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## **Preface**

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The words "ITIO a Child," or "In The Interest Of a Child," routinely appear at the top of legal documents that deny children developmentally important access to their fathers or mothers. Through the documents quoted in this book, and under these very words, divorce industry psychologists, attorneys, and a judge, show the reader how they make money from the suffering of a child. By necessity this is also the story of a young boy's frustrated struggle against his mom who alienates his father, and against a system that sees him as a source of profit. The people and suffering described are real, and the child who has been dragged through this system has cried often and has been saddled with issues that will most likely last a life time.

The events described in this book occur in Austin Texas, though I have no reason to believe the location plays a special role. Many other people's stories indicate the same scenario is being played out repeatedly all over the United States, Canada, England, and in Europe. Many documents and tape transcripts are employed throughout the book in order to document what has happened to this child, and more generally to waken the reader to the true nature of the divorce system. All of the transcripts were created by professionals certified to be accurate to the best of their abilities. All documents and transcripts reproduced here are as they appeared in attorney records and court files or other appropriate sources. No poetic licenses or edits were applied. There are no made up characters or stories.

If you had a difficult divorce and blame your spouse, then this may be an important book for you, as it demonstrates in detail how people like you, your spouse, and your children are manipulated and used by the system for the profit of those in the system, and without your even knowing it. Your attorney, your ex's attorney, court appointees, social workers, etc. were on one team, say Team System, while you, your spouse, and your children were on another team, say Team Domestic. In general Team System has a lot of experience working together as they have fleeced thousands of people over periods of years if not decades. They know exactly what they want - to exercise power while getting your money - and they have created a carefully honed machine for processing people like you. They are educated in the techniques of manipulation and practice this art with clear heads. Despite carefully faked appearances, as uncovered in this book, they are not constrained by due process or oversight. In contrast, Team Domestic doesn't even know they are in the game, let alone that they are on the same side. They are completely ignorant of precedent of law, capabilities of representation, and of applicable statutes. They can not know if they are hoodwinked because they are already in the dark. Far from having clear heads the pitiful Team Domestic members are disoriented, disenchanted, bewildered, and feel betrayed by each other, and these feelings are likely to cloud their vision long after the divorce is over. The members of Team Domestic are placed under a microscope at exactly the worst time in their lives for such a thing. As a result their freedom is removed, they are not allowed to speak with each other, and their every action is carefully constrained as though in a physical trap. Should this predator prey analogy not make sense to you now, it should after reading this book.

Many people received a first glimpse of corruption in the divorce system in 2008 when the state of Texas separated over 400 children from FLDS parents in northern Texas within a period hours, and did so in reaction a prank call from a single woman in Colorado. Independent of the acceptance of the FLDS beliefs, which are surely peculiar, many people who watched on television were left perplexed by the very scale of the Texas response. How is it that Texas has so many people with the counseling skills and organizational knowledge to remove so many children from parents and then to counsel them in such a short time? How is that this Team System can act with so much authority based on a prank phone call? What is it that they counseled the children for? The image painted is as though there is a minuteman force for separating children and parents, and then counseling the children away from their parents. People who watched the news were left wondering if this event was indicative of a endemic problem in the Texas social system. This book shows beyond a doubt that this is exactly the case, there is an endemic problem. There even exist psychologists whose professional practice is built around counseling children away from a parent for a fee.

Over the prior few years the United States has been awakened to endemic corruption in the system through a series of scandals in corporate leadership, the financial sectors, and the legal sector. Egregious examples include the Madoff scandal, the AIG executive bonuses, the collapse of Enron, and the MSA tobacco settlement with billions going to the attorneys. This book documents another corrupt sector, the family practice system.

This project was supported by family, friends, and colleagues. I can not begin to explain how much my persisting in the support of my son has cost those in my support network in time, money, personal reflection, stress, and even risk for their own well being. I am incapable of giving up on my son, so I am only left with the hope that our work will help him while attenuating the system and thus helping others.

The system of divorce exploitation has steadily evolved over years so as to become more sophisticated, harder to see, and more difficult to resist. This has been done through changes in jurisdictional laws for family practice cases, the increased criminalization of divorce matters, government funding for increased Team System activity, and even by international treaty. If you are a parent who was overwhelmed by Team System I hope you will take heart, and perhaps even cheer at turns where a crooked person in the system is exposed. Here exists a book every goodly person may hold up and call his or her own.

Among these pages you will meet a wife who doesn't like her husband and admits to some serious shortcomings as a parent. If the system were functional, the story would end right there, people would nurse their wounds and then get back to their lives. Instead the proceedings continue while making a spectacle of people's faults. At one point the husband and wife agree to go in together and hire a third attorney to fire the others and bring the spectacle to an end, but the proceedings have taken on a life of their own and go on almost without them. The social worker losses the evidence and her boss says in a letter that it is OK. The court appointed child psychologist was also a client of one of the attorneys, and when this is brought to light, the opposing attorney who probably knew the whole time, suggests paying a supposed boyfriend to balance out the conflict. The prized expert witness states on record that she never met and had no information about the father who she just testified against, and then the presiding judge finds her testimony officially credible. This witness is the wife of another judge. The presiding judge orders parties to provide payment in advance to a 'friend of a court,' who turns out to be the son of a state supreme court justice. It is not comforting to find out that the apparently unethical judge for hire himself has

often issued the death penalty in his 'other work' - which he discusses with the child before asking for an opinion about the wife. The county social worker is brought before the ethics board and argues that she can not be held accountable because she is not licensed. The board agrees. It turns out that the county often hires social workers without a license. Throughout the judge orders everyone to pay and pay, hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent. Still, the items listed here are just a few examples. Many of the improprieties would have gone unnoticed had I not researched the professionals and had I not personally conducted some of the cross examinations.

These exploits of crooked lawyers and others taking money from middle class spouses might be considered comical if it were not for the human damage. The person who suffered most was the child who just wanted to grow up like his father. When the boy insisted on seeing his father, he found himself the patient of a psychologist who declared that the reality of the situation at that time was that the boy lived his mother, and therefore that is the life he had to adjust to. Though her colleagues vociferously disagreed, possession truly is nine tenths of the law, and the sessions continued. The child complained that mom kicked his dog and did not keep promises to have the dog's broken leg fixed. Now almost a teenager, he has issues with dogs. The boy complained of finding needles in his candy, of his being denied access to his friends and otherwise punished if he said he wanted to see his dad. He was forced by mom to call and request from dad that a gift given to dad be sent to mom instead. At one point the boy cried to his father, "Why don't you do something about it!" and his father could not reply. While Team System left the situation in tact as it was making them tons of money when dad kept coming back for more, mom's live-in boyfriend said he would take care of everything by becoming the boy's new father. Crying fits and ADD episodes became regular occurrences. Visits more resembled a boxer coming to the corner between bouts for ammonia shots and a pep talk before returning to the fight than a weekend with a parent.

If for no other reason you may want to read this book because these may be the same people who worked on, or will work on, your divorce and your family, or work on the divorce and family of someone close to you. Except for the ex wife and child, the names on documents are shown in tact.

In this edition I have removed the introduction in favor of more material in the conclusion. I kept the same page numbers so that various indexes of the prior edition remain in tact.

