

## Plight of a Parent – Father or Foe

*Once they knew me as a father but now they know me as a foe or, at best, as a memory*  
- Kirk Rainer, a dad of four children

This is the third letter of a series and, as with the others, is written as the only means presently to show that extent and which one parent will go to be Father against a prevailing stigma of Foe – to even break the law in Florida. Again, the letter is not formatted or structured to legal standards – because I am not a legal representative – but only a dad who has tried desperately to have some semblance of relationship with his children. I have titled this letter, *Plight of a Parent – Father or Foe*.

Can a father also be a foe; more specifically, should a parent attempt to be a parent when the other parent has made it illegal to do so? From the first letter that I wrote in this series, the injunction is described as Draconian on the basis that it restricts me from any contact directly or indirectly with my children; such an extreme measure answers the leading question; “Yes, the Father is a Foe”. But also from the first letter, the basis of the injunction is erroneously referenced to the source document, The Final Judgment; further, the implied unfitness of the Father is in contraction to the explicit licensed psychologists’ evaluations resulting from court orders. To respond to the leading question again; “The Father may not be a Foe” – but has been profiled (and stigmatized) as such for reasons beyond the scope of this letter.

Devices – as what I call the plans and schemes of others – have run rampant in this case while the credible evidence of professionals has been swept under the courtroom carpet...or been mysteriously left in the backroom as seemingly irrelevant. To lift the figurative carpet – or bring relevance to such evidence – I must have money. As Johnny Cochran said: “the color of justice in the U.S. Courts is green”; and to render justice in this case – or to accurately respond to the leading question – is to hire someone to help the courts understand the truth...and reverse the injunction and its consequences. Without money for justice, I will try to answer the question – if just for the reader – by the content of this third letter.

Speaking of writing, why have I written my children hundreds of letter over the last seven years? Is it because that I have to *set the record straight* or to otherwise bring further division and destruction in my family? Well, since I’ve been the one doing the writing, let me try to answer the question as honestly and accurately as possible; but before I do, let me say that there are those (even some reading this letter) who know of the letters – content and volume – and do not require an explanation.

They know of the many letters represented in the volume, ***In a Word***. This collection of letters began in 2003 and continued into 2006 – a collection of some 350 letters in all! Letters sharing our past experiences, letters that offer information on interesting characters or topics, and letters on the types of instruction that parent offers their children when to do, is not illegal. This volume has been shared with friends and family and – at the risk of violating the latest restraining order or the ill-consuming injunction, have been mailed to my children. Yes, I actually mailed letters to my children – but then such condemning acts are already on record with the courts – and have been dealt with accordingly. I've written about these dealings in the story, ***A Time for Jail***.

***In a Word*** is not the only letters – as I have sent a series of letters on topics of the Bible, addressing each letter to a separate child using a different color stationary for each: Matt was yellow, because he is “Sunny Boy”; Abby is pink, because she has always liked pink; Ben is green, because he use to like army men and soldiers; and Brian-Wesley is blue, because he is all-boy, rough and tumble. Letters using the colored schemes, along with CD's (of contemporary Christian music) and gifts, have been sent to my children periodically or for special occasions, like their birthdays. Yes, I actually mailed gifts to my children at Christmas, birthdays and other occasions.

For his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, I ordered my oldest a Dell computer; for my daughter, I sent her a FTD collection of snacks made-up like a bouquet; and for my two smaller children, I have sent footballs and soccer balls and the things that parents give their children. The difference however is that I am not certain that they ever receive (or have received) these gifts; and what's worse, is that they are not aware of where the gifts came from; and what's absolutely atrocious, is that to carry-out such parental prerogative is against the law!

Some day, my children may need to know why my actions and attempts – however far they may fall below that of a parent – were unlawful; and when they have learned the reason(s), perhaps they will be able to explain it to me. In the mean time, I have sent monies for band fees and summer camp, for lunch money or similar fees, and anything else if the educators would allow – but, like I and my children, the educators are waiting for reason(s) and, in the interim, are accepting the response, “Yes, the Father is a Foe”. Like my children, the educators are doing (and accepting) what they're told...

This year, my oldest graduates from high school; and unfortunately, I will not be able attend his graduation without violating the law. If there is any good news on the matter however, I have already violated my probation and therefore, will not have to wait

until my son's ceremony to be arrested again. Of course, my son also turns 18 this year and, by law, is no longer bound to the restrictions of the injunction – but is free to have a relationship with his parent. Could there possibly be a coincidence between my son's upcoming independence and his father's violation of probation? I'm not altogether certain, but with the Devices I've witnessed in the past, the strong possibility exists; and with the violation outstanding, the question of Father or Foe should probably be followed by Fugitive...but the time being, the question remains between Father and Foe; and for the children the question was once plainly answered, "Father" but has come to be...well, something much than that, I'm afraid.

This last year, my parents also attended a ball game to see my oldest children play in the band; yes, the children (two of them) actually got to see their grandparents for the first time in seven years! When their grandparents tried to approach them, one of the two dashed-off and the other replied: "if my sister sees you, she will tell mother, and dad will go to jail". It seems that I'm not the only one afraid; yes, fear has been induced in the children. This "fear" is one of those Devices that I wrote about in the previous letter.

These same grandparents routinely visit the kid's band Web site and post encouraging comments on pictures of the two. As with my participation as a parent, the kid's grandparents have been largely reduced to that of fleeting family – but how they have tried to connect and to be some source of confidence over the restrictions of the law. In this capacity, they have looked into "grand-parental" rights; but as I understand, grandparents have fewer rights than parents.

When the children were younger – and I was actually a parent – we would watch *Dear to My Heart* (Disney). In the dated movie, the caring grandmother tells her grandson, "Animals are not born afraid" (referring to a young sheep or kid that the boy has befriended). This wisdom comes from experience that if animals are afraid, it is because of training, mistreatment or some similar stimulus. In the case of my kids, they have been trained to be afraid. Once they knew me as a father but now they know me (and their grandparents) as a foe or, at best, some distant memory.

In the forth and final letter, I will write about fear. This word was most recently used in the Charging Affidavit – or the document used to initiate my arrest. Fear is a very real and underlying theme of my long term alienation from my children – but not as you might think or assume; yet, this theme is pervasive and powerful...