

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Equal Justice Foundation
Dr. Charles Corry, president
(719) 520-1089
ccorry@ejfi.org

Politics hinders solutions to domestic violence

Extreme measures, 'police state tactics' called unnecessary

After the arrest of Colorado Avalanche goalie Patrick Roy in October, 2000, on domestic violence charges, police and prosecutors expressed their dissatisfaction with a 1994 state law mandating arrests in domestic violence calls.

Officials say the law gives police little or no discretion when investigating 911 domestic violence calls and clogs county jails and courts with unnecessary cases. "Police should be given a certain amount of discretion," Brighton Police Chief Clint Blackhurst was quoted as saying during a meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Violent Crime. "I don't know of another law like it."

The law requires police to make an arrest if officers find evidence of domestic violence. In many cases, mandatory arrest has been shown to increase the level of violence.

Chief Blackhurst, Adams County District Attorney Bob Grant, and other officials stated that the law needs to be re-examined. They said it gives police little or no discretion when investigating 911 calls and it is also clogging county jails and courts with minor cases.

Grant is quoted as saying: "It's trivialized it to some degree when, with minimal acts, we're swatting a butterfly with a sledgehammer. Marginal cases have the potential to become serious cases later and need to be dealt with, but not necessarily with mandatory arrest."

In the Roy case, he damaged two doors in his house while his wife was in another room. The charges were eventually dismissed, an unusual move in a domestic violence case. The public explanation was that it isn't a crime to destroy one's own property and that his wife was not in the room at the time the doors were damaged. Privately, officials say his case was dismissed because he had the financial resources to challenge the law on a constitutional basis and likely would have won.

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.

Erin Pizzey, who started the first modern women's shelter in Chiswick, England, in 1972, has turned against the very movement she helped to found. Pizzey recently warned that "any country that has tried to create a political solution to human problems has ended up with concentration camps and gulags."

Dr. Charles Corry, president and founder of the Equal Justice Foundation based in Colorado Springs, said that government agencies and private charities are funding a radical feminist 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," stated Corry, whose group maintains a

“Domestic Violence Against Men” Web site at <www.dvmen.org>. “Most of society, for the sake of civilization, wants to preserve families,” Corry says, “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.

In a study of domestic violence calls in Colorado Springs, Corry found the number of such calls dropped after mandatory-arrest laws were passed by the state in 1994. He believes that these draconian laws discourage people from calling authorities.

After seeing the study on the “Domestic Violence Against Men” Web site, a man whose name has been withheld here sent an e-mail message to Corry that stated, “I concur with your findings regarding people becoming reluctant to call for assistance because of the ‘must arrest’ laws, based on what I have seen in my own situation. After I was arrested, Heather, who is now 16, and Jordan, who will soon be 12, were fighting about Jordan having called 911.

“Heather was very upset about the no contact order placed on me which was issued against my wife's wishes. There is no doubt whatsoever that neither of [the children] would call 911 in a similar situation. As you stated, they are now more afraid of a venue that should be considered as helpful — calling 911 in a scary situation — than they are of the situation itself.”

###

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.