

From The Desk Of Jill Jones-Soderman

Article –“ The Pilot Was Locked Out Of The Cockpit”

A Metaphor For Litigants In Custody Conflicts Children In Jeopardy

Litigants in custody conflicts of the nature dealt with by the Foundation are quite literally life and death conflicts for the nuclear, extended family, community and generations to come.

The public appears to believe in the delusion of Judicial wisdom, equity and the ethics, skill, competence of attorneys representing clients. Awareness of collusion between court actors – judges, lawyers, mental health appointees is a well established belief in the system. The idea that the system is not only broken – but rotten to the core; rife with back room deals, pay-offs, retribution for speaking out delivered through police who file fraudulent reports, do not investigate reports of crimes committed against children, plant drugs, harass

Who guards the guardians – the answer is barely anyone until the situations become sooo public as per the numbers of litigants dealt with in a manner sooo outrageously inequitable that the problems cannot go unnoticed – even by the press. The Press – radio, tv, newspapers are loathe to deal with messy, contentious, litigious, consequences of the retaliation of the lawyers and the unlimited resources of the courts.

Substitute terms:

The pilot shut out of the cockpit – the client who signs a retainer agreement with an attorney is at the mercy of that attorney. The attorney can make deals against the client's interest of which the client is not aware until they lose the case.

An article “WHAT YOUR ATTORNEY SAYS BEHIND YOUR BACK” details what really goes on in litigation found in the discovery process when the litigant sues the attorney for mal practice.

“The full horror of the crash” - represents the dawning awareness of the client who begins to understand why they lost custody of their children having done everything right, paid hundreds of thousands to lawyers and experts

“Anyone who could change the jet's disastrous course was locked out” -

The client's capacity to make decisions in their own interests is prohibited by the client's ignorance of events around them and there is no one present to inform the client of what is happening to them as the lawyer entrusted with the client's interests represents their own interests and not necessarily the client's.

“It is hard to imagine the growing feelings of fear and helplessness that”..... the children feel when the court has taken control of their lives and is transferring custody and total control into the hands of their abuser -

The numbers of wrongful custody transfers and the devastating, wide reaching impact are unknown because so much that goes on, goes on behind closed doors, behind client's backs and are part of business as usual outside of the purview of gatekeepers.