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KILLING OR INJURY TO CHILDREN ON RISE WEB SERVICE HELPS PARENTS

By **LINDA J ALEXANDER, ESQ**

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ALEXANDER, ESQ**

At a time when violent crime nationwide is on the decline —murders down 13 percent from 1999 —one crime statistic is haunting the criminal justice system. The killing or injury of children by their parents or stepparents shows an alarming rise. Between 1976 and 1997, approximately 11,000 children were murdered by those who gave them life or were supposed to give them care. Thousands more were the victims of life-threatening injuries.

So it is no surprise that in this era of information and cyber-technology, concerned parents and grandparents are turning for help to one new website on the Internet. WhoisHe.Com and WhoisShe.Com reports having received thousands of requests from parents and grandparents to do background and criminal record checks on the new stepparent or significant other of their ex-spouse.

" In the past year there has been a tremendous increase in the number of persons wanting us to do investigations of this nature," notes Linda Alexander, a Southern California attorney and website founder. "Parents and grandparents want to protect these children from potential abuse."

Alexander 's online company specializes in a wide variety of comprehensive background checks and criminal record searches designed to verify if persons are who they purport to be. Have they ever used an alias? Do they have a criminal record? Have they committed domestic violence? Are they a registered sexual offender? A pedophile? Finding the answers to such questions is all in a day's work for Alexander and her staff of professional web sleuths. She reports that the website has over three quarters of a million hits each month.

The service also assists in tracing lost loves, friends, estranged family members and old army buddies,cyber-romance, potential mates, employees, business partners, nannies, in-home health care workers —to find out if they are really who they say they are. The cost of the service provided by WhoisHe.Com and WhoisShe.Com range from \$39 to \$75. The site's motto says it all... "when in doubt, check them out"....

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A Child–Abuse Profile?

Present Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics reveal that more than thirty–five percent of our children are being raised in households with only one of their biological parents and may include a stepparent or an unmarried partner. Statistically, a child in that situation shows a forty times greater chance of being abused than when living with two biological parents. Small wonder that the increases in child abuse are skyrocketing, up from 400,000 reported cases in 1976 to almost 4 million reported cases in 1997.

The disturbing reality of escalating child abuse in the United States today is driven home daily by shocking news reports and television broadcasts. In San Diego, a seven–month–old baby girl was

burned over eighty–five percent of her body when the child's mother left home briefly to run errands, leaving her baby alone with a boyfriend who police say put the infant in scalding water in the kitchen sink.

In Springfield, Missouri, an ex–lover and allegedly the father of an unborn baby, murdered a nine–months–pregnant mother and her three young children. He confessed to committing these crimes along with his new girlfriend. In Houston, Missouri, the Texas County prosecutor charged Bobby Mayes with killing his wife and teenage stepdaughter. Mayes had a prior record of eight felony convictions from sexual abuse to burglary.

With tragedies like these reported in every part of the country, major concerns arise as to who may be trusted with our children. .

WhoisHe.Com and WhoisShe.Com has been widely recognized on CBS' "48 HOURS" and the CBS Early Show; The Other Half, Men are From Mars Woman From Venus, in People Magazine, listed in Yahoo Internet Life Magazine's top 100 sites for the Year 2000, Seventeen Magazine, Entrepreneur Magazine, Kiplinger Magazine, USA Today.

Anyone harboring doubts about anyone else can check out the website at <http://WhoisHe.Com> and at <http://WhoisShe.Com> and questions can be sent to Admin@WhoisHe.Com or call Linda Alexander, Esq. at 760–806–4377.

LINDA J ALEXANDER, ESQ is an attorney and the President of WhoisHe.Com / WhoisShe.Com. WhoisHe.Com and WhoisShe.Com provides comprehensive background, criminal and civil record checks for employment screening, prospective mates, business partners, nanny checks, in–home service providers, Nanny Checks, future step–parents since 1997. She can be reached at 760–806–4377 or at CheckHimOut@WhoisHe.Com or CheckHerOut@WhoisShe.Com

4 Parenting Styles

By Dana Goldberg

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Every grandmother and grandfather will tell you hilarious stories of their children when they were first born. And for every funny and touching story they have, they will be able to tell you another for every hardship they encountered. Parenting is something that is done in many different ways by each parent. The following are four general styles employed by parents.

Authority: Authoritarian parents rule on just that: authority. Commands are given to children that they must follow regardless of the circumstances. If these commands are not followed, harsh punishment will ensue. These parents do not welcome feedback from their children. In fact, it is met with severe punishment. The children tend to be quiet and unhappy. They have more of a fear than a love for their parents. Male children have trouble dealing with anger and female children have trouble facing adversity due to their heavily structured life where nothing ever changes.

Indulgent: Indulgent parents tend to be described as lenient. They allow immature and childish behavior. These parents expect the children to learn from their mistakes and to fend for themselves in most times of need. These parents tend to be democratic and allow for feedback from their children on issues. They will hear both sides of an argument and usually make a compromise. Indulgent parents usually avoid confrontation with their children by all means, but do tend to be more involved and emotionally closer to their children.

Authoritative: Authoritative parents are a combination of the two styles previously mentioned. They are the happy medium. While expecting proper behavior from their children, they welcome feedback and questioning on certain issues. They're able to demand things of their children but are also able to respond to what their child says, questions and requests. These children tend to be the happiest, most confident and self-assured of all the mentioned parenting styles. It is very difficult to be a purely authoritative parent.

Passive: Passive parenting is being completely uninvolved. These parents may never be home due to immaturity, work or the like. These children are usually raised by grandparents, older siblings, babysitters or themselves. There is no parental involvement at all.

We wish you many happy stories!

D. Goldberg is the owner of Parenting Spirit. Free parenting tips on children's behavior, activities for children and parenting resources for families and professionals.



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