

# "Kids Need Both Parents"

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**Jeff Golden's National Cry for Children continued:** On Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1974 Patty Hearst was kidnaped by a radical group called the Symbionese Liberation Army. A few weeks later she was making videos in support of the group, and was even caught on videos in bank surveillance as "Tonya," a gun-toting SLA robber...the robbers took hostages and kept them in a vault. Khomeini came to power in Iran in 1979, the US embassy was taken and western hostages were taken. The Iran hostage situation cost Jimmy Carter his re-election as president. **What do all these events have in common?** When the hostages in all these cases were released, they at first spoke glowingly about how well their captors treated them. It wasn't until weeks later that, and sometimes after intense therapy, that these former hostages were able to realize that their **rights had been violated** and they were actually treated very badly. They **THOUGHT** they were well treated because they occasionally got something to eat and weren't shot, Ever since this has been know as "Stockholm Syndrome." **What does this have to do with child custody??** If sophisticated adults - bank executives, diplomats, U.S. Marines, and even a young, college educated heiress - can believe they are being well treated when they are not, doesn't it seem logical that it is easier to do this to children? Of course it is, and that's what Parental Alienation Syndrome is all about. Parental Alienation is Stockholm Syndrome inflicted on children. On their website, the National Organization for Women or "Women have white paper on Father's rights". In it, among other things, they say parental Alienation doesn't exist. N.O.W. is a well funded politically connected organization. They used their political connections to lobby Congress to pass a resolution that also says that Parental Alienation Syndrome doesn't exist. I disagree. I believe it takes place at least to some extent in almost every divorce/custody case. Do all women agree with about N.O.W.'s position on Parental Alienation Syndrome? Does N.O.W. represent all women? **NO!** These women who called our hotline don't agree with N.O.W. All men in the Audience here today have mothers, sisters, aunts, wives, girlfriends. N.O.W. doesn't represent them either. The sooner the legislature recognize that there are millions of women and that N.O.W. is a radical-feminist group of only a few thousand, and that most women **DO NOT** support their positions, the sooner they will begin working to correct one of the biggest problems facing us - fatherlessness. What's the solution? If children have two good parents, it should **NOT BE THE Court'S** job to decide which one is "less good" and give them to the other parent. Even if the kids have not to good parents they are entitled to keep both of them. The Courts **ONLY** job should be to devise a plan in which the children will continue to have a meaningful parent-child relationship with **BOTH PARENTS**. Anything less than this, or anything the Court does that is not with this goal in mind, is counterproductive, and may even be considered child abuse. Just one last comment: Father's and Childrens Equality sometimes sets up a table in a shopping Mall where we give out information about the organization and about Family Law reform. Every time we do this, young adults stop by the table and tell us we should keep up the good work. When I ask them if they have children, they say no. When I ask about their interest in our work, invariably they tell me that their parents were separated when they were young and their mother wouldn't let them have a relationship with their Father. As long as people keep telling me that, I'll keep on working for every child to have a meaningful parent-child relationship with **BOTH** parents.

**Karen DeCrow, former president of N.O.W. says:**



**"There is nothing scientific, logical, or rational in excluding men or forever holding woman and children in eternally loving bondage. Most of us have acknowledged that women can do everything men can do. It is time for us to acknowledge that men can do everything women can do."**