

Mom #8  
Holmen, WI 54636

Oct 5th, 2020

RE: La Crosse and Wisconsin Biases Against Moms and Kids Surviving Abuse

Dear La Crosse County Board of Supervisors and all copied on this communication,

When I went through the La Crosse County Family Court, Circuit Court, and Custody Assessment processes, trying to escape the abusive behavior of my son's father, I instead felt personally attacked and continually criticized while my abusers were treated thoughtfully and with priority, and ultimately preferred over the survivor of their honestly disclosed abuse. The La Crosse Custody Assessment Team and then Family Court Commissioner Doyle preferred two abusive biological fathers over a surviving mother and children, forcing a placement schedule and shared custody with the fathers, resulting in increased trauma to myself and my kids. The then 7 year old, now a young adult, is now old enough to confirm her abuse at the hands of her biological father. The local court processes failed to protect her as a child, so she in turn had to take matters into her own hands, at age 10 years old, to end the placement schedule indefinitely and thankfully she was met with little resistance from her biological father. She has since been adopted by her Stepfather at her request. The then 2 year old, now a teen, has recently disclosed his desire to live with his Stepfather and I full time, stating that he is afraid of his father and has no bond with him. He has also made the comment of his Stepfather adopting him.

Preceding the divorce trial from my son's father, I was arrested for throwing a picture frame out of frustration for the continued abuse by my abusive ex-husband, as he turned off the electricity to the entire house after being angry that I had run the dishwasher after he had gone to bed. A large man, my ex-husband, weighing over two-hundred pounds, much taller than myself, called the police and had me arrested, after all of his control, intimidation, and physical abuse. When I returned to the home to gather my things, he had the phone book open to divorce attorneys, he had removed all of the money from our joint accounts and closed them, and he changed the locks on the house we shared together, where he was keeping our son. He essentially made my daughter and I homeless. Despite my ex-husband tackling me to the ground on one occasion, and kicking me in the tailbone on another occasion always in front of my then seven-year-old daughter and then-two-year-old son, being first arrested and facing felony charges for false imprisonment, my abuser motioned and was granted that I could not see my son until a Circuit Court Judge ruled me safe to be with my children.

After the La Crosse County Circuit Court Judge ruled me safe to be with my children, my abusive ex-husband filed for a divorce in La Crosse County in 2006, when my daughter was

seven and my son was two. The abusive ex-husband and father of my young son filed for divorce and reached out to the abusive biological father of my daughter. The two abusive men then joined together to claim that I was “an unfit mother,” despite their prior disinterest in each other and mutual abuse of me. Then Family Court Commissioner, Gloria Doyle, ordered a Custody Assessment Team that was more concerned with the two abuser’s perspectives than with mine and my children’s, no matter how many times I disclosed how my daughter and I had been treated at their hands. FCC Doyle and the Custody Assessment Team blamed me for my and my children’s trauma survival symptoms and granted 50/50 placement and joint legal custody to the abusive father of my daughter, and 50/50 placement and joint legal custody to the abusive father of my son.

The horrific treatment of my daughter continued until she was about 10 years old and she resisted going with her biological father. My 16 year old son recently resisted going with his father after an altercation with him, but is being forced by his father to continue the current placement schedule. He now feels there is nothing that can be done to protect him from the same abuser that abused his Mother. In the name of protecting abuser’s rights, La Crosse County and Wisconsin judicial and psychological practitioners not only supported the past trauma committed by abusive men and fathers, but made it worse, only to have my older children confirm that their father’s treated them horribly for years longer than necessary, the moment they were old enough to stand up to their adult abusers. They should have been protected as children, not subjected to more abuse.

Longstanding biases in Wisconsin and La Crosse should leave a trail of data and practiced bias that we should examine and correct. Find the data. Rewrite the laws. Protect other children and women better than we have been protected. La Crosse and Wisconsin can do better.

Sincerely,  
Mom #8