

# California Men's Centers



932 C Street, Suite B, San Diego, CA 92101 \* 619-321-1909 \* [www.californiamenscenters.org](http://www.californiamenscenters.org)

*Dedicated to men, their families, and the women who love them...*

Why is family court  
breaking up families?  
Don't miss the shocking documentary film  
**Support? System Down**  
One day only, Saturday, May 17  
Flower Hill Mall • 2630 Via de laValle, Del Mar, CA  
Event starts at 5:30 pm • Film starts at 6 pm

supportthemovie.com

sponsored by NCFM.org and  
CaliforniaMensCenters.org

***Special Showing, one night only, Saturday, May 17, 2008, get tickets,  
call 619-231-1909 or purchase the door as available.***

Sponsored by the [National Coalition of Free Men](http://www.ncfm.org) (NCFM), [California Men's Centers](http://www.californiamenscenters.org), the [Children Rights Initiative for Sharing Parents Equally](http://www.crispe.org) (CRISPE) and John Van Doorn, [Candidate for San Diego County Board of Supervisors.](#)



The Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women has a new poster suitable for almost anywhere it will fit. You can help DAHMN by calling (1-888-743-5754) or emailing Jan Brown ([dahmwagency@gmail.com](mailto:dahmwagency@gmail.com)) and tell her that you want to buy 20 or more so you can post them in your community and make a difference.

The DAHMN also needs men to take a survey, men that have been physically abused by a woman in the last year. The online survey is at: [www.clarku.edu/faculty/dhines](http://www.clarku.edu/faculty/dhines). You must call the DAHMW helpline in order to determine eligibility and receive the password for the online survey. Your call or email will be kept strictly confidential; no personal identifying information will be required from you if you decide to participate in this study.



John Van Doorn has been a consistent supporter of the Men's Center, NCFM, CRISPE, and the movie SUPPORT, System

Down. After years of battling, John is still being victimized by the family court system and false accusations. Click on the banner above and take a look at his website.

Moxon's long awaited book *The Woman Racket* is causing quite a stir across the pond and elsewhere. His first investigative report thrashed England's immigration system and heads rolled from the government dole to the unemployment line.



Moxon combines hard science with gender biased ideological consequences finding mostly politically driven hogwash.

Perhaps the most important book in our business since Warren Farrell's *The Myth of Male Power*.



Last week RADAR representatives canvassed the U.S. Senate and distributed I-VAWA flyers to all 100 Senate offices! You can help. Print any or all of the RADAR flyers below and start handing them out; or, better, get them to your elected officials.

- [NEW I-VAWA: Foreign Policy Based on a Woozle?](#)
- [CEDAW and I-VAWA: Promoting Family Break-up Around the World](#)
- [Why We Must Stop CEDAW and I-VAWA](#)

## **Doctorial Candidate Needs Help**

I am now seeking information on abuse experiences and would be extremely grateful if you would be able to participate in an online, anonymous survey. The information is for my doctoral dissertation and I am having a hard time convincing my committee members that men's experiences parallel everything they know about women's. So any assistance you can offer in that regard would be fantastic! The link to the survey is here:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=lsGIU5uwXMcV7uBsHkyA\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=lsGIU5uwXMcV7uBsHkyA_3d_3d)

It is a 25-35 minute survey, so I may have trouble finding people willing to complete it, but again, any input you can offer is much appreciated! Also, if you'd like to forward this link to anyone you may know who could help, that would be great.

Please let me know if you have any questions for me.

Thank you!

Jessi Eckstein



Paul Cooper was our invited guest at the April NCFM-San Diego Chapter meeting.



Mr. Cooper is currently Chief Council to San Diego Police Chief William Lansdowne. Having spent considerable time with the City Attorney's Office he once served as Head of the Domestic Violence & Child Abuse Unit.

Mr. Cooper appeared open to our concerns, listened, and was knowledgeable. We discussed the need for false accusers to be held accountable, arresting men as perpetrators of domestic violence when in fact they are the victim, and related issues, including problems associated with child custody.

April 16, 2008, the day after Parental Alienation Awareness Day, CMC volunteers from the National Coalition of Free Men (NCFM-SD), Fathers 4 Justice (f4j), Children's Right Initiative for Sharing Parents Equally (CRISPE), and Coalition of Parent Support (COPS), put down a couple hundred hamburgers, cases of hotdogs and brauts, at the kickoff event for Californian's for Equal Parenting (CAFEP).



Over 100 people ate, played in the sun, sat in the shade, played games, and won prizes, including great gift certificates from Von's and Albertson's grocery stores, tickets to Lego Land (thank you NCFM Secretary Kevin Young for the tickets), and dinners at City Wok, The Melting Pot, and House of Blues. Alan and Craig Candelore of the Men's Legal Center donated most of the food, drinks, tables, chairs... and Larry

Kerkman, Mr. CRISPE, brought the bus with on board supplies, equipment and helium for balloons. Randy cooked. Rich A. coordinated. Linda Evans and Dawn MacNabb helped setup and prep food. We collected contact information from over 40 guests who wandered in from the park, wanted information or, maybe, just some food! Above is Marc Angelucci looking to see if anyone cooked up more hamburgers.



Over 100 people showed up!



The Food Line



Left to right: Mrs. Millie Candelore (wonderful lady), Alan's close friend whose name I cannot spell, and Alan Candelore (grandson of Millie), who with truck, trailer, and company check book saved our picnic



Brochures, books, buttons, and shade... Second from left is Dennis E. from LA. Dennis led a protest in Torrance that is changing a high school, maybe the school district, about how they view domestic violence.

Thanks in large part to Dennis's efforts Marc Angelucci and I will be speaking to the West Torrance High School Student Government May 13, 2008 about domestic violence.

## **Paternity Fraud Caught**

Several weeks ago he came in the office. She said he was the father of her new born son. He thought not, wanted to know what he could do. She would not let him leave her apartment to spend time alone with the baby, though she would let him "babysit" while she went out with her girlfriends. He needed to know what to do, but he wanted to know whether he was the Dad, wanted to know before signing the birth certificate or spending more time with the baby. I recommended he go to Rite Aide and buy a home paternity test (\$29.95 and about \$125 to process) which he could use to collect DNA samples from the baby while babysitting and easily mail to the laboratory for processing.

Yesterday he came in the office, smiling with a copy of the DNA test results for me. The results of the DNA test were negative. When he got the results he printed out several copies and sealed them in envelopes. Soon he was to meet his "ex" girlfriend to babysit. He arrived at her apartment early, before she returned from shopping. Her roommate let him into the apartment where waiting were four "Girlfriends" of his ex. Over the previous months Girlfriends and ex had viciously taunted him regularly calling him a deadbeat dad and otherwise disparaging his manhood. Several times all five actually surrounded him all shouting, pointing, and accusing at the same time.

He waited until heard Girlfriend drive up and honk, honk, honk, for him to come help with the baby as earlier agreed while she unloaded whatever she bought while shopping, then he handed an envelope to each girlfriend, left the apartment, went to the car where Girlfriend had the driver window rolled down while arranging things in the front seat, including the baby. She blurted, "Bought time, where you been Deadbeat?" He handed her the copy of the test results. Upon opening her envelope she started to laugh, showed no sign of regret, only more contempt for him because he had caught her committing paternity fraud, no mistake, fraud. The four girlfriends stood side-by-side with hands gripped to the second story apartment's open walkway handrail, speechless, each one with part of an envelope trapped between fingers and handrail. They weren't laughing but started up with name calling and threats.

He's coming in the office early next week to record his story, which once I figure out how will post the audio on [www.californiamenscenters.org](http://www.californiamenscenters.org). It's a hell of a story, but just one of tens of thousands very much like it.

## **Paternity Fraud Reversed**

She comes to the office fairly regularly, helps us in many ways, and may soon be doing Family Court Services mediation preparation with us. She hasn't seen her daughter in years and is determined to gain custody from her abusive ex husband (and he his abusive). She doesn't think he's the father. He refuses to bring the daughter forward for a paternity test, which tends to indicate that she may be absolutely right. The man is apparently "connected", a crook (big time), and threatening to leave the country with the daughter. So far the backwoods court has refused to grant her request for a paternity test.

# The Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment

By Richard Davis

If the facts don't fit the theory, change the facts.

Albert Einstein

I received more emails about my last column, [Mandatory arrest: A flawed policy based on a false premise](#), than any column to date. Most of the comments were similar to those I received following my presentation at the February [domestic violence conference](#) in Sacramento, CA that was sponsored in part by the [National Family Violence Legislative Resource Center](#).

At the conference I stated that, to date there is not a single empirical study that documents mandatory arrest works best for victims, offenders, or law enforcement. Apparently there are some people that attended the conference or read my column who believe the [Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment](#) (MDVE) documents that arrest works best. However, if you read the hyperlinked MDVE report you will discover **that is not** what the MDVE demonstrates.

## Ubiquitous Misinterpretations

Similar to the following paper [What Does Research and Evaluation Say About Domestic Violence Laws?](#) (Miller, 2005), it is almost universally written and accepted by most domestic violence advocates, academics, public policy makers, and the electronic and print media that that the MDVE proved that arrest works best concerning law enforcement domestic violence intervention. The above paper claims:

In the most-far-reaching of these studies, an experimental-design study conducted in Minneapolis reached the conclusion that arrest of batterers results in an overall reduction of recidivism: reduced repeat assaults (Miller, 2005, p.14).

Some these misinterpretations may be the fault of the MDVE co-authors, Lawrence W. Sherman and Richard A. Berk. On the first page of the MDVE, Sherman and Berk write, "It [the MDVE] found that arrest was the most effective of three standard methods police use to reduce domestic violence." This claim, in and of itself, certainly seems to demonstrate that arrest does work best.

However, Sherman and Berk are only partially responsible for the ubiquitous misinterpretations of their study because in the same paragraph they write, "These were not life-threatening cases, but rather the minor assaults which make up the bulk of police calls to domestic violence." The MDVE clearly documents that it *screened out the serious cases and researched only minor incidents*. What the MDVE does seem to demonstrate is that arrest works best for minor domestic violence ([family conflict](#)), not serious ([battering behavior](#)).

Even that conclusion contains some important caveats. In the next paragraph they write, "The findings, standing alone as the result of one experiment, do not necessarily imply that all

suspected assailants in domestic violence experiments should be arrested." And, "Other experiments in other settings are needed to learn more."

And did the advocates, public policy makers and the electronic and print media listen to these concerns and wait to learn more? Just a few years after the MDVE, 90% of law enforcement agencies had either "encouraged" or "required" arrest policies. In 2008 almost half the states have mandatory arrest and prosecution policies and all have some form or type of preferred or encouraged arrest policies.

### **Spouse Assault Replication Program (SARP)**

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cosponsored five programs, as suggested by the MDVE. On the first page of the SARP the authors write that the use of arrest was only occasionally associated with statistically significant reductions in reduced repeat assaults. The SARP also reported that the majority of men discontinued their offending without an arrest.

The authors of the SARP note that policies mandating arrest for all suspects may unnecessarily reduce the ability of the criminal justice system to serve diverse individual victims and complex cultural communities. The SARP also suggests that the best response, given the limited resources and personnel of the criminal justice system, may better serve the community by identifying and focusing on the most violent offenders and those victims most at risk and in need of assistance.

### **Unintended Consequences**

Some of my [past columns](#) demonstrate that there are a growing number of studies that document "one-solution-fits-all" criminal justice intervention processes have produced some unforeseen and unintended negative consequences. These "one-solution-fits-all" policies and practices may save some lives and may make some families safer. However, at the same time a growing number of studies documents that "one-solution-fits-all" styled intervention can have negative consequences and do endanger some of the victims they are intended to protect.

In my column [National Institute of Justice Studies Ignored](#), I detailed some of the unintended consequences in the following studies: [Controlling Violence Against Women](#), [Forgoing Criminal Justice Assistance](#), [Safety and Justice for All](#), [Effects of No-Drop Prosecution of Domestic Violence Upon Conviction Rates](#), [Exposure Reduction or Backlash?](#) and [Advancing the Federal Research Agenda on Violence Against Women](#).

The study [Effects of victims' experiences with prosecutors on victim empowerment and re-occurrence of intimate partner violence, final report](#) is also relevant. This study found that no-drop policies had the effect of lowering victims' empowerment and were unrelated to the reoccurrence of violence in victims' lives.

The article [Mandatory Arrest and Prosecution Policies for Domestic Violence](#) is on the National Violence Against Women Prevention Research Center website. This article suggests, as do many others, that one-solution-fits-all interventions may have very negative effects on some victims. It suggests that all domestic violence interventions should be tailored to fit the diverse and often complex needs of the victims.

And what should be most troubling for advocates, academics, public policy makers and the electronic and print media is a recent study, [Does the Certainty of Arrest Reduce Domestic Violence?](#) evidence from Mandatory and Recommended Arrest Laws. This study provides evidence that mandatory arrest laws may have played a role in harming the people they are intended to help by increasing the number of intimate partner homicides.

This increase in intimate partner homicides is documented in the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) online report [Homicide Trends in the U.S.](#) under, "The proportion of all homicides involving intimates by gender of victim, 1976-2005." From 1976 to 1993 the number of female intimate partner homicides decreased from 34.5% to 28.2%. From 1994 to 2005, while the percentage of non-intimate or unknown homicides of women decreased from 72.0% to 66.7% the number of intimate partner homicides of women increased from 28.0% to 33.3%.

## Conclusion

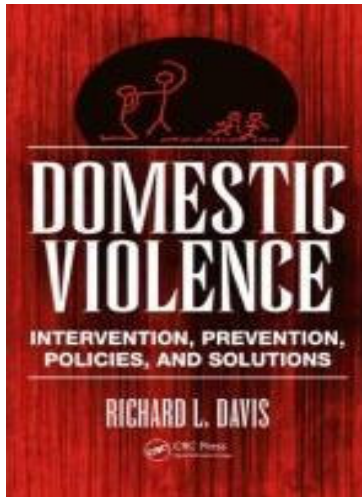
Advocates, researchers, or public policy makers need only to read the MDVE to discover that it did not include the full spectrum of complex and multifaceted domestic violence incidents. In fact the MDVE was a very limited experiment: "The design applied only to simple (misdemeanor) domestic assaults, where both the suspect and the victim were present" (MDVE, p.2). Hence, the MDVE demonstrates that arrest may work best only for what is labeled "family conflict" or minor domestic violence incidents. The MDVE *did not* provide any relevant data concerning deterrence for serious long term violence or "battering behavior."

The MDVE also warns that the socioeconomic and cultural demographics of Minneapolis may not be comparable in many other urban settings and the effects of "one-solution-fits-all" policies may prove to be different in different settings. In fact, the SARP clearly demonstrates that there are different effects in different settings.

The MDVE made no recommendations for the implementation of mandatory arrest or mandatory prosecution policies. In fact the MDVE project director, Lawrence W. Sherman in his book, *Policing Domestic Violence: Experiments and Dilemmas* calls for the repeal of mandatory arrest laws. Sherman does not believe that mandatory arrest will provide a general deterrent effect concerning the general public and he fears that mandatory arrest may actually be detrimental to many people who live at lower end of the socioeconomic educational strata of society. The rise in intimate partner homicides may provide verification to Sherman's fears.

And before you challenge or disagree with the conclusions of this column you should first read the hyperlinked relevant studies this column provides and decide for yourself what the facts are, rather than simply accepting as fact what others claim the MDVE documents.

And because I believe that complaining about what is wrong without suggesting what might be right, is in and of itself the wrong thing to do, my next column will make some suggestions concerning what policies and procedures might be more effective than "one-solution-fits-all" intervention policies.



- # [Dads twice as likely to become depressed, new study says, parenting nine-month-olds...hmm.](#)
- # [Boys versus girls, maximizing your child's potential](#)
- # [Eight things she hates about you. Don't know why she's angry? Now you do.](#)
- # [Slumping economy: It's a guy thing. Men are losing jobs in this downturn while women are making gains.](#) More and more men becoming unemployed helps prison industries since soon more and more men will be headed for jail being unable to pay child support. How do women now receiving child support benefit from that?
- # [Mother regains custody of pot smoking toddler.](#) You can watch the video! The boy's mother, Krystle Weber, was in the room at the time. "I swear to God, I better not get in trouble for all this," she says on the video.

Take Care, Harry Crouch, Director California Men's Centers