tell me that any time she has ever heard of a man claiming to be abused by his wife or girlfriend it was a lie.

3. Sexual Offender Lists - It is a well known fact that 6 out of 10 girls are sexually abused, and 4 out of 10 boys are abused as well. Of course, those numbers reflect reported cases, and many times, boys simply won't report the abuse because of cultural bias. By far the majority of perpetrators prosecuted are males. "Society sees it as they got 'lucky' " to receive a sexual initiation from a woman, according to Dr. Keith Kaufman, chairman of the department of psychology at Portland State University. "But their brain maturation isn't complete. Boys aren't in a position to give consent to a sexual relationship. Girls see it as abusive much more quickly. Boys won't want to see themselves as a victim." Boys who have sex with grown women are anything but "lucky." "It is always abuse," says Dr. Kaufman. Eighteen year old boys having sex with their 16 year old girlfriend, can, and often do, get prosecuted for statutory rape and live with a lifelong "sexual offender" status. Teens receiving sexual text photos from girls can be prosecuted for possessing child pornography and then carry "sexual offender" status for the remainder of their lives. I had a client whose sister accused him of sexually abusing her when she was 7, he was 9, and they were "playing doctor". She reported this incident to a school counselor when she was 16, he was 20 and went to jail! It took him 10 years and countless dollars to regain his name when it was finally thrown out of court. I want kids protected as much as the next gal, but this is ridiculous! According to Wikipedia: "In a study of 17,337 survivors of childhood sexual abuse, 23% had a female-only perpetrator and 22% had both male and female perpetrators. The sexual abuse of children by women, primarily [mothers](#), once thought to be so rare it could be ignored, constituted 25% (approximately 36 000 children) of the [sexually abused](#) victims. **This statistic is thought to be underestimated due to the tendency of non-disclosure by victims.**" Why? Because even little boys know they are not going to be believed.

These three areas have got to be corrected. A century of fathers is at risk. If you love your son, your father, your brother. Protest these laws and get them changed. As of 1994, 5 million sexual offenders had been jailed. And 90% of them had been sexually and physically abused as children. Nearly all (96%) of all cases reported are male. The number of sexual offenses referred to the Attorney General's office grew by 400% from

1994 to 2006. Maybe we are just doing a better job identifying abusers, or maybe we are on a witch hunt.