

From The Desk Of Jill Jones-Soderman

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THE VICTIMS OF POLICE THAT ARE RARELY IF EVER NOTICED

Prosecutorial Discretion

When someone who feels that they have been a victim of a crime seeks out a policeman they expect to be able to file a police report, to have their violation explored, their complaint investigated. They do not expect to themselves become the subject of complaint, object of investigation, subject of ridicule, but this experience is more common than generally known. The population that is very familiar with this type of treatment are parents of children whom are subjects of physical or sexual abuse.

The idea that a parent, guardian, professional seeks assistance from the police in a highly vulnerable, threatening situation and is not only turned away – but humiliated, demeaned, insulted, threatened, is unconscionable. The contempt, suspicion, blame emanating from the officer – male or female officer is palpable and highly disturbing, an experience met with disbelief and then a sense of overwhelming despair. A crime has been committed, the victim needs the validation of a police documentation of a complaint, evidence if any exists, a minimum, a report that such an event, worthy in someone's mind of a complaint, occurred.

For child victims of physical and sexual abuse the experience of an indifferent, incredulous, judgmental police audience is as per the experience of staff of the FCVFC, the rule and not the exception. The banding together of the psychopath perpetrator and the ignorant, inept, incompetent services of the agency that goes by many acronyms all purporting to stand for “Child Protective Services”, presents what appears to be an impenetrable wall of silence standing between the victim and any hope of rescue. Further processing of undocumented or improperly documented crimes are then further processed by an equally ignorant, inept, corrupt child, juvenile, dependency, family court system.

In Maryland, a CPS caseworker, Bobby Feher documented the abuse reported by twelve year old Jace Bouma and then closed the case. The Howard County Court and the band of miscreant judges worked with/colluded with the dubiously named “renowned” Paul Berman PhD, custody evaluator and sentenced innumerable children to a life of cruelty and ill treatment . The police who came to the door at the request of FCVFC staff met with, not the child, but the gatekeepers to the child's abuse. The child, when seen was told, “You are getting what your family thinks you need”..... a good beating.

In California, a police sergeant contacted to by a protective mother asking for “proof of life” that her child was still alive, as she had no contact at all with her in eighteen months. She was fully aware that the child was living in grave danger at the hands of a well documented deranged predator. The psychopath predator who appeared before the court admitting to this crimes and was credited with honesty was given custody of the child he abused. Having shown the “papers “ to the local police, the protective mother was then labeled as a bitter, hostile, vengeful, spiteful stalker who was interfering in the father/daughter relationship. The Sergeant refused to give the mother the satisfaction of having proof of life. He taunted her. He told her that she should come to court to present her plea/her case, knowing full well if she came to court she would be arrested for contempt of court.

In New York a client of the FCVFC called the police to report a stolen car. The police told her that

“there was no crime in this community” and that she must know who stole the car and not informing them of who had access to the car suggested that she was engaged in insurance fraud. The police wanted the name of the someone in order to investigate the thief connected to the caller. The officer contacted hung up on our client. Pursuit of the officer's name met with the response of an officer coming to the victims home, reputedly to take a report. The officer instead turned the contact into a “well check” on the client, filing a request with Adult Services to investigate the capacity of the caller with a complaint of a stolen car, to take care of herself.

Parents whom are seeking police assistance, or children, who are attempting to report crimes committed against them of a sexual nature are constantly turned back to the hands of their perpetrators. The police state that the “report is not credible”, the child is coached, vengeful, spoiled, seeking to avoid strict parenting/punishment for some ill deed committed by the child. A parent seeking a police report for violence against a child, or themselves, is more often accused of “trying to engage the police in a campaign of testimony against the other parent for purposes of pursuing custody litigation”. It is most likely that the complaint to the police will in fact morph into a complaint against the protective parent and result in the police returning to the home of the protective parent to remove the child.

In New Jersey, police were called numerous times to deal with violent domestic violence attacks by an abusive husband who beat the hell out of his wife and three children. The police threatened to file reports against both husband and wife. This presented enough of a chilling effect for the mother to stop seeking any protection from the police. When she escaped with her children from the marital home the husband went to court to gain custody of his three sons, but first he asked for immediate enforcement of visitation. The police were ordered, by the court, to remove the children from their home, for visitation”with all necessary force”. The children were approximately five, six and eight years old when they ran from three sumo wrestler sized police officers who followed on foot and in police cars, wrestled the children to the street and hurled them into the car with their father and the random men who sat shot gun by his side.

The questions raised are – are the police merely the standing army for the courts?, are they comprised of violence junkies who spring into action when there is an action events, viewed as presenting in their minds, clear probable cause?, are they a group of highly paranoid, suspicious individuals who view themselves as subjects of endless attempts by the public to dupe them into covering the crimes/evil acts of criminals seeking to cover their tracks?. The police are invested with prosecutorial discretion. If they do not think an event needs an investigation, they do not need to investigate. The police hold immunity, so if they make a mistake, they are not held accountable (no equivocation on this matter will be taken into consideration with regard to this article).

In the experience of the staff of the FCVFC the police are all too often part of a food chain feeding victims of family violence and sexual abuse into the meat grinder existence into which victims of violence are forced. The ignorance represented by the lack of understanding of evidence viewed by authorities, such as the police, create a sequence of victims, victims turned predators/criminals and the predator culture of authorities who profit from crime and those who seek to cover their crimes.

The client situations to which we refer in this article are fully and completely documented. The events to which we refer are vignettes and do not comprise the entirety of circumstances which unfolded or the interventions which confronted the events described.

