

# PROTECTIVE PARENT SURVEY

California Protective Parents Association and Our Children Our Future Charitable Foundation are collecting data for a national research project involving cases of children placed by family courts in the custody of, or unsupervised visitation with, their identified abusing parent. **All identifying information will be kept confidential.**

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ [Case \_\_\_\_\_ v \_\_\_\_\_]  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for completing this survey. Please answer all questions, if appropriate to your case. Mark the O in front of the response.**

**Case** 1) In what state(s) is your case? \_\_\_\_\_ 2) In what county(ies)? \_\_\_\_\_ 3) Your case # \_\_\_\_\_  
4) What year were documents first filed? \_\_\_\_\_ 5) Is your case still in progress?.....  Yes  No

**Cost** 6) Approximately how much money have you paid for litigation related to your present case?..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
[attorney fees, court filing fees, mediation, evaluations, supervised visitation, court ordered classes, therapy, etc]  
7) Have you ever had to file bankruptcy as a result of litigation costs?.....  Yes  No

**Attorney** 8) Have you ever been represented by an attorney during this case?  Yes  No 9) If so, by how many? \_\_\_\_\_  
10) At any time was your ex-spouse/partner represented by an attorney when you were not?.....  Yes  No

**Children** 11) What were the ages of the child(ren) of this relationship at the time of separation?  
Girls' ages \_\_\_\_\_ Boys' ages \_\_\_\_\_  
12) Estimate the percentage of caretaking time by each caretaker before the separation?  Mother \_\_\_\_%  Father \_\_\_\_%  
 Relative \_\_\_\_\_%  Other \_\_\_\_\_%  
13) At the time of separation, did the primary caretaker maintain primary physical custody? .....  Yes  No

**Issues** 14) Over which of the following issues were there disputes in your court case? [Mark all that apply]  
 Property settlement  Spousal support  Child support  Move away  Child custody/visitation  Alcoholism  
 Drug abuse/type of drugs \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
15) Who initiated the litigation?  Mother  Father  
16) Were you the victim of domestic violence perpetrated upon you by the other parent?.....  Yes  No  
17) If so, did your children witness the violence?.....  Yes  No  
18) Did the violence begin or escalate after separation?.....  Yes  No  
19) Did your ex spouse/partner ever threaten to take the children if you left the relationship? .....  Yes  No  
20) Were there allegations of child abuse made during your family court litigation? .....  Yes  No  
If so, what type? Who is the identified perpetrator? Who first made the allegation?  
21)  Physical abuse.....  Father  Mother  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Child  Mother  Father  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
22)  Sexual abuse .....  Father  Mother  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Child  Mother  Father  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
23)  Verbal/emotional abuse ...  Father  Mother  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Child  Mother  Father  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
24)  Neglect .....  Father  Mother  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Child  Mother  Father  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
25)  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Father  Mother  Other \_\_\_\_\_  Child  Mother  Father  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
26) Age of 1<sup>st</sup> child when abuse first occurred \_\_\_  Boy  Girl 27) Age of 2<sup>nd</sup> child when abuse first occurred \_\_\_  Boy  Girl  
28) Did the child positively identify the other parent as the perpetrator?.....  Yes  No  
29) Was there medical/physical evidence of abuse?.....  Yes  No  
30) Was there other corroborating evidence of abuse? [What type(s)? \_\_\_\_\_]  Yes

No  
31) What symptoms?  Sexual acting out  Depression  Stomach/head/other pain  Dissociation  Overwhelming anger/rage  
 Nightmares/sleep disorders  Fears/phobias  Eating disorders  Regression (bedwetting/leak feces/suck thumb, etc.)  
 Constipation/diarrhea  Learning disability  Attention deficit  Suicide attempt  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
32) Did the child(ren) receive Victims of Crime funding for therapy for the crime? .....  Yes  No

**History** 33) Please mark all labels your ex-spouse/partner received from mental health professionals prior to separation:  Schizophrenia  
 Bi-polar disorder  Borderline personality  Depression  Anxiety  Post-traumatic stress disorder  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
34) Does s/he have a history of alcohol/drug abuse?  Yes  No 35) If so, is s/he clean/sober?  Yes  No 36) How long? \_\_\_\_\_  
37) Does s/he have a criminal history?  Yes  No 38) If so, what was s/he arrested for? \_\_\_\_\_ 39) Convicted of? \_\_\_\_\_  
Please describe \_\_\_\_\_  
40) Please mark all labels you received from mental health professionals prior to separation:  Schizophrenia  
 Bi-polar disorder  Borderline personality  Depression  Anxiety  Post-traumatic stress disorder  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
41) Do you have a history of alcohol/drug abuse?  Yes  No 42) If so, are you clean/sober?  Yes  No 43) How long? \_\_\_\_\_  
44) Do you have a criminal history?  Yes  No 45) If so, what were you arrested for? \_\_\_\_\_ 46) Convicted of? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

**Advice** 47) Did anyone ever advise/insist that you not mention domestic violence or child abuse in family court?.....  Yes  No  
48) If so, who advised you?  Attorney  Mediator  Advocate  Court personnel  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
49) Did your attorney ever tell you that pursuing court action against your ex could negatively affect your case?...  Yes  No

**Custody** 50) Was custody changed to the other parent over your objection or due to an emergency court order?.....  Yes  No  
51) Was unsupervised contact given to the identified offender despite evidence of violence/abuse? .....  Yes  No  
52) Was unsupervised contact given to the identified alcoholic/drug abuser, without drug testing? .....  Yes  No  
53) Was custody changed after you brought issues of  violence,  child abuse,  substance abuse  criminal conduct,  violations of court orders,  move away,  spousal support,  child support to the court's attention? .....  Yes  No  
54) Were judicial findings made that you were a danger to your children or that you were an unfit parent?.....  Yes  No  
55) Were you ever placed on supervised visitation? .....  Yes  No 56) If so, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_  
57) Were you ever restricted from having any contact with your children?  Yes  No 58) If so, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_  
59) Do you believe the other parent attempted to gain increased custody to avoid paying child support? .....  Yes  No  
60) Was financial discovery conducted in your case?  Yes  No 61) Did you give up assets to keep custody?..  Yes  No

**Court Mediation** 62) Did you participate in court-connected mediation regarding custody?.....  Yes  No  
63) If so, was mediation:  Voluntary  Court-ordered  Coerced by threats  
64) Were you required to meet face-to-face with an ex-spouse/partner who perpetrated violence/threats of harm?...  Yes  No  
65) Did you lose any custody rights/contact with your children as a result of recommendations by a mediator? .....  Yes  No

**Evaluation** 66) Did you participate in court-connected evaluations regarding custody? .....  Yes  No  
67) If so, who was evaluated?  Mother  Father  Child(ren)  Others \_\_\_\_\_  
68) Who selected the evaluator?  Mother  Father  Court  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
69) Who paid for the evaluator?  Mother  Father  Court  Other \_\_\_\_\_ 70) How much total? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
71) Did you lose any custody rights/contact with your children as a result of recommendations by the evaluator? ...  Yes  No

**Attorney** 72) Did your child(ren) have an attorney/guardian?  Yes  No 73) Was s/he court appointed? .....  Yes  No  
74) Who selected the attorney?  Mother  Father  Court  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
75) Who paid for the attorney?  Mother  Father  Court  Other \_\_\_\_\_ 76) How much total? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
77) Did this attorney aggressively advocate for the safety of your child? .....  Yes  No

**Law Enforcement** 78) Was the other parent  arrested  prosecuted for spousal or child abuse?.....  Yes  No

**Child Protective Services** 79) Did CPS intervene in your case?  Yes  No 80) Did they protect your child?...  Yes  No

**Evidence** 81) Did any court-related professional ignore, minimize or refute evidence of abuse?.....  Yes  No  
82) If so, who?  Mediator  Evaluator  Attorney for minor  Judge  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
83) Did any court-related professional label you with any of the following:  Parental Alienation Syndrome  Alienator  Folie a deux  Munchhausen's Syndrome by Proxy  Delusional  Schizophrenia  Bi-polar disorder  Borderline personality  Depression  Anxiety  Post-traumatic stress disorder  Other rare/unscientific label \_\_\_\_\_  
84) In your case, was Richard Gardner MD  An expert witness  A consultant  Quoted  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Process** 85) Do you believe you were discriminated against for your attempts to protect yourself and/or your child(ren)? ....  Yes  No  
86) If so, do you believe this is occurred due to  Unethical communication or relationships among court-related professionals  Unethical communication or relationship between your ex-spouse/partner and court-related professionals  Financial/social status of your ex-spouse/partner  Gender bias  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
87) Were evaluator/mediator recommendations ever provided to the court less than 10 days before a hearing?.....  Yes  No  
88) Were you prevented from seeing evaluations/reports that resulted in custody decisions? .....  Yes  No  
89) Were you ever denied the ability to adequately present your case (unable to present/examine witnesses, etc.)? ....  Yes  No  
90) Were hearings resulting in custody decisions held without your knowledge or ability to be present (ex parte)? ..  Yes  No  
91) Were hearings regarding custody/visitation ever conducted without a court reporter present?.....  Yes  No  
92) Were you ever threatened that talking publicly could result in damage to your case? .....  Yes  No  
93) Were court transcripts complete/accurate?  Yes  No 94) Were transcripts denied/delayed?.  Yes  No 95) How long?\_\_\_\_  
96) Have you ever been incarcerated in a jail or mental health facility due to the family law case? .....  Yes  No

**Current Custody Arrangement** 97)  Primary custody with me and supervised visitation with other parent  Primary custody with me and unsupervised visitation with other parent  Joint custody  Full custody to the other parent  I am on supervised visitation  I have no contact with my child(ren)  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
98) Are you able to protect your children?  Yes  No 99) Do you believe your child(ren) are still being abused?  Yes  No  
100) Have your child(ren) continued to report abuse after custody was changed to the identified abuser? .....  Yes  No  
101) Did you stop reporting suspected child abuse for fear your contact with your child(ren) will be terminated?...  Yes  No

Do we have permission to contact you for further information?  Yes  No Your signature \_\_\_\_\_