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September 25, 2012

Hon. Robert J. Trentacosta  
Presiding Judge  
San Diego County Superior Court  
220 W. Broadway, Third Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101

Hon. David J. Danielsen  
Assistant Presiding Judge  
San Diego County Superior Court  
220 W. Broadway, Third Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101

Hon. Maureen F. Hallahan  
Supervising Judge, Family Court  
San Diego County Superior Court  
1555 Sixth Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92101

Hon. Stephanie Sontag  
Supervising Judge, South Bay  
San Diego County Superior Court  
500 Third Avenue  
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Re: Children's Ten Most Stressful Events etc. Poster  
South Bay Regional Center

Your Honors:

I am writing to ask you to please remove the subject poster which unfairly bashes and unequally treats fathers, husbands, sons, and grandfathers who appear as parties, witnesses, or attorneys in family court matters - and all other legal matters - heard at the South Bay Regional Center. This is the same poster Harry Crouch, president of the National Coalition for Men, asked you to remove in his attached September 12, 2012, letter, and to my knowledge, this sexist poster continues to conspicuously hang on a courthouse wall.

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Aside from this poster's message of misandry - it only lists fathers as doing bad things by themselves, which I will get to later, what is the authority for this list of "Children's Ten Most Stressful Events Associated with the Divorce of Their Parents?" Who came up with this list, and what are the author's credentials? Having attended several of Judge Trentacosta's evidence seminars, I am sure he would be most interested in the source and weight of this "evidence."

For example, here is a similar list obtained through a Google search I did for the phrase "Children's Ten Most Stressful Events," found at <http://missourifamilies.org/quick/divorceqa/divorceqa1.htm>:



### ***Relationships Quick Answers***

#### **What do children say are the ten most stressful events after your parents divorce?**

1. Dad or Mom tells you the divorce took place because of you.
2. Your parents hit each other or physically hurt each other.
3. Your relatives say bad things to your parents.
4. Dad tells you that he doesn't like you spending time with your Mom.
5. Your Mom and Dad argue in front of you.
6. Dad says bad things about your Mom.
7. You have to give up pets or other things that you like.
8. Your Mom acts unhappy.
9. Dad asks questions about your Mom's private life.
10. People in the neighborhood say bad things to you about your parents.

Source: This material is based on rating of 158 young people between the ages of 8 and 15 (average age = 11.5 years). This was reported in a study by I.N. Sandler and colleagues in CHILDREN AND DIVORCE. New York: Gardner, 1988.

Notice the authority or source for this similar list: "This material is based on rating of 158 young people between the ages of 8 and 15 (average age = 11.5 years)." Can you imagine how an expert statistician or experienced trial lawyer would tear apart this survey of such a small sample size of children, who perhaps were provided with a list of prepared answers from which to choose? Answers such as "My dad said bad things about my mother" or "My dad told me he doesn't like me spending time with my mom," but not answer choices such as "My mom said bad things about my father" or "My mom told me she doesn't like me spending time with my dad."

And can you imagine the uproar, and rightfully so, from women's equal rights groups or any other equal rights group, if the San Diego Superior Court hung a similar poster on any of its courthouse walls, listing "stressful events" brought about by only women? Stressful events such as:

- My mom asks me questions about my dad's private live.
- My mom said bad things about my father.
- My mom told me she doesn't like me spending time with my dad.
- My mom acts unhappy.

This poster is hateful and biased towards the men who appear at the South County courthouse as parties, witnesses, or attorneys in any legal proceeding there. Please immediately remove it, or, to treat male and female parties, witnesses, and attorneys equally, immediately hang a similar poster next to this one, wherein you replace the stressful events allegedly caused solely by men with these same stressful events being caused solely by women.

Sincerely,



Alfred G. Rava

p.s. To satisfy my intellectual curiosity, I would appreciate someone telling me what the source is for these "Children's Ten Most Stressful Events . . ." listed on this poster. Who created this list and who decided to hang it?

cc: Mr. Michael M. Roddy, Executive Officer, San Diego County Superior Court  
Judge Steven Jahr (Ret.), Incoming Administrative Director of the Courts, Administrative Office of the Courts