



## **Child Custody and Support**

**Myth: "70% of dads who seek custody get custody."**

**Fact: When parents contest custody, courts give primary physical custody to moms 90% of the time.**

(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](http://www.law.fsu.edu/journals/lawreview/frames/254/mcnefram.html).)

Most divorced and separated dads *want* to nurture their children, but courts often reduce them to "visitors" and do not even enforce "visitation." So-called "deadbeat dads" are usually dead-broke or dead-bolted from their kids' lives by biased court orders or moms who impede access. Over 80% of divorced or separated dads who have jobs and access to their kids pay their support in full. Nonetheless, our government spends hundreds of dollars to enforce monetary support for each dollar it spends to enforce access. (Sanford Braver, Ph.D., "Divorced Dads.")

Society pays a huge price for this gender bias. Fatherlessness is the leading predictor of crime in a community. The less time a child spends with his/her dad the more likely the child will drop out of school, commit crime, abuse drugs or alcohol, become pregnant or commit suicide. (Warren Farrell, Ph.D., "Father and Child Reunion.") The solution: shared parenting and joint custody laws.



## **False Accusations**

**Myth: "False accusations of rape or abuse are rare."**

**Fact: While the frequency of false accusations is difficult to measure, it happens far more often than we are led to believe.**

Almost every month, DNA clears a man after years of imprisonment for rape. A U.S. Air Force study found over one-fourth of women who accused men of rape recanted either just before taking or after failing a lie detector test - their most common reason being "spite or revenge" - and it concluded 60% of the rape allegations were false. (Forensic Science Digest, v. 11, n. 4, 12/85; Archives of Sexual Behavior, 1994, v. 23, n. 1.)

In *divorce* proceedings, false accusations of domestic violence or child abuse, and restraining order abuse, are common. Without warning, men are arrested, jailed and barred from their homes and bank accounts without due process. More than 50% of child sexual abuse allegations are unsubstantiated. (Eckenrode, Powers, "Substantiation of child abuse and neglect reports, Journal of Consulting & Clinical Psych., 1998, 56, 9-16; Lewis, "Reliability rather than zealotry," Summer 1996, Kentucky Bench & Bar, 60, 23-30.) False accusers are *rarely* prosecuted.



## **Domestic Violence**

**Myth: "Men are rarely victims of domestic violence."**

**Fact: Half of domestic violence ("DV") victims are men.**

Although men are less likely than women to call police, randomized sociological (behavior-based) research consistently shows: (1) women initiate DV as often as men do; (2) women use weapons and surprise more than men do; and (3) about 38% of physically injured DV victims are men. ([www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm](http://www.csulb.edu/~mfiebert/assault.htm).) Even the latest fact sheet from the Centers for Disease Control (partly from crime-based data) states: "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" (*i.e.*, 36% of the victims are *men*). ([www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/ipvfacts.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/ipvfacts.htm).) Unfortunately, the DV industry has covered up female violence for decades for purely ideological reasons. (Kelly, Linda, "Disabusing the Definition of Domestic Abuse; How Women Batter Men and the Role of the Feminist State," 30 Fl. St. U. Law R. 791, 2003, [www.law.fsu.edu/journals/lawreview/downloads/304/kelly.pdf](http://www.law.fsu.edu/journals/lawreview/downloads/304/kelly.pdf).)

**Myth: "Most DV by women is in self-defense."**

**Fact: Women commit DV for the same reasons men do.**

In a large DV study that looked at motives, men and women gave similar reasons for assaulting their partners, usually to "get through to them," and self-defense was among their least common motives. (Carrado, "Aggression in British Heterosexual Relationships; A Descriptive Analysis," *Aggressive Behavior*, (1996) 22: 401-415.) A 32-nation study found factors correlating with DV, such as substance abuse, jealousy and controlling behaviors, is found *equally* in men and women who commit DV. ([www.unh.edu/news/cj\\_nr/2006/may/em\\_060519male.cfm?type=n](http://www.unh.edu/news/cj_nr/2006/may/em_060519male.cfm?type=n)) In a survey of college women at California State University, Long Beach, 30% of them admitted assaulting a male partner, the most common reasons being (1) "he wasn't listening to me," (2) "he wasn't being sensitive to my needs," and (3) "I wished to gain his attention." (Fiebert & Gonzalez, "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](http://www.batteredmen.com/fiebertg.htm).)

The only DV shelter we know of that shelters male victims and their children is Valley Oasis in Lancaster, where men and their children desperately travel from hundreds of miles for shelter because nobody else will shelter them. Male victims are already reluctant to seek help due to shame, embarrassment, and lack of outreach, fear of false arrest, or fear of losing custody of their children. When male victims "take it" and don't seek help, or are denied services, the violence often escalates until someone is injured, and children who witness it are emotionally damaged no matter how severe it is. DV is an intergenerational cycle. To end it, we must first be honest about it.



## **Men's Health**

**Myth: "Men's health gets priority over women's."**

**Fact: Men's health is significantly neglected compared to women's health.**

In the 1920s men died one year younger than women (the rate women died in childbirth was almost equal to the rate men died in war). Today, men die 6 years younger than women and have higher death rates for all 10 leading causes of death. ([www.menshealthnetwork.org/library/TopCausesDeath2000.pdf](http://www.menshealthnetwork.org/library/TopCausesDeath2000.pdf).) Men also account for about 85% of homeless adults, 90% of prisoners, 65% of dropouts, 80% of suicide deaths, and 92% of occupational deaths. (Warren Farrell, Ph.D., "The Myth of Male Power; Why Men Are the Disposable Sex; [www.bls.gov/news.release/cfoi.t04.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cfoi.t04.htm).) Male suicide has skyrocketed in the last 30 years, especially among young men and divorced men. Men are also more likely than women to have mental disabilities but less likely than women to receive treatment, especially in prisons. Despite these figures, there is still no federal office of men's health even though there are about 7 federal offices of women's health. Most states and local governments have offices of women's health but not men's health (only Georgia has an office of men's health). The government has long spent multiple times more on breast cancer than prostate cancer research, despite nearly equal mortality rates. ([www3.cancer.gov/public/factbk97/varican.htm](http://www3.cancer.gov/public/factbk97/varican.htm).)



## **Selective Service**

**Fact: Only men are required to register for the draft.**

Male citizens and resident aliens ages 18-25 must register. Men with disabilities must register if they can reasonably leave their homes and move 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 exempt him unless he survives 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 this law. The Vietnam Memorial has 58,000 male names and 8 female names.

**Myth: "Men make war."**

**Fact: Both sexes make war.**

Women have contributed as much to war as they have to science, medicine, literature and everything else. Women have supported wars at nearly the same rate men have (76% of women and 87% of men supported the Gulf War invasion). Women leaders have also supported wars. Women have sat on draft boards. Women even publicly shamed men who refused to go to war by giving them a white feather as a sign of their unmanliness during the White Feather Campaign.



## Men's Reproductive Rights

### ***Paternity Fraud***

**Paternity fraud is the false identification of a man as a child's biological father.** The American Association of Blood Banks reports that, out of 300,000 DNA paternity tests performed annually, 30% exclude the man as the biological dad. ([www.ncfmla.org/pdf/na-fraud.pdf](http://www.ncfmla.org/pdf/na-fraud.pdf).) Over 70% of paternity judgments in L.A. County 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 respond late due to language barriers, mental disabilities, fear, or mistaken belief that they do not have to respond because the child is not theirs. They often first learn of a paternity judgment when their wages are attached or their driving privileges are suspended. By then it can be too late. Even if DNA excludes them, they can still be forced to pay support, despite having families of their own to feed. Military men are particular targets of paternity fraud because of the benefits they carry. ([www.nbc4.tv/news/2891653/detail.html](http://www.nbc4.tv/news/2891653/detail.html).)

In 2004, we 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 DNA 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.

### ***Choice For Men***

**Choice for Men is an attempt to bring gender equality to reproductive rights and responsibilities.** Although women have far more contraceptive choices than men (men have condoms, abstinence, or evasive surgery), men are deemed at least as responsible as women are when an unwanted pregnancy occurs. However, women have the entire say in whether to get an abortion and have much easier access to adoption or safe-haven abandonment. As a result, when unwanted pregnancies occur, either by accident or when men are lied to about birth control or fertility, women can surrender their parental rights and responsibilities, but men cannot, and instead men face a disrupted education and a future of financial and emotional distress. Choice For Men, as a matter of gender equity and to reduce unwanted births by removing some of the financial incentives for having them, would give men a limited time after being notified of a pregnancy to surrender their parental rights and responsibilities.

## On Men, Women, Chivalry & Feminism

*"The strength of women is their façade of weakness; the weakness of men is their facade of strength."* - Warren Farrell, Ph.D., "The Myth of Male Power."

*"Ignoring men may be macho and politically correct, but it is costly to society."* - Rep. David Bickford, NH

*"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 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 V.P.

## Who We Are

We are a nonprofit educational organization that combats sex discrimination against men. We believe sexism cuts both ways, but that sexism and discrimination against men are ignored and even fostered by the media, government and academia. We believe misandry (anti-male bias) and male disposability significantly contribute to major social problems such as homelessness and our burgeoning prison population. We invite you to join us or support our efforts to promote true gender equality and bring solutions that are fair and equitable to everyone.

***If you are in the military or a federal employee in San Diego County you can help us by donating through your Combined Federal Campaign. The San Diego Chapter's 2007 CFC number is 17785.***

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Brochures courtesy of  
[Mensbiz.net](http://Mensbiz.net) and [PaternityFraudDNA.com](http://PaternityFraudDNA.com)

## **National Coalition of Free Men** Los Angeles & San Diego Chapters



### ***Working together to free men from sex discrimination***



***"Men do not speak up, organize, or publicize, so biases against women are eliminated and biases against men remain."***

Warren Farrell, Ph.D., "The Myth of Male Power; Why Men Are The Disposable Sex."

## How do men face sexism and discrimination?

- ◆ Criminal sentencing
- ◆ Dads - child custody - child support
- ◆ Domestic violence policies
- ◆ Education curriculum and activities at all levels
- ◆ False accusations of rape, abuse, and harassment
- ◆ Gender-based laws on forced labor
- ◆ Gender-based expectations (dating, pay, etc.)
- ◆ Health and auto insurance premiums
- ◆ Incarcerated dads - prison conditions
- ◆ Male Genital Mutilation
- ◆ Male bashing & misandry in the media
- ◆ Paternity issues - paternity fraud
- ◆ Public health policies (prostate cancer, etc.)
- ◆ Reproductive rights— no "choice"
- ◆ Selective Service – coerced registration
- ◆ Title IX - elimination of male sports programs
- ◆ And more.