



Child Custody and Support

Courts give physical custody of children to women in 90% of contested custody cases, while men are often reduced to being visitors and denied fair access to their children. (Cynthia McNeely, "Lagging Behind the Times: Parenthood, Custody and Gender Bias in the Family Courts," www.law.fsu.edu/journals/lawreview/frames/254/mcnefram.html)

But men's role as fathers is never overlooked when it comes to child support. The government spends hundreds of dollars on aggressive child support enforcement for every dollar it spends on access (or, "visitation") enforcement. Most so-called "deadbeat dads" are low-income men who are either dead-broke or dead-bolted from their children's lives. Contrary to the myth that fathers only seek custody to lower support payments, the largest federally-funded study on divorce found that most fathers sincerely want to nurture and raise their children but are often driven from their children's lives by courts and by mothers who impede access to their children and send them into high rates of despair, depression and suicide. (Prof. Sanford Braver, "Divorced Dads.")

Society pays a huge price for these policies. Fatherlessness is the strongest predicting factor of crime in a community. The less time a child spends with his/her father the more likely the child will become delinquent, commit crime, drop out of school, abuse drugs, become pregnant or commit suicide. Divorce reform in favor of shared parenting and equal treatment is urgently needed. (Warren Farrell, Ph.D., "Father and Child Reunion.")



False Accusations

False accusations of domestic violence or child abuse are a common tactic to gain advantage in divorce. The frequency of false accusations is difficult to measure, but data shows it is common. One 1992 study even found 72% of over 10,000 child abuse accusations were false.

False accusations can psychologically, emotionally and financially destroy a person, and the stigmatization can scar a person for life, with or without a conviction. Family courts often impose anger management classes on men even when they are acquitted by a criminal court. These classes use materials that identify all abusers as men (i.e. the "Duluth Power & Control Wheel"), which only serves to deepen the wounds of falsely accused men even more.

The abuse of restraining orders is another tactic used to gain a legal advantage in divorce. Without warning, men find themselves arrested, jailed and barred from their

homes and bank accounts without their right to due process. There is a dire need for research and education into the issue of false accusations and how they affect society.



Domestic Violence

"In the United States every year, about 1.5 million women and more than 800,000 men are raped or physically assaulted by an intimate partner." Centers for Disease Control. www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/ipvfacts.htm In other words, the federal government's own figures show at least 36% of domestic violence victims are men.

Virtually all other sociological research (i.e. *behavior* – based research rather than crime-based research) shows "women are as physically aggressive, or more aggressive, than men in their relationships with their spouses or male partners," and that 38% of injured victims are men (women use weapons and surprise to equalize strength differences). www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm.

In a major study on domestic violence that asked about motives, both sexes gave the same reasons for assaulting their partners, the most common reason being, "to get through to them," while self-defense was one of the least common reasons given for both sexes. (Carrado, "Aggression in British Heterosexual Relationships: A Descriptive Analysis, Aggressive Behavior," 1996, 22: 401-415.)

Likewise, in a survey of college women at Cal State Long Beach, 30% admitted having assaulted a male partner, and their most common reasons were: (1) "he wasn't listening to me," (2) "he wasn't being sensitive to my needs," and (3) "I wished to gain his attention." (Straus/Hoff, "Why Women Assault; College Women Who Initiate Assaults on their Male Partners and the Reasons Offered for Such Behavior," 1997, Psychological Reports, 80, 583-590, www.batteredmen.com/fiebertg.htm.)

Nearly 10% of people who seek domestic violence shelter services in California are men. California Research Bureau, "The Prevalence of Domestic Violence in California," page 14, at www.library.ca.gov/crb/02/16/02-016.pdf. However, Health & Safety Code § 124250 excludes men from state-funded programs by defining "domestic violence" so only women can be victims. Consequently, men are shut out of vital services throughout the State, including motel vouchers and court advocacy. The only shelter available to them is Valley Oasis in Lancaster, where men travel hundreds of miles for shelter because nobody else will help them. These men are already hesitant to seek help due to shame, embarrassment, and concerns about false arrests and access to their children. Men's reluctance to seek help has allowed the domestic violence industry to cover up female violence for decades due to ideological reasons. (Prof. Linda Kelly, "Disabusing the

Definition of Domestic Abuse: How Women Batter Men and the Role of the Feminist State," 30 Florida State Law Review 791, 2003, www.law.fsu.edu/journals/lawreview/downloads/304/kelly.pdf

When male victims don't seek help, the violence often escalates until someone gets hurt. Children who witness the violence are often damaged no matter how severe the violence is. Domestic violence is an intergenerational problem. To solve it, we must first be honest about it.



Mens' Health

In the 1920s men died only one year earlier than women. Today they die almost 7 years earlier and have higher mortality rates for each of the 10 leading causes of death. www.menshealthnetwork.org/library/TopCausesDeath2000.pdf.

Men are also more likely than women to have mental disabilities, but less likely to receive treatment. Lack of mental health treatment in men contributes heavily to the disproportionate number of men who are incarcerated (90% male), homeless (85% male), dropouts (65% male), and who commit suicide or become addicts. Male suicide has skyrocketed in the last 30 years, especially among young men and divorced men. Men also comprise 92% of occupational deaths. www.bls.gov/news.release/cfoi.t04.htm.

Despite these figures, men's health remains severely neglected in public health policies. There are at least seven federal offices of women's health, but no offices of men's health. The government has long spent four times more on breast cancer research than prostate cancer research, even though they kill nearly the same number. www3.cancer.gov/public/factbk97/varican.htm. Many men cannot even describe what a prostate is, let alone how and when to test for prostate or testicular cancer. Every year, thousands of men die unnecessarily as a result.



Paternity Fraud

Paternity fraud is the false identification of a man as the biological father of a child. The American Association of Blood Banks reports that out of 300,000 DNA paternity tests performed annually, 30% turn out negative. www.ncfmla.org/pdf/na-fraud.pdf. Over time, that adds up to millions of wrongly-identified fathers in the U.S.

In L.A. County, over 70% of paternity judgments are obtained by default. ("Examining Child Support Arrears in California; The Collectibility Study," 3/03, p. 16.) Many of these men are inadequately served or do not respond in

time due to language barriers, mental disabilities, fear or out of a mistaken belief that they do not have to appear because the child is not theirs. Many of them first learn about the judgment years after it is entered, when they owe tens of thousands of dollars in child support, their wages are attached, and their driving privileges are suspended. Tragically, even after a DNA tests excludes them as the father, many of them are still forced to pay support, even when they have families of their own to feed. Military men are especially targeted because of the benefits they carry. www.nbc4.tv/news/2891653/detail.html

Judge Mablean Ephriam, Presiding Judge of Fox TV's "Divorce Court," states, "Every year, thousands of men are misidentified as the father of a child and never know about it until years later when it's too late. Then they are locked in financial prison and forced to pay child support, when DNA paternity excludes them as the father."

In 2004, NCFM-LA helped pass a law to protect paternity fraud victims (AB 252, enacting Family Code § 7646 *et seq.*) While this law is helpful, it is not enough. Judges still have discretion to force a man to pay even after a DNA test excludes him as the biological father, and many men still find themselves trapped by the existing two-year deadline to challenge a paternity judgment from the time they "knew or should have known" of it. If they are late by one day, they are locked in with no escape, and courts have no discretion to relieve them. [Stronger laws and more public education are needed to combat this problem.](#)



Selective Service

Selective Service laws apply only to "male persons." Almost all male U.S. citizens, and male aliens living in the U.S., ages 18-25, are required to register. Men with disabilities must register if they can reasonably leave their homes and move about independently. "Only sons," "the last son to carry the name," and "sole surviving sons" must register as well. The fact that a man is the only child or only son does not qualify him for consideration - he must be the survivor of one who dies in military duty.

Men who do not register can be denied federal student loans, grants and other public benefits (even driving privileges in some states). Women are exempt from these laws, even though women have supported or opposed wars at nearly the same rate as men (76% of women and 87% of men supported the Gulf War invasion of Iraq). Women have even been allowed to sit on draft boards.

These discriminatory government policies send a strong message that men are to be treated as the disposable sex, which further contributes to men not speaking up about anti-male discrimination. As Dr. Warren Farrell puts it, ["Men do not speak up, organize, or publicize, so biases against women are eliminated and biases against men remain."](#) ("Women Can't Hear What Men Don't Say.")

On Feminism and Chivalry

"The female institution that subordinates the needs and nature of men to those of women, while promoting special entitlements, privileges, and protections for women, is feminism (although feminists would deny that that is what feminism is about). But men have their own institution: chivalry is the male institution that subordinates the needs and nature of men to those of women, while promoting special entitlements, privileges, and protections for women."

- Pradeep Ramanathan, former Vice President, NCFM

Who We Are

NCFM is a nationwide, 501(c)3 organization established in 1976 that examines the ways sex discrimination affects men and boys. The Los Angeles chapter (NCFM-LA) formed in the year 2000 to help raise awareness about men's issues at the state and local level. It is our position that, while both men and women experience sex discrimination, anti-male discrimination is largely ignored by government, academia and the media, and it feeds into the larger problem of gender stereotypes and male disposability. We use legal, educational and organizational tools to raise awareness about these issues, to seek solutions that are fair and equitable to everyone, and to be part of a growing, global men's movement.

Recommended Reading: Warren Farrell, Ph.D., ["The Myth of Male Power: Why Men Are the Disposable Sex."](#)

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Mensbiz.net and
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"Ignoring men may be macho and politically correct, but it is costly to society."

- Rep. David Bickford, New Hampshire



National Coalition of Free Men Los Angeles Chapter

Working together to free men from sex discrimination



First known presidential victim of domestic violence

(Michael Burlingame, "The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln.")

How Do Men Face Sex Discrimination?

- ◆ Child custody & support
- ◆ Paternity Fraud
- ◆ False accusations
- ◆ Domestic violence policies
- ◆ Funding for social programs
- ◆ Criminal sentencing
- ◆ Selective Service & Draft Registration
- ◆ Public Health Policies
- ◆ Misandry in media, law & education
- ◆ Male bashing
- ◆ Genital integrity (mutilation—circumcision)
- ◆ Insurance (auto/life/health)
- ◆ Issuance/Enforcement of Protective Orders
- ◆ Reproductive Rights ("Choice")