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In my book "Profane Justice" which was published in 1997, I reported about the movement to license parents.

"The 1997 Minnesota state legislature is reported to be considering a parental licensing bill. At first, such a bill would require that any unlicensed parents be subject to periodic visitations by the agents of the state to determine if the child is being raised 'properly.' This will most likely include the requirement that the child is being taught the 'proper values' and that his 'rights as a child' are not infringed upon by repressive parents. It also will provide a vehicle for children to be easily removed from homes where parents do not follow the parenting practices that licensed parents are trained to follow. This will likely mean that home-schooling or spanking will be, in practice, forbidden.

"The next step would be legislation to allow the government to take custody of children who are born to unlicensed parents to be adopted by licensed parents. The only way to be licensed would be to take parenting classes (designed by none other than our ubiquitous 'experts') and to pass a licensing exam administered by the state."

Whew, you say, I'm glad we're not there. In fact, I'll bet you doubt we'll ever get to that point.

But it's already in practice. Day care providers, foster parents, and adoptive parents are licensed. To take it one step further, foster parents are often adoptive parents. The state already has designated these surrogate parents with a 'license' to be parents.

Licensing proponents insist that state regulation of parents will prevent abuse and neglect of children. Before obtaining a license, the prospective caregivers are required to undergo background checks and special training. We are supposed to believe that these licensed (or certified) people are better qualified to care for children than an unlicensed parent or caregiver. Children will ostensibly be safer with licensed caregivers.

The facts do not support this presumption. For example, here is a random sampling of articles from my files that prove just the opposite is true:

". . . 14-week-old Connor died Sept. 28 while in the care of a family friend who operates a licensed day care at her West Side home.

"The Vanderburgh County coroner's office ruled the cause of death as positional asphyxiation."

"Michigan paid 1,312 child-care providers with criminal records or histories of child abuse and neglect to watch kids under a welfare-to-work program, the state auditor general found.

"The audit, released Monday, discovered that the Michigan Family Independence Agency's

criminal background check was so lax, it failed to catch criminal histories on 274 providers who had 318 convictions involving crimes against children on their records.

"Among the crimes were 63 cases of criminal abuse and neglect; 69 sex offenses involving minors; . . . and seven cases of delivery of a controlled substance to a minor.

"In addition, the department approved 2,346 people to receive day-care payments, even though the agency's own Children's Protective Services division found them to be abusive or neglectful of other children."

By TERI SFORZA

The Orange County Register

Orange County day-care incidents

- April 2000: Three-month-old Mallene Rene Heinrich dies of SIDS while in the care of Faye Roberts in Los Alamitos. It's the third SIDS death at Roberts' in-home day-care center, and each time, she had many more children in her care than her license allowed. The state closes her down and tries to revoke her license, saying that she could not properly care for all the children at once.

- November 1999: A jury awards a mother and her 4-year-old son \$1.5 million after the boy was allegedly molested while at the Buena Park home day-care center of Barbara Griffith, by Griffith's son, Dennis Perry. The state-licensed Griffith even though they knew her son, suspected of molesting two children, lived there. The state made Griffith and Perry sign an agreement in 1990 promising that Perry would stay away from the house during day-care hours - information parents couldn't have.

- October 1993: Megan Elizabeth Cook, 20 months old, drowns after falling into the backyard swimming pool at the day-care center run by Laura Gast. Gast's husband, Thomas, was making repairs to the pool, which is surrounded by a fence -- but the gate was propped open with a flowerpot so Thomas Gast could work.

- April 1993: Mark and Bobbi Michalek file a wrongful-death lawsuit against their former day-care providers: Penelope Taylor, her husband, Jeffrey, and their adult son, Danny.

The Taylors were running an unlicensed day-care center at their Huntington Beach home in April when the Michaleks' son, Anthony, suffered fatal head injuries. The Michaleks charged that the Taylors beat their son to death; the Taylors said Anthony hurt his head when he fell off a tricycle. The district attorney's office said there was insufficient evidence to file criminal charges.

- May 1991: Jane Ann Siemer of Stanton leaves 1½-year-old Ariel Moon napping on a living-room couch. When she returns to the room, Ariel is gone. She finds Ariel floating face down in the backyard swimming pool. Ariel dies the next day. The state closes Siemer's day-care home, saying the two gates leading to the pool were broken, and that Siemer failed to properly supervise her young charges.

● March 1991: David Alan Wigle, 2½, dies after allegedly being beaten to death at Mary Ann Lynch's day care home in Tustin. He's struck in the head and back, causing internal bleeding and a skull fracture. Lynch surrendered her license and agreed never to operate another day-care facility.

● June 1989: A child, playing with a lighter, starts a fire that rips through Pat Orozco's in-home day-care center on Audrey Drive in Huntington Beach, killing Jessica Jordan, 8 months, and John "Jack" Reilly, 13 months." There were no smoke detectors in the home.

Orozco is not charged with a crime, but Jack's parents blame her for Jack's death. Gary Glenn of the Huntington Beach Fire Department said he believed Orozco did her best - but that she panicked and the babies didn't have to die. Orozco's license is eventually revoked. Among the accusations, the state alleged that Orozco regularly was under the influence of prescription drugs that impaired her ability to supervise the children properly.

And so it goes when a small child is brutally beaten to death by a Colorado foster father. In a place where he SHOULD have been safe, he was killed by a man who has had several brushes with the law, had a record, and whose driver's license had been revoked. A man whose wife also had a record and no driver's license. And nobody knew. No one had run a records check on them. Forced Altruism List 3/14/99.

Lynn police will investigate a family's charge that their children were physically abused when placed in a foster home by the Department of Social Services on Friday evening.

The family said in an interview yesterday that a man at the foster home in Lynn burned a 3-year-old child with a cigarette lighter when the child ran through the foster house. The family also said the man slapped the oldest child, a 12-year-old girl, twice on the right shoulder. By John Ellement, Globe Staff, 04/11/99

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- A 3-year-old boy living in foster care died from "massive" burns, authorities said, as his biological mother fought in court to regain custody of her son.

Elijah Johnson had burns over 46 percent of his body when he died Monday at County-USC Medical Center, a coroner's office spokesman said Wednesday. At the same time, his mother was attending a hearing that could have allowed him to be returned to her.

Elijah was placed in or climbed into a bathtub of scalding water on April 25, investigators said. He suffered burns to his back, legs and arms.

"There is no way this was accidental," a physician who examined Elijah immediately following the incident wrote, according to a report obtained by the Los Angeles Times. "I would treat this as a murder. His chance of survival is less than 25 percent."

Elijah's mother, Connie Lawrence, 24, said she told social workers several times that she didn't think her son was receiving the proper care.

"There were always scratches and bruises all over his body," she said, choking back tears. She said her son was "always hungry" and "always dirty, from head to toe."

A man who privately contracts to provide foster care for troubled children in state custody was arrested Thursday for allegedly sodomizing a 15-year-old boy and exposing him to pornography.

Police were interviewing three other boys Friday between the ages of 9 and 18 who also may have been sexually assaulted by the 36-year-old man. By Michael Vigh, the Salt Lake Tribune.

KISSIMMEE -- Union officials support a Department of Children & Families counselor who was fired this week for leaving work after not telling her bosses about a 4-year-old foster child sleeping in her office. Published in The Orlando Sentinel on May 15, 1999.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) - An 8-month-old boy who died after suffocating in an overcrowded foster home was the second child to die in the home since November, police said.

Vivan Uk Sheppard was one of eight children in a home licensed by the state for five. The state limit was exceeded because of a shortage of foster homes in northeast Florida, officials said.

The infant was found Saturday with his head caught between a mattress and railing of a crib, according to a Jacksonville Sheriff's Office report. An autopsy revealed the boy suffocated, said Lt. Mark Foxworth.

HUDSON, Wis. (AP) -- A foster mother accused of sexually assaulting a teen-age boy under her care and giving him a marijuana cigarette has been sentenced to 15 years in prison. Published Saturday, May 22, 1999

SYRACUSE -- A Baldwinsville man has been charged with sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of children in his daycare and foster home. Sixty-five-year old Leon Fraser is out on bail. The "Syracuse Post Standard" reports Fraser and his wife have been foster parents and have operated a day-care out of their home for several years. Onondaga County sheriff's investigators say Leon Fraser has sexual contact with two children in his home but won't say if they were foster children or there for day-care.

Los Angeles County's child welfare agency moved Wednesday to sever its relationship with a private foster care operation in whose care two children have died over the past three months. Thursday, July 1, 1999. By Nicholas Riccardi, Times Staff Writer

Earlier this month, a Sacramento woman was convicted of breaking her 2-year-old foster daughter's skull, leaving a quarter-inch-wide crack from the back of her head to the front. By Mareva Brown Bee Staff Writer (Published June 30, 1999)

MILWAUKEE (AP) -- A 16-month-old boy who died this week was left alone in a bathroom by his foster mother before he was found floating face down in a bathtub, according to a Milwaukee

County medical examiner' s report. The death was ruled an accidental drowning. Friday, July 2, 1999.

A proposed settlement was reached Tuesday in a civil rights lawsuit against a state child welfare worker accused of failing to sufficiently supervise the case of a 2-year-old boy who was tortured and murdered by a foster parent. Chicago Tribune, by Matt O'connor Tribune Staff Writer July 07, 1999

ANCHORAGE (AP) - A 10-year-old boy removed from his mother's home and placed in state foster care has died of severe head injuries that police say were possibly self-inflicted.

Steven Murray apparently injured himself by banging his head on the floor Tuesday, police said. He was taken off life support Thursday.

Police are investigating the matter jointly with the state Division of Family and Youth Services, which had removed him from his home and was responsible for his care.

DFYS would not discuss the case and referred questions to police. Neither agency would identify the foster family.

The argument that children are safer in licensed homes is a myth. But what we have happening here is bigger than that. Licensed caregivers enjoy extra protections from loss due to prosecution or seizure of their children. They really do get a greater measure of the presumption of innocence than unlicensed parents get. Take the baby who died of positional asphyxiation. I have heard a very similar story from natural parents who subsequently lost all their other children to overzealous child savers. Licensed caregivers actually have a license to abuse and neglect children with impunity. If they are sanctioned, the most they lose is their license. They rarely lose their own children, their property or their liberty. They enjoy confidentiality protections when a child is harmed in their care. Their former violations are secret from the parents of the children they care for. They are protected by the agency that licenses them.

We have come to believe the propaganda. Society now embraces the false principle that licensing prevents child abuse. We are set up for the next step which has been recently implemented in many jurisdictions; the state sponsored visitor in the home after the birth of a child and the ongoing personal questions asked of children about their home life by other professionals. Parents are already being screened for risk factors that could and do result in the children being taken from them and given to licensed caregivers.

Wednesday, November 29, 2000

By James Mayer of The Oregonian staff

Gov. John Kitzhaber, facing the tightest state budget since the recession-era 1980s, said Tuesday he wants to spend more money helping Oregon's youngest children, with the goal of preventing medical and social risks from growing into more costly public safety and social welfare realities.

The Oregon Children's Plan, which would screen newborn children for signs of future trouble, is a "focused effort to ensure that every child born in this state has a chance to succeed, a chance to be healthy, to be nurtured and to be sent to school ready to learn," Kitzhaber said.

Republicans, who control the Legislature, expressed support for the \$66 million plan, which is the first glimpse into the Democratic governor's 2001-03 budget, due to be released Friday.

. . . The governor's Children's Plan includes voluntary screening of all firstborn children for medical and social risks during prenatal or follow-up medical visits. Out of 44,300 births each year in Oregon, 18,400 are firstborn.

Children found to be at risk and their parents would be matched with support programs. A community team of doctors, teachers and social workers would match the child with appropriate services.

These could include in-home services for children who have developmental disabilities or are medically fragile, mental health treatment for children and substance abuse treatment for parents, along with training for parents.

A mother talks about being pressured into accepting such screening in another state:

"I think this screening is getting way out of hand. When my twins were still in the hospital, they tried to screen me, and I refused to cooperate. We went back and forth for a month before they finally had me arrested so they could have me fingerprinted. They kept telling me that they had to have a nurse come to my house to make sure I have enough electrical outlets. I have almost two years of college under my belt, I can count past ten without taking off my shoes. My question is, what would they have done if they determined I didn't have enough, would they have paid for an electrician to come in and install more? I think not. I can't get over some of the lame excuses they come up with to get into people's homes. Who falls for that cr*p? Thinking back to being blissfully ignorant so many years ago, I would have been more open to it if they told me the sugar-coated version of the truth than to "we have to see if you have enough outlets"."

When pediatricians become politicians Doctors rebuke, reject patients over gun control, other issues

By Julie Foster © 2000 WorldNetDaily.com

William Edwards thought he was taking his 12-year-old son Matt for a routine physical examination required for the boy to attend camp.

But he was put off by a series of questions by pediatrician Dr. Thomas F. Long of the San Ramon Valley Primary Care Medical Group in California.

According to Edwards, Dr. Long asked his son what kinds of movies he watched at home, what

he had for dinner the night before his visit and if his friends' families had guns in the house.

From a posting by Ric Werme in NH - whose wife, Paula, is an attorney who fights CPS

FYI: Was just informed that every parent with child that enters Boston Children's Hospital has to answer a barrage of questions to determine the parent's potential for abuse. Because one family last week, horrified by the questions, had run out of the hospital with their child and escaped, all maintenance people have been trained to respond to a Code Pink alert. Code Pink means that all available maintenance people must block the nearest exit to bar escape of parents from being interrogated.

BCH is where Eli Neuberger set up Child Abuse clinic that abused many families (including one with a pair of twins with Osteogenesis Imperfecta).
