The DCFS Mindset

DCFS receives tens of thousands of dollars in federal grants for each child it removes from the home of a Utah family. Many DCFS employees will not hesitate to lie, cheat, and steal in order to receive these perverse incentives.

DCFS employees search for anything that can be used to justify removing children from their homes. They often build evidence around nonsensical things such as joking about wringing your child's neck for climbing a steep embankment, a dirty sink or laundry room, and children who are dirty from playing outside.

Innocent Parents Are Denied Due Process

Innocent Utah parents have no right to a trial by a jury of their peers, can have their wages garnished while the state attacks them, can be forced to pay for a court-appointed attorney, and can not stop the state from subjecting their children to mind-altering drugs and mistreatment while in state custody.

Utah Laws Are Stacked Against Innocent Parents

In Utah, "abuse" includes actual or threatened "nonaccidental physical or mental harm." (Statute 78-3a-103(1)(a) and 62A-4a-101(1)(a) and (b))

"Neglect" includes a minor whose parent "fails or refuses to provide proper or necessary subsistence, education, or medical care, including surgery or psychiatric services when required, or any other care necessary for health, safety, morals, or well-being." (Statute 78-3a-101(1)(s)(i)) Continued on next panel

This has been interpreted to include messy kitchens, dirty laundry on laundry day, and refusing to give children psychotropic drugs pushed by government school employees.

"Parental Unfitness" includes, "a single incident of life-threatening or gravely disabling injury to or disfigurement of the child". (Statute 78-3a-408(4)(c))

What if your child accidentally falls off the playground slide or accidentally burns himself on a hot stove? The State of Utah regularly finds parents "unfit" for these and more ridiculous reasons, and permanently terminates their rights to be parents.

Stay Informed & Active!

Innocent parents need to fight together! Stay educated and informed via organizations monitoring and fighting DCFS abuses. Learn from all of them so that you can to protect your family and innocent neighbors.

Realize that your state legislators are ultimately responsible for the horrible laws and perverse federal incentives that allow DCFS to destroy innocent families. Demand that they take immediate action to end the injustice.

Copyright © 2003 Accountability Utah. Learn more about the law, abuses that occur, and what you can do at www.accountabilityutah.org. Permission to reprint this brochure *in its entirety* is hereby provided.

NOTE: This information is for educational purposes only. It is opinion, not legal advice.

Special thanks to the American Family Rights Association at familyrights association.com for assistance with this brochure

FAMILY SURVIVAL INFORMATION



What Will You Do When DCFS Knocks?

Last year, 1,624 Utah children were taken from their families by the Utah Division of Child & Family Services (DCFS).

Innocent families are denied due process protections and are regularly subjected to shocking injustices. Many of the children seized are sexually and physically abused in the foster care system.

This brochure is strong because the threat is real. Learn how you can respond to DCFS attack techniques and how you can help prevent your children from becoming the next casualties in the war on Utah families.

If DCFS Comes Knocking...

If someone comes to your door who might be a DCFS employee, consider the following:

Before responding, place your children in another room and shut the door where they cannot be seen through any window. DCFS workers have been known to creep around homes looking for children.

DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR! State employees and police have no right to enter your home unless there is a real, immediate, life-threatening emergency or if they produce a legitimate search warrant *signed by a judge*. (Beware: DCFS employees attempt to fool parents with forms that are not search warrants.)

Tell them you will not talk to them without your attorney present, even if you don't currently have an attorney. Be firm, but calm and composed, if they threaten you. Anything you say will likely be twisted and used against you.

Immediately call trusted neighbors to come over and serve as witnesses. You should prearrange for them to come with tape recorders and video cameras to vigilantly record everything that transpires. This intimidates DCFS employees and can provide you with a stronger defense in court.

If a DCFS employee enters your home, order him to leave. If he does not comply immediately, call the police and report a trespasser in your home who refuses to leave.

Do not allow your child to be interviewed. Children say the darndest things, particularly when crooked state employees are coaxing them along.

Do not trust any state employee <u>for any reason</u>. They are not your friends!

Do not sign or admit to anything without first consulting one or more experienced attorneys.

RECORD EVERYTHING! Document and, if possible, tape record, all interviews, phone calls, events or altercations as thoroughly as possible. (Write things down as soon as possible after an interview or phone call.)

Locate and preserve any evidence corroborating your innocence. DO NOT rely on others, including your attorney, to do this.

General Precautions

Until sanity is restored in Utah, consider the following precautions:

Ensure your children are appropriately dressed. Do not let them run around outside in only diapers.

Do not swat your children in public and be careful what you say to them (and about them) to others. Even benign teasing can be used against parents.

Keep your doors locked and don't allow young children to answer the door or phone.

Have your children learn your home phone number so that you can pick them up quickly if they ever get lost.

Recognize that children in government school can, at any time, be interrogated, strip-searched, photographed, seized, x-rayed, medicated, and placed in foster care or other

state-run institutions — all without your knowledge, notification, or consent.

Preventative Medicine

Investigate your doctor and hospital before you need them. Do they honor and appreciate parental rights? Regardless of whether you actually practice alternative medicine, does your doctor respect others' right to practice it? Word of mouth can be helpful in locating the safest possible environment.

Note that doctors who do not report all possible abuse are guilty of a Class B Misdemeanor and can lose their licenses.

When you do visit a doctor, consider bringing a small tape recorder and another adult witness with you to record the discussions.

Also file a written notice with all medical professionals that you or any member of your family has seen, restricting them from discussing your medical history with anyone unless authorized by you in writing.

Finding the Right Attorney

Your attorney can make or break your defense. Does he take your input seriously? Does he work? Has he had experience with these types of cases and how successful has he been? Do you know someone who has used him before in a similar predicament? If your gut instinct tells you to find someone else, listen and do so quickly.