

Family Court Statistics



The family court system is failing to protect children. Parental rights currently trump child safety. The very system that was established to govern family law cases and make decisions that are “in the best interest” of children, has some undeniable shortcomings that warrant awareness, conversation, solutions and ultimately, change.

Why should this concern you? Let's take a look at the stats below!

6 Every **6 days** in the U.S., a child is killed amid a custody dispute or family court lapse.

58,000 An estimated **58,000 US children** are court ordered into the care of an abusing parent each and every year.

989 **989 US children** have been murdered by a divorcing or separating parent in the past decade.

73% The murder is the **biological father** of the child **73% of the time**.

2x **Abusive fathers were more than 2x as likely to seek sole physical custody** as non-violent fathers and **they are successful about 70% of the time**.

28% **of mothers** who allege a father is abusive **lose custody of their children to that father**.

23% When fathers respond in court to abuse claims with an alienation cross-claim, only 23% of mothers are believed.

50% In cases where one parent accused the other of abuse and the other cross-claimed alienation, **mothers alleging abuse lost custody 50% of the time**.

73% **of mothers lose custody** when the courts believe the mother is an alienator - sometimes even when courts acknowledge the father has abused the mother or children.

97% Women's Aid (2021) found that, of the perpetrators convicted for coercive and controlling behaviour in England and Wales over a year-long period, **97% were male**.



Family Court Statistics (Cont.)



Family courts rarely believe mothers' and children's claims of abuse, despite false claims being very rare.

21% Courts only **believe mothers 21%** of the time **for claims of child physical abuse.**

19% Courts only **believe mothers 19%** of the time **for claims of child sexual abuse.**

13% Even when the father's abuse is proved in court, mothers lost custody to the proven abuser **13% of the time.**

50-75% Independent research has found that **50-75% of child sexual abuse allegations in the custody context are believed to be likely valid.**

& LESS THAN 14% are considered intentionally false.

81% In custody cases where mother's and children report the father's sexual abuse of the child, **the court sides with the father 81% of the time.**

8.3 Million Days

Survivors of intimate partner violence and victims of Coercive Control, **lose a total of 8.3 million days of paid work** each year and frequently lose their jobs due to abuse.

99% of women worldwide who are domestically abused are **also financially abused.**

82% of victims who died by suicide experienced aggravating factors - with **coercive control** and **financial abuse** being the most common.

\$830,928

Lifetime cost of child maltreatment

The overwhelming majority of child maltreatment is perpetrated at the hands of one abusing caregiver in a family.

\$585 Billion

The estimated economic toll associated with child maltreatment is between \$124 and \$585 billion across the lifetime. Child maltreatment includes child abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and trauma and neglect.

