

Commentary

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Putting parents rights in writing



agency but pointed out that such tragedies were not limited to this particular agency or to this particular part of the country.

The little girl in question had been sexually assaulted but DNA evidence showed that it could not possibly have been her father, as the social workers preferred to believe. In fact, the DNA matched

that of a convicted child molester who sexually assaulted another child in the same neighborhood.

The question is not why social workers are so quick to jump to "politically correct" conclusions. This is not an occupation known for attracting geniuses. The real question is: How could we ever have allowed little fad-ridden jackasses

to acquire such power in the first place?

Once the social welfare agencies have grabbed your child, they are not about to admit they were wrong. They are far more likely to hold the child hostage to get you to admit to something — anything — to get them off the hook legally.

Parents who don't have the resources to fight back, and who are frantic to rescue their child from the hands of strangers, may be willing to "confess" to whatever the social welfare agencies want them to confess to. That will then become part of the statistics used to "prove" what a good job they are doing.

If this sounds more like a totalitarian country than like America, that is because the self-righteous anointed are more concerned with imposing their vision than with maintaining your rights. Moreover, judges who bend over backward to protect criminals are unlikely to be nearly as concerned about decent, law-abiding people who are not one of the "politically correct" victim groups.

"Child abuse" has become a magic phrase that can make constitutional rights evaporate. Convicted murderers can flood the federal court system with frivolous petitions for release under writs of habeas corpus, but parents who demand they either be charged with something in a court of law or their child be returned to them are not likely to get very far, and certainly not very fast.

This is only one of the areas in which political crusades have made

a mockery of centuries-old legal rights for which many people fought and some sacrificed their lives. From antitrust cases to civil rights cases and sexual harassment lawsuits, courts have in effect come to view some people as presumed guilty until proven innocent. People accused of child abuse are simply the latest on a growing list.

All these charges involve serious things, of which some people are in fact guilty. But even the innocent are also becoming easier to convict as the courts increasingly accept flimsy surmises as evidence, and pretentious jargon as "science."

Occasionally, however, the parents win — and the anointed are furious. Recently, after parents won a court case in New York against having their children supplied with condoms by the school system, the American Civil Liberties Union opposed the parents on appeal. So did New York Gov. Mario Cuomo's attorney general.

No one will ever understand the cultural wars of our times who does not understand that the anointed think it is their right — and their duty — to tell other people how to live their lives. Whether it is Joycelyn Elders, the Children's Defense Fund or a thousand other busybodies, that is at the heart of their creed, regardless of what pretty words and lofty visions they project.

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