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I have recently been subjected to a rash of reports of children abused while in state custody. These types of things seem to come in waves. It's a disturbing occupational hazard.

DENVER POST - February 28, 1999 - "2 ½ year old Miguel Arias-Baca was beaten to death earlier this month." by foster parents "who have criminal arrest records and a history of resigning from other foster care agencies."

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUN NEWSPAPER, San Bernardino, CA. Sunday, March 14, 1999 - "A woman who has cared for 50 foster children was arrested for allegedly chaining her 9-year-old disabled foster daughter to a toilet seat every night for months.

"Mary Ann Cordova, 59, of Stockton, confessed to chaining the girl and locking two other children - a 9-year-old adopted daughter and a 3-year-old foster son - in their rooms while she was out at night, said Stockton police Lt. Tom Spivey."

BOSTON HERALD, Saturday, December 19, 1998 - "The attorney for the family of a 16-year-old who died at a Marlboro group home after being placed in a headlock said yesterday he expects to file a civil lawsuit in the case, even though both a judge and the district attorney have found no wrong doing."

From the article: "Once down on the floor, Soares told the pair, 'I can't breathe . . . I can't breathe . . . please stop,' but believing he was 'playing possum,' the two men continued the restraint"

These are just the cases the Child Protection Agencies couldn't cover up. Then there are cases I know of personally because the weeping and frantic parents have called me begging for help.

The Rodriguez's (Utah) whose 13 year old daughter was raped in her foster home and tried to commit suicide when nobody from the state would protect her from the abuse.

Taler Barnes (Missouri) who was placed in a privatized Kansas foster home where within the first six weeks of his life he suffered three broken ribs, a fractured pelvis, brain damage from shaken baby syndrome, and blinded by his foster parents gouging his eyes. When he was finally returned to his mother at nineteen months, he weighed only nineteen pounds. Nobody was prosecuted for his abuse.

The Martin girls (Colorado) who were repeatedly punished by their foster mother for praying.

The Bromberg's (Florida) whose autistic son was removed because they felt the services provided by the county for his disability was incompetent. In foster care he has regressed from being a high functioning autistic child to being completely withdrawn.

(WARNING - THIS IS GRAPHIC) Alma Kidd (Washington) whose 14 year old daughter was placed in a lesbian foster home where she was chained, made to go naked, beaten and prostituted for lesbian sex. Her mother would receive phone calls from her daughter screaming for her to rescue her.

In an astute representation of what child protective services is all about, the BANGOR DAILY NEWS, March 04, 1999 reports - "The Department of Human Services had another rough day at the State House on Wednesday, during which one legislator suggested the state agency would be better termed 'the Department of Human Sacrifice.'" Hear, hear!

A 1986 survey conducted by the National Foster Care Education Project found that

children in foster homes are TEN times more likely to be abused than in their own home. A follow-up study in 1990 by the same group produced similar results. The American Civil Liberties Union's Children's Rights Project similarly estimates that a child in the care of the state is ten times more likely to be abused than one in the care of his parents.

Child abuse isn't always measured in bruises and broken bones. There is a 99.9% guarantee that the child will suffer emotional trauma at being separated from his parents. Studies have proven that the prison population contains a disproportionately large population of adult foster children. Adult foster children lose their own children to the system in droves.

When a child is abused in state custody, the state gets to investigate itself. What a deal! Naturally, they rarely prosecute the crime. Parents who document and report abuse of their children in state custody are ignored; their reports are deemed to be retaliatory in nature, therefore, falsified. So in reality, nobody really protects those innocent child victims - not even those child savers who so vigorously pursue 'perpetrator parents'.

You've seen the facts. Are the 'child savers' doing more harm than good? Or are these losses acceptable? You be the judge.