



POLYGAMY

August 2008

News and Views from the Child Protection Project

Senate Hearings on Polygamy Victims of Polygamy Assistance Act introduced

July 23, 2008. After Senate hearings on polygamy including testimony from Arizona State Attorney General Terry Goddard and others, Senator Harry Reid (Democrat, Nevada) introduced the Victims of Polygamy Assistance Act of 2008.

The act is described on reid.senate.gov as follows:

‘Aiding women and children affected by polygamy and cracking down on crimes committed by polygamist organizations are the goals of new legislation introduced today by Nevada Senator Harry Reid.

The Victims of Polygamy Assistance Act of 2008 targets the organized criminal behavior that is a hallmark of many polygamist organizations, including welfare fraud, tax evasion, extortion, kidnapping and transporting victims across state lines. The task force, which will include representatives of numerous federal agencies and the U.S. attorneys from affected states,

will be charged with stepping up enforcement against criminal activities, tracking interstate activity, and assisting state and local law enforcement. The Act provides \$2 million in federal grant funding to help states investigate and prosecute these crimes.

Women and children of polygamy are also frequently victims of domestic and sexual abuse, and are often threatened with retribution if they ever try to leave the group. The act provides \$2 million in federal grant funding for 2009 and \$2.5 million over each of the next four years to help victims of polygamy come forward by providing witness protection, housing, education, vocational training, mental health services, child care, and medical treatment.’



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Defenders of Children Opens Office in Colorado City

On July 11th an office was opened to inform women, and men, in Colorado City about their rights and resources available to them:

- Children’s rights
- Welfare and entitlements
- Disability
- Education
- Employment
- Budgeting and finances

The office is staffed by a woman who has worked in a St. George domestic violence shelter and participates in the Safety Net Meetings.

The office will create a neutral presence in Colorado City to dispel women’s fears about their rights and legal recourse. The women will have the opportunity to learn about subpoenas, summons, dispositions other legal mechanisms. Specific legal questions will be directed to staff attorneys and relayed to the women. These services are

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Polygamists Move to Southern Colorado New compounds alert Custer County community

The small town of Westcliffe in Custer County, Colorado may become the next polygamists’ headquarters.

Warren Jeffs paid more than \$1 million for nearly 200 acres nearby. Jeffs’ aide, Lee Anthony Steed, purchased 35- and 40-acre parcels including two compound facilities. He is seeking to buy two other large properties, according to the local sheriff who is concerned

about the growing polygamous population in their county.

Westcliffe is a historic town in Colorado’s Wet Mountain Valley flanked by the Sangre de Cristo mountains to the east and the Wet Mountains to the west. Located approximately 60 miles from Pueblo, Westcliffe is home to Mennonites, Amish and now polygamists

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Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard testifies

Welfare fraud, tax evasion, extortion and kidnapping

Help victims with witness protection, housing, education, vocational training, health services and child care

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Child Protection Project

The Child Protection Project is dedicated to raising awareness about institutionalized child abuse. This abuse occurs when laws to protect children are ignored, even covered up and abusers are protected by the institution while victim/survivors fend for themselves, or are sometimes even vilified.

The most serious civil and human rights offenses are carried out by doomsday sects. Many of these practice polygamy, incest and sexual abuse. In these cults, members often become slave laborers. Polygamists are designated as supremacy hate groups. These extremists indoctrinate members using a contorted religious rationalization for their crimes. The abuses of women and children are deeply embedded.

We advocate the criminal and civil prosecution of polygamy and the secret crimes that accompany it. The CPP reaches out to the child brides and families who suffer from these practices. The CPP finds civil attorneys for the boys kicked out of the cult. The CPP provides education about their civil rights and encourages others to stand up to these groups and fight for their rights.

We also advocate educating polygamists and their descendants about the genetic dangers of the practice of endogamous polygamy—breeding within the group. Virtually all other polygamists practice exogamy—breeding outside the group to avoid the genetic disaster the public now faces from this unprecedented human breeding experiment. Early polygamists attempted to create an Aryan super race, to literally re-create themselves or their favorite wives by breeding with first degree relatives. Uncles married nieces and half siblings intermarried. Forced marriages among relatives are now common.

Genetic diseases such as fumarase deficiency, tourette’s syndrome and kidney failure, now occur at alarming rates inside polygamy. The CPP reaches out to those suffering from these practices. The human cost of this inbreeding and the tax subsidized healthcare of affected individuals are staggering.

The high infant death rates inside polygamy were researched by the CPP in 2004. Death statistics from gravesites in Babyland Cemetery in Colorado City were compared with state vital records. These findings and a call to action were documented in a letter to the FBI.

In 2007 more data was gathered and is under analysis. Preliminary results are alarming. ▲

Credits are due to Ben Winslow and Lee Davidson, *Deseret News*; Naomi Zeveloff, *The Colorado Independent*; Sara Corbett, *The New York Times Magazine*; Susan Greene, *The Denver Post*; Corrie MacLaggen, *American-Statesman Staff*; Mary Mackert, author of *Sixth of Seven Wives*; Matt Phinney, MSNBC and *reid.senate.gov*. ▲

From Executive Director

The recent attacks on those who have left the FLDS are common practice when you do not ‘keep sweet’. The thirteen affidavits posted on an FLDS web site, point fingers at a man who has done nothing more than provide for children tossed out like trash by FLDS parents.

In a bizarre turnaround of events, those affidavits accuse Dr. Fischer of the exact abuses and crimes that former members have associated as common practice within the FLDS. For FLDS members who deny any knowledge of abuse isn’t the timing interesting? Where were these folks when the alleged abuse was occurring?

Dr. Fischer grew up in this culture where abuse was a way of life yet he left and has made an attempt to correct past wrongs. When one is taught from the cradle that abuse is OK the only way to escape it is to leave it behind.

Twenty years is a long time to keep secrets like horrific beatings and such so it begs the question... when are the affidavits against Elissa Wall, Caroline Jessop, Kathy Jo Nicholson, Brent Jeffs and others who had the courage to escape your abuse getting published?

Flora Jessop
Executive Director

From the Editor

The April issue of ‘Polygamy News and Views’ was not finalized in the wake of the YFZ raid April 3rd.

With all the good news stemming from the raid, selecting stories for this issue was a refreshing decision.

I look forward to reporting in another issue the ongoing property improvements and events by the Healing Circle in Hildale.

The new advisory group formed by west side retirees has accomplished fund raising and letter writing since their inception April 13th. I look forward to attending their fall meeting.

I plan to print an article on ‘Polygamy in Canada’ contributed by Nancy Mereska, coordinator of *Stop Polygamy in Canada*.

As a member of Toastmasters, I speak on polygamy topics and completed the Advanced Communicator—Bronze certificate in May. I look forward to giving more presentations on polygamy.

Doris Miller
Editor

The Child Protection Project does not support the decriminalization of polygamy.



Defenders Office

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offered to protect their children and empower those seeking assistance.

On July 11th a desk was moved into the office. Other office equipment and furnishings will be added.

The office is located in the Mohave County building (a refurbished mobile unit) near the welfare office. While picking up their food stamps and welfare payments, they will have the opportunity to take advantage of the services from the new office.

Break-ins to the office seem unlikely since it is located in the county building.

So far 35 families have expressed an interest in such services.

Defenders of Children provides resources for abused children to receive the protections and rights to which they are entitled. Defenders becomes involved after client families have used public recourse such as Child Protective Services. The organization does not directly represent children in legal cases.

Prophet Warren Jeffs Faces More Charges

- In Arizona, four counts of sexual conduct with a minor stemming from the marriages of the two girls.
- A federal grand jury indictment accusing him of fleeing to avoid prosecution on Utah sex charges (March 2007).
- In Texas, a Schleicher grand jury indicted Jeffs charging him with felony sexual assault of a child (July 8, 2008). ▲

Texas Grand Jury Probe Victims of Polygamy Bill

Hearings continue

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On July 22nd, a Schleicher County grand jury in west Texas handed down seven indictments including one indictment against Warren Jeffs.

Another defendant was charged with three counts of failure to report child abuse.

The state probe began nearly three months after the raid on the Texas compound. On June 11th a coalition of law enforcement from Utah, Arizona, Nevada and Texas met in Las Vegas to discuss crimes within polygamous communities—specifically the FLDS Church.

Law enforcement collected thousands of pages of documents in executing their sweeping warrant on the YFZ compound. An Arizona investigator has collected Utah birth certificates for Texas officials.

The grand jury will investigate the sexual abuse of girls under 16 and married to older men. The women's testimony is expected to be crucial—if they provide it. ▲

“We are taking aim at the blatant and systematic crime that is rampant within these polygamist groups,” Reid said. “The suffering of innocent women and children because of these crimes is unconscionable. We’re going to work with federal and state law enforcement to root out these problems before they get any worse.”

Reid added that organized crimes include “welfare fraud, tax evasion, massive corruption and strong-arm tactics to maintain what they think are the status quo.”

Congress adjourned August 1st for a five-week recess.

The Child Protection Project hopes that task force findings will result in real measures for women and children escaping polygamy and for prosecution of federal crimes. ▲



Thou shalt not be a victim. Thou shalt not be a perpetrator. Above all, thou shalt not be a bystander.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
WASHINGTON, D.C.





FLDS Women Relocate Throughout Texas

June 12, 2008. Most of the children the state returned to their FLDS parents the first week of June did not return to the YFZ compound.

When retrieving their children, each of the parents were fingerprinted and photographed in a close-up shot.

In the order from State District Judge Barbara Walther, any parent or guardian picking up their children from foster care were required to provide CPS the specific address where each child would reside. As part of the order, CPS workers may visit the homes unannounced between 8 A.M. and 8 P.M. During these visits, medical, psychological

and psychiatric examinations can be performed.

Of 464 children taken into state custody, 143 returned to 30 households at the YFZ. One hundred seventy-eight children settled in 33 rented apartments and houses in the San Antonio area. Of 48 mothers represented by the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, some now reside in the Austin and San Angelo areas. Still other children are scattered in the state. The Rio Legal Aid and other attorneys advised their clients not to go back to the YFZ compound.

Former residents of the YFZ are fearful of more governmental interference and

are living low profile elsewhere, while continuing to practice their FLDS beliefs.

According to Flora Jessop, polygamist men are not currently supporting the women and children financially. The men believe their payments will be traced back to them identifying their paternity and subjecting them to criminal charges.

It is an irony that in the FLDS males retain authority and supposedly commit the abuse. In the past months, it is the FLDS women who have received public attention by defending their faith and lifestyle in light of public skepticism. ▲

Polygamist women gain public attention while continuing to practice their beliefs.

Polygamists in Southern Colorado Sheriff and community watching

from the FLDS.

Of the two polygamous compounds in Custer County, the main site is situated about five miles northeast of Westcliffe. Steed's 35 acre plot includes a four-bedroom, log-cabin type building originally constructed as a home for retired nurses. The compound is now surrounded by white metal fences. An iron gate bars entrance into the property.

The Sheriff, Fred Jobe, believes 30 to 40 people resided on the property in 2007. He estimates 20 children live on the compound.

A reporter for *The Colorado Independent* visited the compound mid-July and observed two adolescent boys

in blue shirts and black slacks shoveling ground near a septic tank. When the reporter tried to speak with them, the boys sped off on a golf cart.

Construction proceeds at a fast pace on the main site and on other properties. A neighbor reported that bulldozers were operating until late in the evening. He heard four-wheelers and even gunshots.

Suspecting zoning violations, Jobe and his office began investigating the FLDS presence in Custer County.

On July 3rd, Jobe entered the Westcliffe property on a warrant searching for violations. Steed was cited for unpermitted buildings and too many connections on a septic system.

In June, county commis-

(continued from page 1)

sioners met for two closed-door meetings to review Jobe's investigation. A Human Services representative spoke on the potential for polygamous women to draw welfare as single mothers, potentially depleting county funds. To date, no one has applied for benefits.

In July, 200 locals in a group called 'Step Up', met in a Westcliffe school gymnasium to learn about their new neighbors.

Meanwhile Jobe will be watching for more land purchases. "They tend to want to be by themselves," he says. "We want to be watching them."

In Fremont County to the north, Steed owns land and another compound resembling the Custer County settlement. ▲

Polygamists violate building and zoning codes. Citations issued for excess septic tank connections and un-permitted buildings.





Justice Denied

What America Must Do to Protect it's Children

Marci A. Hamilton

Cardozo School of Law

Recent events such as the clergy abuse scandal in the Catholic Church have brought the once-taboo subject of childhood sexual abuse to the forefront. But despite increasing awareness of the problem, the U.S. has not succeeded in establishing effective means of deterring and preventing it, leaving the children of today and tomorrow vulnerable.

Hamilton proposes a comprehensive yet simple solution: eliminate the arbitrary statutes of limitation for childhood sexual abuse so that survivors past and present can get into court. Removing this merely procedural barrier permits the millions of survivors to make public the identities of their perpetrators and to receive justice and much-deserved compensation.

Standing in the way, however, are formidable opponents such as the insurance industry and the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church. In *Justice Denied*,

Hamilton predicts a coming civil rights movement for children and explains why it is in the interest of all Americans to allow victims of childhood sexual abuse this chance to seek justice when they are ready.

Hardback
168 pages
Cambridge University Press
Published April 7, 2008
ISBN: 978-0521886215

Stolen Innocence

Elissa Wall and Lisa Pulitzer

Subtitled *My Story of Growing Up in a Polygamous Sect, Becoming a Teenage Bride, and Breaking Free of Warren Jeffs*. Elissa Wall tells her story in such an easy to read style, giving the reader a fascinating insider's tour of a completely different way of life.

The book is respectful and dignified while it tells a shocking story of abuse and betrayal. The poignant description of a family's turmoil not only touches the heart but it also provokes deep thought.

It raises questions of what is most important in life: struggles between faith and independent reasoning, tensions between family and church, between husbands and wives, between parents and children.

This book is informative, entertaining, challenging, moving and disturbing. By revealing the intimate, inner experience of one girl's broken heart, it issues a powerful cry to all of us to protect and nurture children.

Aside from other works on the subject, this book is the one written by a young woman whose victimization ultimately led to the arrest and imprisonment of Warren Jeffs. This one, however, is a culmination of sorts, of the issues raised in the other biographies of polygamists.

Sarah Chana Radcliffe

Hardback
438 pages
William Morrow
Published April 2008
ISBN: 978-0-06-162801-6

The Secret Lives of Saints

Daphne Bramham

The author dives in to a cult that has been allowed to grow and exist in two great nations. She raises excellent points and traces the growth of this fundamentalist group that broke off from the Mormon church well over a century ago.

Bramham opens your eyes to the control over women who are treated as property and young men who are often forced out of the community because there aren't enough women to go around.

The saddest part to reading this book is learning about the apathy in the Canadian and American governments in stopping this cult. The banner of the charter of rights and freedoms is waved as a shield protecting this inhumane treatment of girls and boys in Canada.

The Secret Lives of Saints is a great read and I recommend it to anyone who has an interest in religion and those concerned with the status of human rights around the world.

Desert Creature



'Prophet' Film

Exposes Issues of YFZ Raid

"Follow the Prophet" looks at the horrific forced marriages of underage females by cult elders. It examines the emotional damage these young women endure from sexual molestation.

The film captures a man's journey into the underbelly of the FLDS cult and his discovery of sexual indoctrination of children and his heroic efforts to save them.

"Follow the Prophet" appears in the wake of the YFZ Ranch raid. Just as the girl identified as 'Sarah' cried for help when she slipped an anonymous call to authorities, "Follow the Prophet" features the fictional character, Avery, and her cry for help. In the story Colonel Jude Marks crosses paths with Avery, the teenage cult runaway seeking freedom and safety from sexual abuse. Together, Avery and Col. Marks attempt to reveal the truth buried in a Utah town.

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Child Protection Project

Like the tiger we fight turning sexual predators into prey.

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Not a victim of circumstance.*

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- Make a contribution for the Transition Center
- Write the editor
- Write your legislators



What are the requirements to cross the Canadian border and enter Bountiful (FLDS compound)?

A photo ID and birth certificate are required to cross the border near Creston, the nearest town to Bountiful. For two years, border guards have given information regarding obtaining passports to cross the border. Every deadline for requiring passports has been extended.

To obtain passports for large polygamist families would be a financial hardship. It is likely that in the near future, passports or the less expensive border cards will be required.

It is possible to cross the border by foot and reach Creston since the town is approximately nine miles from the border. However, border patrols are regular.

*Mary Mackert, author
The Sixth of Seven Wives*

What happened to the Child Bigamy bill introduced in the Arizona State

Legislature by Representative David Lujan?

The child bigamy bill introduced by Rep. David Lujan in January was defeated in the legislature. Committee chairmen in both House and Senate Judiciary Committees refused to hear the bill; Chairmen Eddie Farnsworth (House District 22) and Chuck Gray (Senate District 19) respectfully. In 2007 Rep. Farnsworth refused to hear a similar bill which defeated it in the legislature. (Eddie Farnsworth is running for a state Senate seat in the November election.)

The 2008 bill would have made it more difficult for polygamists to obtain custody of their children in divorce cases.

What happened with the investigation into the Colorado City School District on the part of Arizona State Attorney General Terry Goddard? What became of the Colorado City School District?

Mid March, nearly three years after Arizona took over a school district in Colorado City and alleged its administrators had misused public funds, the state closed its investigation without bringing any charges.

The Colorado City School District now operates un-

der a new administration with new programs. The school is renamed El Capitan for a local peak in the Vermillan Cliffs. The school is located in Colorado City but run by Centennial Park.

The CPP believes the school functions not so much as a public school but as an extension of polygamous priesthood doctrines under new management.

Are children in Colorado City attending school?

The majority of Colorado City children are being home schooled. However, only 12 parents have filed home schooling affidavits as required by Arizona law.

Parents are not accountable under Arizona law and the loophole in the law needs to be closed. The CPP would like to see standardized testing for home schooling.

According to AZ Attorney General Terry Goddard, as many as 1000 children in Colorado City/Hildale have been removed from public and private schools, but only a few have been registered for home schooling. He has asked Tom Horne, Arizona's Superintendent of Public Instruction, to determine the status of these children and identify what actions the state can take if they are not enrolled in school as required by state law. ▲

To find your federal, state and local officials:
<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt>