



AFCC eNEWS

BI-MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER
VOL. 2 NO. 3
JUNE 2007

AFCC and NCJFCJ Cosponsor Regional Training Conference in Columbus Conference Brochure and Scholarship Application Online

The conference program and scholarship application for the AFCC and NCJFCJ Regional Training Conference, *Applications for High Conflict Families, Domestic Violence and Alienation*, September 27-29, 2007 in Columbus are now available online. The conference features three full days of program tracks designed for judges, mediators, custody evaluators, lawyers and parenting coordinators. Participants can sign up for a full track or mix and match the sessions that are of most interest. The conference takes place at the [Hyatt Regency](#) in downtown Columbus, which is offering the special rate of \$131 per night for a single or double room. Please make your reservations online or by calling the hotel at (800) 233-1234 and identify yourself with AFCC to receive the special group rate. Make plans today to join AFCC and NCJFCJ for this first-time conference collaboration.

[Conference Brochure \(PDF\)](#)
[Scholarship application...](#)

AFCC's 44th Annual Conference Sells Out in Washington, D.C.

AFCC Thanks Conference Sponsors

More than 900 participants traveled from 18 countries to take part in AFCC's 44th Annual Conference, May 30-June 2, 2007 in Washington, D.C. The conference featured record-breaking attendance, nearly 70 sessions on the latest topics that impact children and families and more than 180 presenters from Canada, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. AFCC would like to thank its conference sponsors for their generous support in helping make this conference a success: Platinum Sponsor [UpToParents.org](#), Networking Sponsor [Complete Equity Markets, Inc.](#) and Gold Sponsor [the OurFamilyWizard website](#). Please click the link below for the attendee verification form and more information on AFCC's 44th Annual Conference.

[AFCC Past Conferences Page...](#)

Free Domestic Violence Workshop and Plenary Session Audio in MP3 Format

AFCC's 44th Annual Conference

AFCC's 44th Annual Conference audio provider, Digital



AFCC and NCJFCJ Regional Training Conference

Applications for High Conflict Families, Domestic Violence and Alienation

September 27-29, 2007
Hyatt Regency Columbus
Columbus, Ohio

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AFCC NEWS SPOTLIGHT

AFCC and NCJFCJ Cosponsor Wingspread Think Tank on Domestic Violence and Family Courts

by B. L. Dunford-Jackson, Co-Director, Family Violence Department, NCJFCJ and Peter Salem, Executive Director, AFCC

Family court judges, lawyers, domestic violence advocates, social science and legal scholars, court administrators and psychologists were among the nearly 40 participants who attended a

Conference Providers, Inc., is offering free online access to audio for the workshop, *Differential Assessment and Intervention in Domestic Violence Cases*, presented by Hon Susan B. Carbon, Billie Lee Dunford-Jackson, J.D., Hon. William G. Jones (ret.) and Nancy Ver Steegh, J.D., M.S.W. AFCC eNEWS subscribers are invited to listen online by clicking the link below. AFCC members also have access to plenary sessions from the conference for free download by logging into the Member Center on the AFCC Web site.

[Listen to Differential Assessment and Intervention in Domestic Violence Cases...](#)

[Plenary Session Audio in MP3 Format \(Members Only\)](#)

RESEARCH UPDATE

Mothers with ADHD Have Children with More Problems

Courtesy of J.M. Craig Press, Inc.

We have known for some time that certain mental health problems, such as depression, serious mental illness, and substance abuse can impact child rearing when they are severe enough. This is the first study we have seen that examines the role of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in child rearing. The authors' major hypothesis was that ADHD mothers would monitor their children differently from other mothers.

[Read more...](#)

CASE LAW UPDATE

Arbitration of Divorce Actions

by Barbara Glesner Fines, Ruby M. Hulen Professor of Law, University of Missouri-Kansas City

The Michigan Court of Appeals held that a divorce court erred in granting default judgment against the husband for failing to participate in arbitration in light of the court's own failure to comply with the requirements of the Domestic Relations Arbitration statute regarding written agreements to arbitrate and judicial disclosures regarding the process. The split opinion provides interesting reading as the judges debate the importance of the procedural protections in the arbitration statute against the importance of judicial contempt power.

Johnson v. Johnson, 2007 Mich. App. LEXIS 1480 (June 7, 2007)
[View opinion \(PDF\)](#)

For more daily case law and other legal developments, visit the [Family Law Prof Blog](#).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Justice Canada's New Publication for Children

Courtesy of the Department of Justice Canada

The Department of Justice Canada has a new publication for children between the ages of nine and twelve. Entitled, *What Happens Next? Information for kids about separation and divorce*, this booklet is designed to help children learn about family law and give them an idea of the legal processes that parents may go through when they split up. It is also meant to help children realize it's normal for them to have an emotional

Think Tank on Domestic Violence and Family Courts, cosponsored by AFCC and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) on February 15-17, 2007 at the Johnson Foundation's Wingspread Conference Center in Racine, Wisconsin.

[Read article...](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AFCC 45th Annual Conference

May 28-31, 2008
Westin Bayshore Resort
Vancouver, BC, Canada
www.afccnet.org

AFCC Chapters

Texas Chapter Annual Conference

Child custody and Mental Health Professionals - Social Sciences on the Witness Stand
October 5-6, 2007
Doubletree Hotel
Austin, Texas
www.texasafcc.org

Florida Chapter Annual Conference

Moving from Conflict to Harmony: A Medley of Opportunity
November 2-3, 2007
Wyndham Hotel
Orlando, Florida
www.flafcc.org

Arizona Chapter Annual Conference

February 8-10, 2008
Hilton Sedona Hotel & Spa
Sedona, Arizona
www.azafcc.org

California Chapter Annual Conference

February 8-10, 2008
Sheraton Delfina
Santa Monica, California
www.afcc-ca.org

response to their parents' separation and encourages them to talk with someone they trust. A PDF of the 64-page booklet is available in its entirety online by following the link below.

[More information...](#)

Drops from Down Under - Publication Gone Wrong

by Hon. Graham Mullane, New South Wales, Australia

Under section 121 of the Australian Family Law Act, it is an offence to publish names of the children, the parties or witnesses in proceedings in the Family Court or information identifying any of them. There is an exception where the publication is permitted by an order of the Court.

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News from Across the Pond

by Karen Mackay, Chief Executive, Resolution, Kent, England

Family law and the family law environment is in a state of constant flux in England and Wales (Scotland and Northern Ireland are separate jurisdictions). Part of Resolution's job, as the largest association of family lawyers in the UK, is to lobby for better family law and better procedures, so the family justice system works in the best interests of the users, the clients. Solicitors (attorneys), as repeat players in the family justice system, have a unique insight into the effect of the operation of the courts and family legislation on those people who find themselves often reluctantly, frequently fearfully and almost always at the most emotionally fraught times in their lives - caught up in the system.

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Judicial Training Program in Iran

by Dr. Willie McCarney, Past President, International Association of Youth and Family Judges, Past Chairman of the Northern Ireland Youth and Family Courts Association, Belfast, Ireland

In 2006, I was invited as one of two international experts to assist with a Judicial Training Program in Iran. As is usual in such circumstances, I began by doing a little homework.

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FEATURED ARTICLES

Negotiating Like a Woman - How Gender Impacts Communication between the Sexes

by Nina Meierding and Jan Frankel Schau, courtesy of Mediate.com

Anyone who has ever been married will admit that men and women argue differently. It should be no surprise to learn that women and men negotiate and communicate differently as well. After many years of practicing law and serving as mediators, the authors believe that there are certain ways than men communicate that are distinct from "a woman's voice." Mediators and representatives can utilize their knowledge of gender communication to foster better resolutions between parties.

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ABOUT AFCC eNEWS

AFCC eNEWS is a bi-monthly e-newsletter published by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC). AFCC eNEWS provides professionals with time sensitive and up-to-date topics including case law updates, research innovations and international news.

[AFCC eNEWS archive...](#)

Web Site Version:

Responds to Colorado Bar Advisory Opinion

by Talia Katz, Executive Director, International Academy of Collaborative Professionals

Three state statutes have been enacted recognizing the legitimacy of collaborative law (Texas, North Carolina, and California) and ethics opinions regarding collaborative law have been rendered in six jurisdictions in the United States. Five of these opinions concluded that the practice of collaborative law is consistent with the code of legal ethics in that jurisdiction. The most recent opinion, from the state of Colorado in February 2007, concluded that a collaborative participation agreement that lawyers as well as clients execute violates rule 1.7 of the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct. The IACP Task Force on Ethics has published a response to the Colorado opinion.

[View CBA Ethics Opinion...](#)

[View IACP Ethics Task Force Response \(PDF\)](#)

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Editor:

David Vigliotta

AFCC welcomes your comments, questions or feedback. Please email the editor by [clicking here](#).



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AFCC NEWS Spotlight

This article was originally published in the Spring 2007 issue of AFCC's quarterly print newsletter, the AFCC NEWS. AFCC members can access this issue along with the archives dating back to the Fall of 2001 in PDF format by logging onto the [Member Center](#) of the AFCC Web site.

AFCC and NCJFCJ Cosponsor Wingspread Think Tank on Domestic Violence and Family Courts

by B. L. Dunford-Jackson, Co-Director, Family Violence Department, NCJFCJ and Peter Salem, Executive Director, AFCC

Family court judges, lawyers, domestic violence advocates, social science and legal scholars, court administrators and psychologists were among the nearly 40 participants who attended a Think Tank on Domestic Violence and Family Courts, cosponsored by AFCC and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) on February 15-17, 2007 at the Johnson Foundations' Wingspread Conference Center in Racine, Wisconsin.

Participants spent two days addressing critical issues raised by the growing awareness that not all uses of violence in intimate relationships are the same. It has been widely acknowledged that domestic violence varies according to the motivation of the abusing partner; the significance of the violence to the victim and other members of the household; whether or not the violence is likely to recur; and whether it is likely to be accompanied by controlling or manipulative behaviors.

However, state laws generally treat all uses of violence in these relationships the same; interventions are often one-size-fits-all; and the implications of these differences for custody and visitation decisions in family court remain largely unexplored. Moreover, various interest groups often send conflicting messages about appropriate interventions and outcomes in these cases, so that direct service providers who work with families where domestic abuse has been alleged or identified may be furnished contradictory information.

Until this Think Tank, there had been no large-scale gathering of the disparate views of many relevant professions, and no attempt to resolve differences in ways that will improve system outcomes for families afflicted by these problems. AFCC and NCJFCJ invited participants specifically to consider the different uses of violence in interpersonal relationships and how to assess cases accurately; what interventions might prove effective in the various kinds of cases; and what outcomes, especially regarding custody and visitation decisions, are appropriate for each.

Participants heard a summary of the research literature and spent significant time working in small multidisciplinary groups. As a result, several working groups emerged that intend to continue their work beyond Wingspread:

- A terminology group will work toward identifying and resolving differences in use of language among the various professional groups to help fashion a common understanding of the terms of art that practitioners use.

- A screening group will assess various screening instruments and attendant processes for their subtlety, cultural intelligence and sensitivity to dangerousness in the cases to which they are applied.
- A cultural group will work on heightening the cultural sensibility of professionals working with families suffering interpersonal violence
- An education group will focus on improved legal and other continuing education on these issues.
- An outcomes group will attempt to distinguish appropriate custody and visitation results from these various cases.

While there was significant consensus around important issues, and in fact the participants concluded the meeting by fashioning an encouragingly comprehensive statement of concurrence, the Wingspread meeting was a first step in a long-term and collaborative effort to be facilitated by AFCC and NCJFCJ. All participants committed to continue working together, with the ultimate goal that each family suffering intimate violence will receive the safest and most effective interventions and be able to achieve custody and visitation outcomes that best protect family members and meet the needs of children.

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Judicial Training Program in Iran

by Dr. Willie McCahey, Past President, International Association of Youth and Family Judges, Past Chairman of the Northern Ireland Youth and Family Courts Association, Belfast, Ireland

In 2006, I was invited as one of two international experts to assist with a Judicial Training Program in Iran. As is usual in such circumstances, I began by doing a little homework.

Iran, formerly known as Persia, is a Middle-Eastern country located in Western Asia. Its total land mass is 636,300 miles (1,648,000 kilometers), about the same size as Alaska or approximately twice the size of Texas.

Tehran, where the workshop was to be held, has been the capital of Iran since 1795. Its population (as of 2006) is 12,651,000. There are several intricately connected governing bodies, some of which are democratically elected and some of which are appointed. My main focus was, necessarily, on judicial matters.

Some of my colleagues expressed surprise that I was undertaking a mission to Iran. My expertise lies in the promotion of children's rights, including international standards and best practices. Sensitization to the implementation of best practices can best be done by local trainers drawn from the ranks of professionals in all sectors working with children. UNICEF's invitation was for myself and Justice Renate Winter to organize a Training of Trainers workshop in Tehran from December 4-11, 2006.

I did not anticipate an easy mission. My preconceived view of Iran was of a country run by hard-line clerics who interpreted Sharia (Islamic) law literally. I did not expect them to be open to exhortations to comply with international law. At the same time I felt I would not be doing my job if I did not challenge them on areas where they were clearly out of step such as discrimination against minority groups, the age of criminal responsibility and the use of the death penalty for children under 18.

In the event, participants demonstrated a high standard of knowledge on juvenile justice and child protection related issues. Clearly earlier workshops organized by UNICEF had been very effective. Some of the more progressive judges have already introduced a range of alternatives to custody and there is a general acceptance that custody should be a matter of last resort. There is a keen interest in introducing a restorative justice approach.

While the death penalty remains on the statute books they assured me that children are only executed in really exceptional cases. A recent execution to which I referred had been of a 17-year-old who had raped and then murdered his victim.

There was general agreement that the discrepancy between the age of criminal responsibility for girls (9) and boys (16) is untenable under human rights legislation and a willingness to move towards a common age. Everyone agreed with a proposal to raise the age for girls to 13 as an interim step. I had an opportunity to speak to the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Juvenile Justice who was also in agreement. Unfortunately, the Council of Guardians has vetoed any change at this

time.

I was greatly heartened by the responsiveness of all participants, their desire to meet international standards and their willingness to learn from examples of best practice – both local and international. Visits were provided to the Youth Court of Tehran and the Tehran Juvenile Correction and Rehabilitation Centre. Participants also had an opportunity to view videos of closed institutions in remote areas of Iran which set a very high standard for others to follow.

I found my mission to Iran a very rewarding experience reinforced by the fact that the participants expressed satisfaction with the workshop.

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News from Across the Pond

by Karen Mackay, Chief Executive, Resolution, Kent, England

Family law and the family law environment is in a state of constant flux in England and Wales (Scotland and Northern Ireland are separate jurisdictions). Part of Resolution's job, as the largest association of family lawyers in the UK, is to lobby for better family law and better procedures, so the family justice system works in the best interests of the users, the clients. Solicitors (attorneys), as repeat players in the family justice system, have a unique insight into the effect of the operation of the courts and family legislation on those people who find themselves often reluctantly, frequently fearfully and almost always at the most emotionally fraught times in their lives - caught up in the system.

Resolution has a strong vision of making family justice work better for the users/clients, promoting a family justice system that not only delivers fairness but also reduces stress and acrimony. This means we are actively involved in lobbying for changes to the law and changes to how the family justice system operates - sometimes reactively in response to government or administrative initiatives, sometimes pro-actively to try and bring about beneficial changes in the law.

A new system for child support

Currently the reform of the Child Support Agency is on our minds. Thirteen years after the original Child Support Agency was established, it is widely seen as a failing agency, with over 3.5 billion (pounds) in uncollected arrears and a sorry tale of over 50% of child support assessments incorrectly calculated. The Agency has been reformed twice before but the changes have still not delivered results and, if anything, have complicated matters further by having to run several systems at the same time.

A new bill is being introduced, which will establish a new body, the Orwellian sounding Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission or C-MEC. In its bill, the Government is hoping to significantly reduce the administrative burden for the new agency by encouraging more parents to make private arrangements for child maintenance. However, Resolution is concerned that private arrangements made in this way will not be enforceable, making it difficult to see what incentive there could be for large numbers of parents to go down this route. We want to see the Courts able to apply the child maintenance formula where they are dealing with other financial matters in a divorce. However, the government is inexplicably opposed to returning this power to the Courts' jurisdiction.

The Government plans to continue the present arrangements, which create an incentive for parents with care (parents with residential custody) to restrict contact for non-resident parents. The present system encourages "day counting" and means that many parents with care can be faced with a decision not to allow contact over and above a certain number of days because they cannot afford the reduction in the level of maintenance they receive. Conversely, many non-resident parents do not pursue their right to a discount for fear that it might lead the parent with care to reduce the number of days they have their children. Effectively, many parents are having to work outside the system in order to make arrangements that are in the best interests of their children.

The Government has made much of proposals for stringent new enforcement measures, including curfews, electronic tagging and the confiscation of passports, but these headline grabbing measures will do little to tackle the underlying issues. The real problem is not that the existing agency lacks the necessary enforcement powers, but that they do not use them often enough or early enough. There needs to be strong enforcement much earlier in the process. However, with mistakes in more than 65% of cases where a liability order has been sought, any enforcement process must include the right to appeal. The system must be fair to both parents.

There are many non-resident parents who are in substantial arrears, which, in reality, are far beyond their ability to pay. Not all arrears are due to the default of the non-resident parent and where there has been delay or miscalculations, the question is how a non-resident parent of modest means is supposed to deal with huge historic arrears? It is not uncommon for the Child Support Agency (CSA) to accept unrealistic repayment schedules which continue long after the children have grown up.

Negotiated settlements with the consent of the parent with care should be central to the recovery of historic debt.

With 3.5 billion (pounds) uncollected arrears, including 760 million (pounds) of debts so old they are no longer legally enforceable, it is clear that parents with care have been badly let down by the CSA. Resolution would like to see compensation for those cases, which have been mishandled and where the debt can no longer be legally enforced or have been written off.

The end of legal aid as we know it?

Many users of the family justice system rely on public funding or legal aid to support their case. England and Wales have one of the most generous legal aid schemes in the world and legal aid is seen as another arm of the welfare state, helping vulnerable people out of social exclusion. But of late, the legal aid budget has been under huge pressure, largely as a result of increased spending on criminal cases. There are new proposals to change to a system of fixed fees for legally aided cases. Legal aid fees for family work have been frozen for 12 years, making legal aid increasingly economically unviable. Nearly 2,300 legal aid suppliers have pulled out of legal aid work in the past seven years and the fear is that fixed fees will make family legal aid work so unprofitable that few firms will be able to continue to provide this service, leaving large parts of the country, particularly the heavily populated South East where overheads are the highest, with little or no legal aid cover.

The results could be disastrous, with sufferers of domestic abuse unable to get representation for injunctions. Women will be particularly hard hit, as often they are the economically weaker party. Unfair settlements could increase child poverty and the judges are seriously worried about the likely increase in unrepresented litigants clogging up the courts, needing significantly more court time and causing delay for all court users.

Legal aid was never going to be a big money earner for lawyers, nor should it, and few of our members are in it for the money, but the worry is that it will not be financially viable for most firms to continue doing legally aided work under the new fixed fee regime. Resolution has been making strong representations for a better scheme that properly rewards those willing to still provide this vital public service.

Opening the family courts

The issue of whether the family courts should be open to the press and the public has been a hot topic for several years. The press has waged a campaign accusing the family courts of operating a system of secret justice. Family lawyers, judges and others in the family justice system have found it frustrating to be unable to defend the courts because of the lack of transparency. Last year, the Government, sensitive to the accusations of secrecy, consulted on proposals to open the family courts to the press.

Resolution instinctively supported a more open and transparent family justice system but found it difficult to reconcile the need to protect the privacy of families and children in particular from a notoriously intrusive British press with more openness. Many responses to the consultation expressed similar reservations. However, it was the voice of children that prevailed with the Government – overwhelmingly, children who were consulted were opposed to the idea of the press being able to report their private and often distressing circumstances, so the Government is going back to the drawing board, and we are likely to see new proposals

suggesting better reporting of cases and clearly worded statements for parents and children setting out the reasons why the judge reached his or her particular decision. We hope that these proposals will strike the right balance between achieving greater openness and accountability while protecting the privacy of families and children in the family justice system.

These are only a few headlines of some of the challenges facing English and Welsh family lawyers. The landscape of family law seems to be in regular upheaval and further bulletins from across the pond will update readers on the current issues facing family lawyers, the courts and users of the family justice system.

If you would like further information on these topics or other issues in England and Wales, contact me at Karen.mackay@resolution.org.uk or visit www.resolution.org.uk.

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Drops from Down Under - Publication Gone Wrong

by Hon. Graham Mullane, New South Wales, Australia

Under section 121 of the Australian Family Law Act, it is an offence to publish names of the children, the parties or witnesses in proceedings in the Family Court or information identifying any of them. There is an exception where the publication is permitted by an order of the Court.

Court orders for publication are usually made in circumstances where the child or children have been abducted and public assistance is sought for police to locate them. A publication order limits the publication in terms of the type of information that can be published and the period of publication (e.g., only until the child is located and recovered.)

The evils that can occur through widespread publication were well illustrated recently in relation to three children aged 7, 9 and 10 whose parents are divorced. Pursuant to a court order the children were living with their mother (a former journalist) in Brisbane and spending every third weekend with their father, a South African who lived in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. He usually traveled to Queensland for those weekends and the arrangement was for him to return them to their school on Monday morning after the weekend.

On March 16, he failed to return them after a contact weekend. The next day, a Family Court Judge issued a recovery order and members of the state and federal police forces were asked to find and recover the children. On April 5, the Judge ordered that the Australian Federal Police (AFP) could publish photographs and descriptions of the father and the children. In the first week of May, the story hit the media across the country.

There was a flurry of news items and front page articles. The children, school, parents and addresses were disclosed. The mother was quoted as saying the children had "disappeared, literally." She pleaded for public help to find them and said she yearned for the children to return to her.

Photographs and descriptions of the children and the father were published. Photographs of the mother were published too.

Clearly the media overstepped the mark and published information that was not published to assist in locating the children or the father.

The next day the media informed the public that the police were searching for the father under six aliases as well as his usual name. One newspaper reported a person who had witnessed the father and the children driving away from the father's home in March and described the vehicle. The same neighbor was quoted as saying, the father loved his children and also reported that the mother had been to the father's house two weeks ago.

The mother said the Court had given her right of exclusive occupancy of the former family house, which is jointly owned, and because the husband had abandoned it, she was clearing it out and preparing to sell it.

Representatives of the Lone Father's Association and the Men's Rights Agency made statements to the media that the father was not known to

them. The mother's solicitor gave interviews to the media. She described the legal steps that had been taken and said, "It has been excruciating for our client. She is extremely distressed and just wants the children home. These children have completely disappeared. I deal with a lot of cases of people separating, but this is different. The AFP have been looking for them for six weeks. We had a 'location and recovery' order from the Family Court the day after they disappeared, which allowed the AFP to use all their resources to track them down. While I am not allowed to talk about the father I can say I am extremely concerned for the children and their safety. If anyone has any information please contact the authorities."

The mother gave television and radio interviews. Three days after the story hit the media the children were recovered in Launceston, Tasmania as the father surrendered the children to the AFP.

The children were recovered and handed over to the mother in Tasmania, but the media frenzy continued. The mother was interviewed. There were descriptions of the father's separation from the children, of him mouthing through a window of a taxi "I love you" as the children were driven away, and of the mother refusing to allow him a last hug of the 9 year old.

The father remained defiant, saying he had not kidnapped the children but had given them 24 hours to decide what they wanted to do and they told him they wanted to run away.

The newspaper coverage continued, fuelled by further interviews with the mother and the father and with headlines such as "Reunited Kids Like Strangers to Mum," "Anguish of Mother's Separation" and "Sad Dad Farewells Custody Battle Kids."

Then media silence!

Three days later the father was back in the news. It was national news that he was launching a new organization called ROCK (Rights of Custodial Kids). It was reported that clutching a rock, he told the media he wants to embarrass the Family Court and the state and federal attorneys general, whom he believes are not allowing children to be heard in custody disputes. He said he had received "lots of calls of support," mainly from non custodial fathers.

On May 17, Queensland media reported three children were missing and later in the day it was reported it was the same three children and the police said the father was not a suspect. The Family Court issued another recovery order. Four hours after the children's disappearance they were recovered at a shopping centre after members of the public contacted the police.

Late the same day the father was arrested on three charges of child abduction and one of breach of a domestic violence order when he was brought before a Magistrate the following morning. He did not seek bail and was in custody until June 25 and ordered to undergo a mental health assessment. There was also a warrant for the father's arrest issued by the Family Court, presumably for contravention of a court order.

It is a sorry story of the damage to children and their parents that can occur if the restrictions on publication in Section 121 of the Act and the conditions of a publication order are ignored. As yet, there has been no prosecution launched against any media organization or individual involved for any offence under the section.