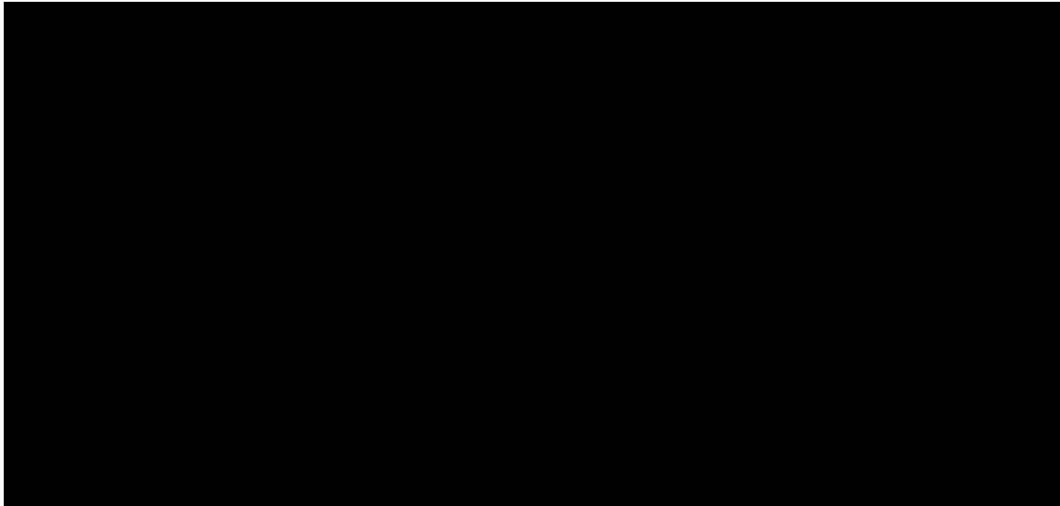


From:
To:
Subject:
Date:
Attachments:



I am presently in the middle of Family Court Proceedings and am concerned that if information comes out publicly it may disadvantage me. Otherwise I am happy for for my case to be shared if it can help others .

My story

I'm a mother of [REDACTED] year old and was pregnant with our [REDACTED] child. (I have [REDACTED] children in [REDACTED])

I met [REDACTED] in April [REDACTED]. His father became unwell [REDACTED] and passed away in [REDACTED] and he also said that he was being bullied at work [REDACTED].

He went into rages, which I attributed to the above stresses.(I'm a [REDACTED] and if [REDACTED] overreacts to a minor thing, I attribute it to other stressors) I was very supportive of him and believed that this was a difficult time and that with some support that he would be ok.

[REDACTED] was becoming increasingly mentally unstable over the last [REDACTED] months of my [REDACTED] pregnancy [REDACTED]

However, after having attended a course about Family Violence and now looking back I can see that [REDACTED]'s rages were a pattern of his bullying behaviour, which I did not recognise at the time.

Over time an ongoing pattern emerged where [REDACTED] increasingly put the baby and toddler in negligent situations, but he would lash out against me if I said this. Some examples of his behaviour included that he went into rages over trivial matters, refused to speak to me for days, slammed the door in an aggressive and intimidating manner, violently threw [REDACTED] at me whilst heavily pregnant and missed, and drove recklessly with the whole family often in the presence of the children.

[REDACTED]'s Mental Health

[REDACTED] has a persecution complex complex /paranoia and falsely perceives

everyday events as being threat to him and he lashes out in a rage. He has delusional and distorted thoughts.

He has depression, is extremely anxious, has panic attacks, excessive ruminations, suicidal tendencies, feelings of being a failure and inadequate. He can be impulsive and reckless with the whole family's safety- including dangerously driving.

He has unrealistic belief and visions of grandeur in his success in areas such as his career which is the complete opposite to his real situation.

█'s family

He has a fixation and an enmeshed relationship with his mother.

His █ said that he was previously assessed for Bipolar Disorder.

█'s mother self appointed herself as the mother in her bizarre wish to reparent and █ supported her in this role- rather than his wife !

█

█ was bullied by his parents

█'s family is highly dysfunctional. █'s family are now covering up his behaviour and mental health issues as they want access to the children. I believe that █'s family is negligent towards his mental health.

What happened

Due to his volatile behaviour I was forced to leave █ weeks before giving birth to my █ child.

█ threatened to jump out of a moving car on the day of separation.

I left for my and the children's safety and wanted to have his mental health history. █ has refused to give his mental health history and is doing whatever he can to prevent this happening. My main concern was to support him and his mental health.

I took out an Intervention order to protect myself and the children. I left home and moved to my parents for █ weeks prior to and █ weeks after the birth of █ child.

█ then saw his psychiatrist Dr █ and played the victim and said that I bullied him !

█ is very charming, persuasive and highly manipulative and shops around to find a mental health professional who he manipulates and then uses as his advocate.

However █ has refused to provide his mental health history and instead has launched legal proceedings in the family court for a separation.

Legal process drains time and money

I wanted to go to mediation so that whatever money we have can go towards the children, instead of going to court which is adversarial, protracted and expensive.

However █ is a █ and initiated family court proceedings which forces me to respond through lawyers. We do not own a home and most of our savings will go on court proceedings when we cannot afford this - it is totally irrational. I will be left with almost no money and to bring up █ children.

The legal process takes up an enormous amount of time when I am extremely time poor and takes time away from the children- which is counter to being in the best interests of the child.

I need protection from my ex husband so that I focus my energy and look after myself and my children. I was breastfeeding a baby every 3 hours over 24 hours

and need to sleep during the day as well as care for [REDACTED] children.

I do not have time to deal with legal issues. I was very tired caring for young children and find it hard to prepare for a legal campaign.

I was also having to deal with bureaucracies such as Centreline, Child support Agency etc which also take a lot of time when I am extremely time poor.

Family Violence Perpetrator plays the victim and falsely accuses me of bullying him.

[REDACTED] is the perpetrator, but plays the victim and attacks me with false allegations of me bullying him. In order to protect myself I have to document everything which takes a lot of time. [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] and makes false allegations against me which he also documents. So it becomes my word against his.

I have to pay a babysitter for child handover and video it so as to protect myself from false allegations from [REDACTED]. Despite being on a pension I prioritise paying a babysitter for handover.

Court Psychiatrist & Child Psychologist

We saw the court psychiatrist Dr [REDACTED] who was NOT provided with [REDACTED]'s mental health history so it is based on incomplete information and should not be relied upon. [REDACTED]'s solicitors did not want Dr [REDACTED] to view [REDACTED]'s mental health history.

Dr [REDACTED] constantly cut me off and would not listen to me, and I felt dismissed by him. He said that I was not subject to Domestic Violence and as he had consultations with people who were repeatedly raped.

He said that [REDACTED] was no risk to the children as he was not belting them up.

Dr [REDACTED] stated that I provoked [REDACTED] (which was not the case) and that I was too anxious . Of course I was anxious as I was living with a mentally unstable husband and I'm concerned for my children's welfare !

Despite Dr [REDACTED] being an independent witness, he may still have personal biases.

I feel that Dr [REDACTED] was very dismissive of me and that he does not understand Family Violence.

Dr [REDACTED] recommended that [REDACTED]'s supervision of the children be lifted and it was.

The court appointed Child Psychologist [REDACTED] who in his report gave a lot of weight to the unreliable Dr [REDACTED]'s report, which further compounded the situation.

[REDACTED]'s current situation

[REDACTED] has not been employed since Mid [REDACTED] .

He says that he is running a business, but earns little money (around \$ [REDACTED] per annum) and is not viable to live off. He lives with his mother.

Now he is older, has been out of work for longer, has mental health problems,

a marriage breakdown and would very likely be in a worse situation mentally.

Ongoing harassment and attempt to wear me down

■■■■ constantly makes false allegations against me at child handover, so to protect myself, I have to employ a babysitter as a witness to this and now use my phone to video this as evidence for court.

Since separation ■■■■ has been constantly harassing me and is trying to wear me down and it seems legitimate as it is in regards to the children. However his demands are constant and he is excessively scrutinising me and denigrates me as a mother. Access with children are used as a way to harass me.

■■■■'s claims that he was bullied at his workplace were false as an independent investigation found that ■■■■ was the bully who played the victim and that he was delusional and had distorted thoughts. He exaggerated trivial matters and made complaints. This is the same behaviour that ■■■■ has shown towards me and my parents as he took out ■■■■ intervention orders on us on fabricated grounds.

■■■■ has repeatedly breached his intervention order, but it is very difficult to prosecute a criminal case unless there is an independent witness who is prepared to go to court. This effectively protects family violence perpetrators from consequences for their behaviour and leaves mothers and children in a very vulnerable situation.

■■■■ is mentally undiagnosed and untreated and has distorted thoughts and delusions and unsupervised access with ■■■■ very young children. I am a mother acting protectively towards my children.

Solutions

The number one priority should be to protect the mother and the children's welfare as they are the most vulnerable.

It needs to be mother focussed. You can only know what it is to be a mother when you become one

Causal relationship with poor mental health, domestic violence and family breakdown

My husband became increasingly mentally unstable. I as a mother wanted to support my husband and help to keep a marriage intact. Instead he became a threat to me and my children when I was vulnerable as I was pregnant.

First I need time to focus on my needs and the children - not to be harassed by my husband and his solicitor by a legal process in an attempt to wear me down when I am time poor looking after a baby and a one and two year old children.

Panel of empathic mothers

Mother's need to feel that they are being heard.

A panel of empathic mothers who are all trained in family violence who are social workers, maternal and child health nurses and child care workers and doctors can interview mothers from family violence situations.

The interviews need to be over a lengthy period of time. (not rushed like the consolation with psychiatrist Dr ■■■■)

These people on the panel must be practical and down to earth, not theoretical pie in the sky types.

No lawyers, no family law court

A system that stops a mentally unwell person from going to court and wasting everyone's time and money.

█ does not have the skills to negotiate, but is high conflict, adversarial and obstructive. He seeks to continue the conflict.

A 70 year male family court judge has no idea of the practical realities of my role as busy mother with █ children █ - he is an expert in the law.

Many lawyers don't understand Family Violence and can be dismissive of my concerns and just want to make money. The adversarial nature of the court is the most counter productive way to resolve family matters.

I feel that the family Court is in its own ivory tower world and is unaware of Social workers and counsellors who work in the family violence area. It makes me feel disbelieved and disempowered, when I have already been through enough with my ex husband.

I feel violated firstly by my husband and then also by the legal process and it makes me feel like I don't count in the community and society. In reality I have a very important role both as an individual and as a mother bringing up children, but I feel that I'm not heard or valued by the courts which reflect the values of society.

The legal system is very inequitable in that one party can go to court in an effort to bankrupt the other party. The mother is normally carrying the responsibility of looking after children with limited time and earning capacity, against a father who can work and fund a legal campaign against her.

This further disadvantages the mother in a domestic violence situation.

Police- it depends who you get, some are sympathetic, some are dismissive. If you get a young male policeman- he has no idea of the realities of a mother with young children.

All police need to be trained in family violence. They may not understand the relationship between intervention orders and the Family Court. They need a better understanding of family law.

Silos - a more co-ordinated approach. I moved municipalities- this means changing social workers and domestic violence services and to re-establish relationships.

Some organisations are better than others - more quality control.

Education in the community about Family Violence and sociopathic personalities

There is widespread ignorance in the community about the complexities of Family violence- many people will say- "why doesn't she just leave"- we need an education campaign.

Children need to be educated about family violence at school.

This includes sociopathic and narcissistic behaviour as I was charmed and conned by my husband who is a fraud. Knowledge about these destructive personalities in our community is very low and needs to be increased.

Often people dismiss my concerns, including friends and family as they don't really understand what is going on and the sociopathic personality- which I find disempowering.

General Practitioners need to be educated about Family Violence so they can help.

Minimise avoidance of spousal and child maintenance

Child Support Agency- any one who is separated needs to be investigated by the ATO for running their own business and for attempting to shift the personal financial responsibility for children onto the tax payer.

Some fathers deliberately become unemployed to avoid spousal and child maintenance and aim to shift this responsibility onto the tax payer rather than taking personal responsibility for their own family.

These fathers need extra scrutiny and to have more measures in place to encourage paid employment.

The End

Regards,

