

I have only recently realised that the sustained controlling and bullying behaviour of my ex-partner constitutes family violence. My family violence experiences have been worse since our relationship ended ■ years ago. Constant psychological manipulation and harassment, threat of Court action over the smallest thing, refusing financial contributions to our daughter's education, medical costs, sporting and other activities, has caused a huge amount of distress for myself and my daughter.

During joint discussions with a Court Counsellor at Family Court ■ years ago it became clear to me the level of distortion my daughter's father applied to everything surrounding our "joint" parenting. When he became "distressed" and tearful about how I "had broken up his family" I realised he was not psychologically well. (He had finished the relationship as I had challenged his physical aggression towards our daughter of ■ years and was told to leave the house). This behaviour would also have been clear to the Court Counsellor and his solicitors to see. He is a very isolated man with few social contacts and speaks very little to others generally, so few people apart from myself and my parents (who often experience the brunt of his manipulative and controlling behaviour) realise he is becoming more paranoid and unusual in his thoughts.

Needless to say this ongoing very odd and ugly controlling behaviour continues to escalate which makes me feel in fear of the safety of my daughter. An undiagnosed mental health illness is a constant risk for our safety but what can be done? The Courts and his solicitors did nothing (and a week later a little girl was dropped off the Westgate Bridge by her father whose Court appearance went "badly"). Child Protection will do nothing with no physical signs of harm, and in my professional experience, even physical injury/neglect may not even result in action. The Police can do nothing and her school can do nothing, though they are now seeing his unusual behaviour but see it as "a concerned parent"

What can I do to protect my daughter from this man who was once charming but is now paranoid and controlling? My mental health has suffered, my daughter has a high level of anxiety and the family violence just rolls on!