



California Protective Parents Association

Why we are here:

- 58,000 children a year forced to live with their abuser when abuse is reported.
- 85% chance of losing custody of your children to their abusive parent if you report the abuse in CA.
- Over 580 children killed by a parent in 10 years during a custody case with abuse allegations.

California Protective Parents Association Newsletter

Weathering Storms

September 2017

Dear Friends,

When we have to weather a storm, we learn where to go for help and people come together to survive.

CPPA continues to grow, research, educate, advocate and build relationships to ensure you can get through the storms and destruction that happens in family courts in CA and across this country.

We are grateful to do our part and we hope you find in this newsletter some information that will help you through the storm you are facing.

Our prayers are with all who have been touched by all the natural disasters from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Jose to the fires, floods and earthquakes near and far. Our work and prayers for all pained by the family courts and child abuse continue.

CPPA

WASHINGTON DC CONFERENCE



The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence will be gathering in Washington D.C. this coming week for [Take a Stand Lobby Day](#). NCADV is inviting Mothers of Lost Children to join them for their lobby day and conference as MOLC will not be hosting a marching this fall.

Saturday, September 14, 2017
from 8:30 am to 7 pm
at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill,
400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington D.C. 20001

Ruth Glenn, NCADV's Executive Director, invites all Mothers of Lost Children to bring materials for distribution and prepare for a 3 to 5 minute presentation if you would like to present program, issues and legislative agenda (H. Con. Res. 72) at the conference. The presentation will start at 5:30 pm.

LEGISLATION

Building Support for H. Con. Res. 72

H. Con. Res. 72 is a child safety resolution that will allow for states to ensure: child safety is the first priority in our courts; family violence matters are resolved before assessing best interest



of the child; evidence from court and paid officials will only be accepted from those with the proper abuse and trauma training; and there will be oversight hearings to ensure family court practices are safe for children.

This is a major step forward for child safety in our courts that will help lead to protection and more needed changes from funding to state laws and adherence of laws.

Please check to see if your US House Representative is on the list of current

cosponsors [here](#).

Organizations in Support of H. Con. Res. 72

California Protective Parents Association (CPPA) www.protectiveparents.com

Center for Judicial Excellence (CJE) www.centerforjudicialexcellence.org

Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP) www.dvleap.org

and

Advocates for Child Empowerment & Safety (ACES) www.acesforkids.org

Battered Mothers' Custody Conference <http://www.batteredmotherscustodyconference.org>

Center for Child Protection and Family Support <http://www.centerchildprotection.org>

Child Abuse Forensic Institute (CAFI) www.childabuseforensics.org

Child Abuse Solutions, Inc. <http://childabusesolutions.com>

Child Justice <http://child-justice.org>

Child Protection Institute (CPI) at Liberty University <http://www.drjudithreisman.com/contact.html>

Children's Civil Rights Union (CCRU)

Children's Justice Fund <http://childrensjustice.fund>

Courageous Kids Network (CKN) <http://www.courageouskids.net>

Darkness to Light <https://www.d2l.org>

Distinction in Family Courts (DFC) <http://distinctioninfamilycourts.org>

Family Violence Appellate Project (FVAP) <http://www.fvaplaw.org>

Futures Without Violence (FUTURES) <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org>

Incest Survivors Speakers Bureau (ISSB) <http://www.issb.us>

Joan of Arc Lawyers Foundation, Inc. <http://www.joanofarcclawyers.org>

Justice for Children <http://justiceforchildren.org>

Legislative Coalition to Prevent Child Abuse

Legal Momentum <http://www.legalmomentum.org>

MassKids (Massachusetts Citizens for Children) <http://www.masskids.org>

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) www.ncadv.org

National Coalition for Family Justice (NCFJ) <http://www.ncfj.org>

National Domestic Violence Hotline <http://www.thehotline.org>

National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) <http://nnedv.org>

National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS) <http://nomas.org>

National Organization for Women (NOW) <http://now.org>

National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence (NPEIV) <https://www.npeiv.org>

National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence <http://www.4vawa.org>

Stop Abuse Campaign <http://stopabusecampaign.org>

Support Network of Advocates for Protective Parents (SNAPP)

Talk About Abuse to Liberate Kids (TAALK) <https://www.taalk.org>

The Hofheimer Family Law Firm <https://hoflaw.com/>

The Nurtured Parent <http://nurturedparent.org>

US Alliance to End the Hitting of Children <http://endhittingusa.org>

Wings for Justice <http://wingsforjustice.com>

LEGISLATION CALL TO ACTION

Child Safety is NOT Complicated

We are asking everyone to please contact their US House Representative and ask for support of H. Con. Res. 72. Part of weathering the family court storm is strengthening our laws. We have waited years to get this resolution in Congress and now we need to get it supported to pass.

To find your own Representative, please go to the House of Representative's site [here](#) and enter your zip code on the top right.

Please request an in-person meeting, send a letter and at the very least call your own representative to end abuse.

For talking points and further instructions, please reply to this email and request this information, adding your name and zip code. Please know Congress is back in session and your representative may be back in Washington now. You can set up a meeting with your district office staff though to make this request for support.



PRESS

Family Reunification Camps Failing Children



September 4, 2017 – A new article by Lisa Roose-Church in the Livingston Daily displays the problems we hear about with family reunification camps. Hannah Mills was taken to California from her home in Michigan to be "reunified" with her verbal and physically abusive father. This camp is Family Bridges, where parents who state they were "alienated" from their children pay thousands of dollars to force relationship/time together via harmful tactics.

We have heard there are even disclosures by at least one of these type of camps that their program may be harmful to the child. The children in these camps are threatened they must be with their non-custodial parent, most whom have been abusive in the past, or they will not see their protective parent again or be forced to live away from both parents.

Many children suffer the consequences from these camps. Hannah is incredibly brave though as she spoke about about what has happened to her and is finding a way to stay safe. She has left her father by living with a family from church during her father's custody time and is able to see her mother according to the court order. Read the full article [here](#). Photo credit: Lisa Roose-Church.

See the Washington Post article on family reunification camps from May 2017 [here](#). Surely, we will continue to see more of these stories in the future.

Nearly Twenty Years Later, Do We Know Why a Boy Was Found Hanging?

This August through the beginning of this month, Julia Prodis Sulek with the Bay Area News Group published an investigative, six-part story in the Mercury News, [Hanging, the Mysterious Case of the Boy in the Barn](#), regarding a death of a 10-year-old boy, Joshua Sean Klaver, who was involved in a custody case.



Did a child of 10 years old hang himself or was this made to look like a suicide the day before the boy was to talk to the judge regarding custody? Why was it not fully investigated as a possible murder back in 1989 when Joshua was found hanging in his father's barn? If he did hang himself, why? If it was murder, will we ever know?

Ms. Prodis Sulek spent time for this in-depth story by meeting all who were involved in 1986 and even some neighbors who were never questioned prior to this article, but were in the barn that night. She visited the barn where Joshua was found in San Martin, CA, traveled to Minnesota to meet Joshua's step-mother, his father in Oklahoma (both who were present the night of Joshua's death), met the CPS social worker, the lawyers, the second judge in the case, the medical examiner, the sheriff, investigators and of course Joshua's mother.

This story will have you wanting to crawl out of your skin as you learn how procedures were not followed, abuse in one hearing was not mentioned or reviewed for the next custody hearing, and how most of those attached to this case are still holding onto what happened that night for a child was not protected and died.

You will read why this death still matter to even those who never knew Joshua for we still have too many "Joshua's" in our family court system that are dying, hurting and just wanting to be safe.

Please read this brilliant piece of investigative writing [here](#) for us to learn from and bring change. A podcast version is also available [here](#).

While this article is full of unanswered questions, one must ask why would a protective parent be blamed for asking for protection for her son and when will others accept responsibility for children in the courts?

CJP and the CA State Auditor Meet in Court



Kathleen Russell, Barbara Kauffman, Joe Sweeney, Connie Valentine and others who pushed for the audit of the CJP were on hand to witness the hearing of Commission on Judicial Performance v. Elaine M. Howle et al on August 17, 2017 in San Francisco. The Commission on Judicial Performance asked the court to

deny the CA Auditor the right to see confidential reports in the ordered audit. The CJP believes the CA State Constitution gives them the power, not the CA Legislature. Thank you to the CA Auditor's lawyer, Myron Moskowitz, for presenting this dismissal of records as secret documents versus confidential. With the CJP refusal to turn over their documents for the audit, the public is not being served. At CPPA we are requesting the full audit with truth and transparency. See below for details on the next hearing date on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 4:45 pm, Dept. 504 at 400 McCallister Street, SF. See the SF Chronicle article by Cynthia Dizikes [here](#).



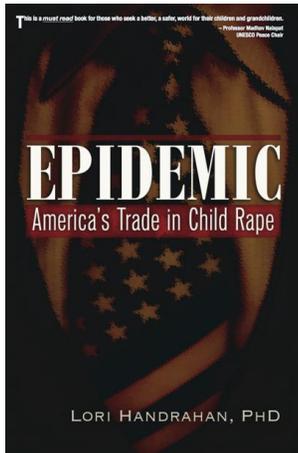
A MOTHER'S STORY



In the past 10 years there have been over 580 children killed by a parent when abuse allegations were raised in a custody hearing in family courts across this country. The article mentioned above, [Hanging, the Mysterious Case of the Boy in the Barn](#), is about Kathy Atkin's son, Joshua Klaver. In 1989 at the time of Joshua's death, only eight children age 10 were known to take their own lives. Ms. Atkin has created a site for others to understand her journey as Joshua's mother, to build awareness of the problems in family court, the system that failed to protect her son and show how the investigation into her son's death only leads to more questions. Visit [Justice 4 Joshua](#) to learn more.

NEW BOOKS

Child Pornography Leads to Child Sex Trafficking

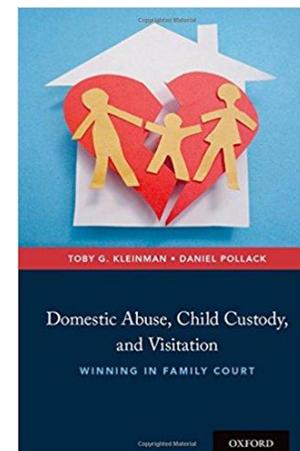


This next week, protective parent, Lori Handrahan, Ph.D., will be sharing her story of child rape and trafficking, including through our family courts, in her new book, "[Epidemic, America's Trade in Child Rape](#)." While we have been reading that sex trafficking is growing throughout America as noted on [CNN](#) this past March, Dr. Handrahan's account gives understanding how children are trafficked out of loving mothers' arms and placed with sexual abusers and those who exploit them to others. Laws have not prevented the explosion of child pornography online as it is expanding faster than the authorities can control. This epidemic only encourages child trafficking and it is not slowing down. This book will help you understand the problem and how we can get our children safe in America. Amazon is

scheduled to release the Kindle version later next week and hardcover as early as October.

A Must Read for Legal Experts and Battered Mothers

[Domestic Abuse, Child Custody, and Visitation's review on Amazon](#): "Toby Kleinman is a leading expert on representing abused parents and children in custody litigation. This book clearly and eloquently explains the realities of custody litigation and translates what some have called the 'oz-like' quality of such cases into terms anyone can understand. Most importantly, she conveys the ways abuse in the family impacts every family member and, most of all, court personnel, who need to know what is in this book in order to avoid being snowed into not protecting at-risk children."



-- *Joan S. Meier, JD, Professor of Clinical Law, George Washington University Law School; Founder and Legal Director Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP)*

MOVIE PREVIEWS AND VIDEOS

Upcoming Films

There are two new films being released into the film festivals shortly that speak to DV and child abuse, "What Doesn't Kill Me" and "Custody."



[Custody](#) is a French feature film that shows a family in a custody case after unproven domestic violence. The trailer is quick to point out in one minute the deflection that is common in most custody cases when children do not want to be with an abusive parent, "I don't know what they are told." See the Variety review [here](#).

[What Doesn't Kill Me](#) is an American documentary by filmmaker Rachel Meyrick. In this film we see and hear the protective parents' journeys to protect their children from abuse. This film is working on possible fall dates for screenings in LA and the Bay Area. Stay tuned for screening updates.



Videos



A video was recently released with former Judge Deann Salcido discussing her experience of family court issues. She is the founder and CEO of Judicial Action Watch Society (JAWS), a retired CA Superior Court Judge and she still practices law with Honorable Legal Services where she is a co-founder. See the Victurus Libertas VL video [here](#) to hear her take on the problems in CA family courts.

Excellent Innovation Hub article, [How Childhood Trauma Affects Health, and audio interview](#) with the ACE Study co-founder, Vincent Felitti. Listen to him state how resilience starts with one person caring about

the abused; listening to the abused, implicitly accepting, by doctors showed a 35% reduction in doctor visits in one study; resilience shown in education, income, social status, but not in biomedical disease; and the need primary prevention, need more capable and supportive parents.

INNOVATION HUB

FUNDRAISING

We are excited to announce we are planning on adding more services, completing more research and increasing our education and advocacy efforts this year. More work means more funding. We are ramping up our fundraising efforts and are allowing for more ways for others to join our efforts to keep children safe. If you know of those who would like to join us by donating to our 501 (c) (3) nonprofit please direct them to our website, protectiveparents.com to give via PayPal, send a direct donation, or they can visit our Crowdrise page [here](#). Every donation helps!

SAVE THE DATES

Board of Psychology Meeting | September 14–15, 2017



The CA Board of Psychology will be holding their
next meeting with public comment on
Thursday, September 14 – Friday, September 15, 2017 in Berkeley, CA
Public Comment on Thursday, Sept 14, 9:30 start, agenda items #3

See agenda [here](#).

We welcome all protective parents with issues regarding private or court ordered evaluators
and any licensed psychologist to come and provide comment to the board.

Judicial Counsel of California Meeting | Sept. 14–15, 2017

The Judicial Counsel of California, JCC, will have their next meetings on
Thursday, Sept. 14 – Friday, Sept. 15, 2017 in San Francisco, CA
Public Comment on Friday, Sept. 15 at 9:00 am

**455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102**

We welcome all protective parents with issues regarding with Family Court to
attend the public comment session as well as send in a written comment to the JCC.
The agenda for the July meetings is not available at this time.

View agenda [here](#).

Please note, there will be no JCC meeting in October.
November's meeting will be in Sacramento and will be the last meeting of the year.

We suggest you prepare a written comment to share that is no longer than three minutes. If there are a larger number of public speakers, you may only have one to two minutes. The JCC allows for general comments only and not case specific information, including judges names. For full directions on how to send in comments or sign up for public comment prior to the meeting, please click [here](#).

CJP v. CA Auditor Hearing | September 29, 2017

The SF Superior Court will hear the matter
Commission on Judicial Performance v. Elaine M. Howle et al
Friday, September 29, 2017 at 4:45 pm in Dept. 504

Superior Court of the State of CA, San Francisco
400 McCallister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

We welcome all protective parents as well as those who have filed a complaint against a judge with the Commission on Judicial Performance (CJP) to come to this hearing. The CJP is requesting issuance for petitioner for writ of prohibitory mandate claiming the audit will violate rules of confidentiality and such.

The abuse that is being silenced in the family courts may continue in the audit. This audit is to ensure judges are being help accountable. This hearing was added after supplement briefings were requested.

See one of the articles after the last hearing [here](#).

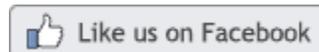
To veiw all of the documents in this case, please go to the SF Superior Court page [here](#), select the Case Query Access Now button and enter the case number **CPF16515308**.

Battered Mother's Custody Conference | May 4 –6, 2018

The Battered Mother's Custody Conference, BMCC XIII,
Custody Battles, Trauma and Recovery will be on
May 4 – 6, 2018 in New York

Radisson Hotel
205 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205

We are excited to hear Dr. Mo Hannah will be continuing her conference this coming year. The theme will be *Custody Battles, Trauma, and Recovery* as it will address the diverse legal, political, social, psychological, spiritual causes and repercussions of the injustices faced by battered women and their children across this country and throughout the world.



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