

Issue  
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# SAFARI

Supporting All Falsely Accused with Reference Information  
Web Site: <http://safari-uk.org>

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*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." (Edmund Burke)*

TOO AFRAID TO HELP. A recent survey conducted on 500 men on behalf of ID tag company IdentiKids has shown that 75% of men will no longer help children in distress because they are worried about what it will look like to others, and 23% of those surveyed would ignore the child completely, leaving another passer-by to assist. 80% felt more scared of helping children than they did ten years ago. This demonstrates just how scared people now are of being falsely accused. The problem is *real*. Officials take note!

SECRECY IN THE FAMILY COURTS - A DIRECT CAUSE OF INJUSTICE IN THE CRIMINAL COURTS. It's high time that the shroud of secrecy was removed from the Family Courts, and that the Government realised the injustice it causes. John Hemming MP is doing a great job working on this issue.

One reader comments: "My conviction was based on the personal opinion of one expert. Professor Anthony Risdon (Great Ormond Street) stated at my Trial that it was "beyond doubt" that I was guilty of murder. However, a few months before my Trial he had given evidence in the Family Courts in which he maintained that it was not possible to prove categorically that my son had been murdered. In the time between these two Court appearances he had conducted no additional research. I fail to see how he could justify the change of his expert evidence. I questioned this with my legal team at the time of my Trial and was informed that all evidence presented in the Family Court Hearing was confidential and therefore could not be raised in the criminal proceedings. I do understand the need for confidentiality, to a degree, in the Family Court Hearings. However, I also believe that there needs to be a means of protection from false evidence, especially where there is additional evidence which proves it to be false."

So do we - which is why we do not mention the names of anyone involved in that case other than the 'expert' in question, but simply highlight the injustice that the secrecy causes.

RISDON "CERTAINLY WOULDN'T BE LOOKING TO HELP" THE INNOCENT FALSELY ACCUSED: We noticed on the Great Ormond Street Hospital's website, in an article dated 2005, that Prof. Risdon was cited as being "the country's only paediatric forensic pathologist"; we contacted Great Ormond Street Hospital via email to enquire if this was still the case. Prof. Risdon himself replied: "I am the only Home Office accredited paediatric pathologist in the country, but not the only [forensic paediatric pathologist] to appear in Court!" He added (mistakenly?) "I don't know who this lot [SAFARI] are either, but *I certainly wouldn't be looking to help them from their name alone!*" (SAFARI stands for "Supporting All Falsely Accused with Reference Information".)

We find it a matter of grave concern that the *only* Home Office accredited paediatric pathologist in the country has clearly stated that he would not want to help a support group *for the falsely accused*. This attitude must surely bring his impartiality as a witness into question. We are now calling for questions to be asked in the House of Commons regarding the Home Office's stance on checking / verifying the impartiality of those they use as accredited expert witnesses.

SARAH MEALING (43) has been told she faces prison, after being convicted of making a false rape allegation against her ex-boyfriend Graham Fuller. The court heard that in 2004 she began repeatedly ringing 999 and making allegations against her boyfriend. The police investigated her allegations each time, although she was reluctant to press charges and gave conflicting details. Mealing had claimed that she had been repeatedly raped and beaten, but Graham had been able to prove to the police that on one of the dates he was on a stag weekend in Jersey, on another he was attending a company Christmas party in Scotland, another time he was on board a flight to South Africa and during another alleged attack he was in a cinema!

ZOË DAVYDAITUS (24) has pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice after making a false allegation that she was attacked, which sparked a police investigation and a media appeal for information. A 2004 news story said: "The woman was raped on the former George Fischer factory site opposite Bedford Hospital as she walked her dog...", "police say she was left distraught by her ordeal...", etc. But it was all untrue and Davydaitus is now facing an almost certain jail sentence after eventually admitting her lies. She was granted bail while psychiatric and pre-sentence reports were prepared. In mitigation, Matthew Kirk, defending, said Davydaitus had handed her lawyers a letter of apology to the man who was arrested.

DAWN ANNANDALE (39) has received a 120-day prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, for lying to police by telling them she was raped in her own home. She was ordered to do 200 hours' community service and to pay £5,000 in compensation and £100 costs. Her lies only surfaced after an acquaintance told police she was not telling the truth. Annandale later pleaded guilty to wasting police time.

ABIGAIL GIBSON (22) has been jailed for two years after making a false rape allegation against Mark Berry solely *because she didn't like him*. It was only after being confronted with major flaws in her account of the attack that Gibson withdrew her original complaint and admitted her lies. Mark has now called for a register of people who make false accusations to be set up.

NICOLA JANE IRVINE (28) has been jailed for 8 months after making a false rape claim to ensure she was released faster from a police station following her arrest for being drunk and disorderly at a party. The man she accused had not even been present at the party. She eventually admitted intending to pervert the course of justice. Sentencing, Judge Richard Lowden said there had to be "an element of deterrence", to dissuade others from making such claims.

Donations very much appreciated at:



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***(We can accept no responsibility for errors in this newsletter as we only share information received)***

Laura Halpin (20) received a suspended prison sentence after having made a false allegation of rape against her then boyfriend. Halpin pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice and wasting police time, and was sentenced to nine months imprisonment suspended for two years, 140 hours community service, and made subject of a 6-month curfew.

**POLICE HAVE CONDEMNED** people who maliciously make false rape claims, accusing them of undermining their work with genuine victims. PC Jo Barlow, of Chelmsford CID, said: "Women who make false and malicious allegations jeopardise the work we have done with other agencies to reassure victims of sexual assault that they can have confidence that they will be believed and their allegations properly investigated."

**RAYMOND MCCARTNEY AND EAMONN MACDERMOTT** have had their convictions quashed for the murder of a policeman in Ireland 30 years ago. This followed a referral by the CCRC. The judge stated that he had a "distinct feeling of unease" about the original convictions after it transpired that evidence given by police officers at the murder trials "may have been discredited by evidence which is now available". Mr McCartney, who has always maintained that whilst being held in Belfast, he was repeatedly beaten and the verbal admissions and written statements about the murders - the only evidence against him - were concocted by police officers, said: "This case highlights the RUC interrogation techniques, the use of emergency law to convict people, and the willingness of Diplock courts to ignore evidence to get convictions".

**A SAFARI READER COMMENTS:** "... when I read of the achievable efforts of some of your reported successes it inspires me to continue, yet wondering what the statistics are of wrongful convictions still standing, simply because the innocent ... have retired from battle, worn out, despondent and thoroughly beaten, or put it another way, how many false accusers continue through their lives unblemished and undeterred because their victims simply do not have the strength, physically, mentally or emotionally, to continue to try and establish the crime that has been committed against them."

**SOLICITORS!** If yours is dragging their heels, write and ask briefly to advise when you should next expect to hear from them and what actions they are currently taking. This will help to keep them on their toes.

**LORD CAMPBELL-SAVOURS** asked in a House of Lords written question on Thursday, 8 February 2007 "whether, in relation to the accuser in the Leslie Warren case, the non-disclosure by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) of the offences of (a) obtaining pecuniary gain by deception; (b) perjury to an employment tribunal; (c) a false allegation of assault in 1997; and (d) a false allegation of aggravated burglary with intent to rape was in line with (i) special CPS policy circulated in October 1999 dealing with disclosure to the defence in rape trials; and (ii) the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996." Lord Goldsmith (Attorney General, Law Officers' Department) replied to say "I am advised that no specific guidance was issued by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in 1999 in relation to disclosure in rape cases but that national policy guidance was issued in September 1999 concerning the disclosure of previous convictions of prosecution witnesses. The accuser in the Leslie Warren case did not have any convictions recorded against her and consequently there was no disclosure to be made in accordance with that policy guidance. The Criminal Cases Review Commission has considered this case, and the CPS accepts its finding that the disclosure made by the prosecutor did not comply with the duties imposed by the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996."

**ENHANCED THINKING SKILLS (ETS)** course. Attend if you can and tell the truth at all times. If you are given non-applicable questions like "How will these tools assist you in the future, to reduce the risk of any possible re-offending?" answer honestly, saying something like "As I didn't commit the offence in the first place there is no question of 're-offending', however, the ETS course has given me an insight into ways of dealing with all kinds of situations in a positive and law-abiding manner" [*but only if it has, of course!*].

**CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES!** Whatever you do in life, consider the consequences of your actions. Remember that consequences – good and bad - can have a major impact on how things turn out for you!

**PRIORITISE THE VITAL:** The legal system has many problems and we often hear niggling complaints about police, probation, prison staff, etc. but remember not to major in minor things. An official who is just 'being difficult' may be extremely annoying but is not likely to affect the outcome of your appeal – concentrate on what will!

**PAEDIATRICIAN DAVID SOUTHALL** to be investigated. Again! The Attorney General is to investigate Southall for allegedly withholding information from criminal proceedings in which he appeared as a prosecution witness. It has been claimed that Southall stored files on children containing records that were not kept on their proper hospital files, and that the existence of these special case files was not revealed in the evidence he gave. It is believed that there are 4,450 special case files going back 10 years. Southall is currently facing a General Medical Council hearing in which the issue is being considered. He stands accused of 18 charges of tampering with medical records, keeping secret medical files and abusing his position in relation to four children. He denies serious professional misconduct. Southall was banned from child protection work for three years in August 2004 after the GMC found him guilty of serious professional misconduct for his accusation (following a TV documentary) that Sally Clark's husband had killed their sons. Sally Clark was wrongly jailed for murder in 1999 and released in 2003 after the Court of Appeal quashed her conviction. The letter written by 18 doctors, including David Southall, expressing concerns about the GMC's failure to deal with 'frivolous and vexatious' complaints, is still available to download from the SAFARI website.

**PLEASE HELP US TO HELP YOU!** If you write to us, please include your full name, address & date of writing! (We recently received a letter signed simply "DG" .... It was only because we recognised the handwriting and Prison name mentioned in the letter that we traced it to its writer ... whose initials aren't "DG" in any event!)

Thanks to Terry McCarthy (Parole Board for England and Wales) for statistics of those granted release on Parole despite maintaining innocence.			
Figures for month of January 2007			
<i>Non-lifers:</i>			
All offences	6	of 64	9.4%
Rape	1	of 27	3.7%
Indecent Assault	0	of 10	0.0%
Other Sex	0	of 5	0.0%
Violence	1	of 1	100.0%
Property	0	of 7	0.0%
Drugs	2	of 6	33.3%
Others	2	of 8	25.0%
Total Sex	1	of 42	2.4%
Total Non Sex	5	of 22	22.7%
<i>Lifers only</i>	0	of 2	0.0%
[ Neither of the 2 lifers recommended for open conditions ]			