

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Civil rights under attack by family courts, laws

Equal Justice Foundation working to increase awareness

“You have 30 minutes to pack everything you own. If you can’t carry it on your back, it will have to stay behind. Look around one last time because you may never return home again.”

from a fund raising letter on the plight of Kosovo refugees

Do you think this couldn’t happen here? Not in America, right? Guess again. The American Dream all too often ends with the American Nightmare. Today, most anyone can be forced from his or her home simply on the accusation of spousal or child abuse. No trial, no judge, no jury. No notice. The police come knocking in the middle of the night and you must leave. No excuses. No looking back. Now. And the nightmare is only just beginning.

The Equal Justice Foundation’s approach to family violence and abuse is unique. We don’t rely on hyperbole or hypocrisy. EJF seeks to fix the problem, not the blame. We work to counteract political pressure and campaign contributions that encourage gender profiling of both victims and perpetrators of family violence. EJF knows that our civil liberties and civil rights have been eroded under false banner of solving human problems with political solutions. The following issues are of great concern:

- Mandatory arrest policies and arrests made without warrants;
- Court orders issued without the defendant present (*ex parte*);
- False allegations of abuse and false imprisonment;
- Illegal and inequitable child custody arrangements; and
- Imprisonment for debt, a practice outlawed hundreds of years ago.

Colorado attorney Maria Sinel has seen parents living with “perhaps the worst thing any parent can suffer, seeing his or her child being damaged or abused at the hands of a system that is supposed to protect those children.” At a press conference in Colorado Springs in autumn 2001, she said, “These are not people who are expressing ‘sour grapes.’ After reviewing information that these parents have given me, I am nothing less than horrified.”

“The complaints of these parents are of the most egregious nature. The ‘system’ is destroying their children and their families, and we are powerless to correct even the most obvious infractions. ... Nearly all of the parents with whom I have spoken are petrified of having their names made public because they fear the retribution of the court system because they are still working hard to protect their children,” she said. In at least one case, a parent was desperate to reverse a court order that placed her son in immediate danger, and the court issued a restraining order against her from trying to get help outside of the court system. She was told that she would be found in contempt and jailed if she didn’t silence herself.

Dr. Charles Corry, EJF president and founder, said government agencies and private charities are funding a radical political agenda rather than rational solutions for family violence prevention and treatment programs. “This denial of civil rights and the police-state tactics used today in the name of quelling domestic violence are more dangerous than the problem. Most of society, for the sake of civilization, wants to preserve families, not tear them apart, but this is completely at odds with the agenda of taxpayer-funded radical feminist groups whose ideology is anti-male and anti-family.”

Corry notes that under current laws thousands of men are forced from their homes and children with nothing more than the clothes on their backs based on nothing more than hearsay or unsubstantiated allegations, and the right to confront the accuser is denied and that it is often impossible to obtain witnesses in one's defense because of protective orders. U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Denver) was the law's author when she served in the State Assembly. Her campaign contributions and influences are dominated by special-interest social groups, including radical feminists who also seek an ever-expanding definition of domestic violence, which encourages flagrant civil-rights violations.

In a study of domestic violence calls in Colorado Springs, Corry found the number of such calls dropped significantly after mandatory-arrest laws were passed by the state in 1994. He believes that these draconian laws discourage people from calling authorities. EJF, on the other hand, advocates laws that truly reduce incidents of domestic violence. When laws label men as primary aggressors, abusive women who need treatment continue their violent behavior, creating further risk for society at-large and children in particular.

Simply put, proponents of common-sense domestic violence laws say dialogue is long overdue. They advocate an objective examination of the issue, one that avoids closed-door legislative and judicial maneuvering.

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The Equal Justice Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes progressive justice and civil liberties for all citizens. For more information, contact Dr. Charles Corry at (719) 520-1089, or e-mail him at ccorry@ejfi.org. EJF's Web site is www.ejfi.org and the foundation also sponsors www.dvmen.org dealing with domestic violence against men.