



# National Coalition For Men (NCFM)

Since 1977

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*False Accusers Must Be Held Accountable*  
By Harry Crouch, President NCFM

The National Coalition For Men is the oldest men's rights organization in the United States, though we have members throughout the world.

NCFM is committed to the removal of harmful gender based discrimination and stereotypes, especially as they adversely impact men, boys, their families, and the women who love them.

There is significant documentation about the frequency of false accusations, although this paper does not address them. Suffice to say, NCFM believes false accusations of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and even paternity are epidemic.

False accusations clog our criminal and family court systems. If false accusers were held accountable, court caseloads could dramatically decrease allowing for better use of resources.

False accusations have far reaching negative impacts on their intended targets and those who love them. Lives are disrupted, and some destroyed.

Three examples, recommendations, and summary follow:

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## **The Scorched Earth Approach**

Child Protective Services substantiated the second of 26 child abuse accusations made against John, though the findings were later found to be suspect after the other accusations were proven false.

Several times John was arrested. He paid tens of thousands of dollars just for bail bonds. He refused plea bargains. Juries found him either not guilty or factually innocent of all charges.

Later, in family court John's ex-wife, under oath, repeated recent lies she told to the court, police, and child protective services.

Unbeknownst to the ex-wife and the judge, John had been wearing a GPS tracking device that remained locked to his ankle. The judge was given access to John's Internet GPS account, which showed it was geographically and therefore physically impossible for John to do what his ex-wife claimed. The judge lost his composure and became beet red in the face. Almost spitting his words, he called the ex-wife a "liar" and "perjurer".

The judge ruled the ex-wife had employed a scorched earth campaign, designed to alienate John from their three children and maximize child support.

The judge believed the alienation was complete, that the children believed her lies. Consequently, citing "best interests of children" the judge denied them visitation with their father. To compound the injustice, the judge awarded 100% physical and legal custody to the mother, ordered him to pay her legal bills, and increased his child support.

## **The Silver Bullet Approach**

Bill is a highly decorated military academy graduate with advanced engineering degrees, 18 years of military service, with several overseas tours in war zones. He was scheduled for promotion to a major command.

Bill's wife was having an affair with an enlisted man. Bill grew suspicious and confronted her. She admitted the affair, began demeaning Bill, and fearing reprisal, she accused him of spousal rape.

Bill was arrested, posted bail, and faced serious criminal charges. The restraining order by a civilian court jeopardized his security clearance. That, coupled with the felony charge, set in motion the process for a general discharge, which would have denied him and his children retirement benefits.

Emails between his wife and her lover later established her malicious allegation was contrived.

Criminal charges were dismissed. His wife was awarded 50% child custody, 50% of his military retirement, their house, and most of their personal property. Bill pays child support.

## **The Drop Dead Approach**

Raul was an established, well paid, and highly regarded ship-welder. Considerable friction existed between Raul and his wife. She began a lengthy campaign of false accusations to prevent Raul from seeing their young son.



She accused Raul of using illicit drugs. He proved he had never failed an employer ordered drug test. Regardless, the family court ordered more tests. He passed them all.

Next were allegations Raul hurt their son. It was just the opposite. When Raul picked up his son for visitation the boy was usually disheveled and bruised. Several times Raul was concerned the baby may have sustained serious injury due to neglect or physical abuse. The last time Raul took the baby to the hospital the doctor thought the bruising was so unusual and severe that she called the police.

She then alleged Raul sexually abused the baby and was a sex addict. She said that she caught him masturbating.

Even after being ordered by the court to find employment and become self supporting, the mother refused. In response for her failure to comply with the order, the court increased the length of time Raul was to pay spousal support.

More than once, members of her family threatened to kill Raul. Two weeks ago, two days after Raul missed a scheduled court hearing, the Border Patrol found him in the desert dead from a gunshot wound to the head. The Border Patrol said suicide.

Along with Raul's attorney, I went to the re scheduled court hearing a few days later.

The mother's attorney had been notified of Raul's death, but she had not read the notice. The Judge had read it though. When the judge mentioned it, the mother appeared shocked and devastated as if she didn't know.

Raul's attorney asked that Raul's parents, brothers, and sisters continue to spend time with the baby. The judge said no, but not for any reason based in law or fact. The judge said no, because she was offended that the father's aggrieved family did not notify the mother.

Even in death, Raul and his family were abused, including their son who was denied his paternal family.

## **Recommendations**

1. The Violence Against Women Act and satellite legislation must be reformed to compel the use of polygraph tests to help discover false accusations before any type of criminal charges are filed and before child custody decisions are made in high conflict cases.
2. Any allegation that has a legal and automatic presumptive effect on one's parental and child custody rights should require a clear and convincing standard of proof, rather than preponderance evidence.
3. Existing laws to punish false reporting and perjury need to be enforced.
4. Courts should be allowed to quickly issue minor sanctions, including ordering false accusers to serve time doing public service, like picking up roadway trash.
5. More serious false accusations should result in criminal charges with the same level of punishment the victim of the false accusation could have suffered.



6. False accusers should be required to make restitution to those they falsely accuse. Like child support arrears, restitution should not be dischargeable through bankruptcy.
7. As to those crimes for which the names of the accusers are withheld from the public, the names of the accused should be protected as well, given the heavy stigma and life changing consequences that usually follow a false accusation.
8. Model legislation like that proposed by Stopping Abusive and Violent Environments needs to be fully vetted and embraced by the states and federal government.

## Summary

Protecting false-accusers only benefits perjurers and system stakeholders who financially benefit from such injustice.

Failure to hold malicious false accusers accountable and rewarding their behavior emboldens them to abuse more.

One wonders how any court reasonably finds that victimized children like those above, and the thousands of children like them, are better off with a parent who lies, alienates their children from the other parent, and who campaigns to destroy another person's life.

We must insist legislators and jurists protect innocent victims rather than rewarding their accusers. Otherwise, regardless of gender, the wrongly accused will continue to be destroyed.

The reputations of Bill and John are forever tarnished. John even lost his children. Bill, who survived several wars and devoted much of his life defending his country, was almost destroyed by one false accusation. Even Bill's wife's lover was fined, demoted, and forced to retire early.

Not one of the women above was sanctioned. In fact, each was handsomely rewarded. Indeed, the courts' refusal to hold them accountable encouraged two of them to continue their campaign of destruction.

And, murder or suicide, the "System" killed Raul.

