

CHOSEN CHILDREN 2012

*Billion Dollar Babies in America's
Failed Foster Care, Adoption and Prison Systems*

by Lori Carangelo

from the files of
AMERICANS FOR OPEN RECORDS (AmFOR)



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Dedicated

in memory of JEAN PATON, MA, MSW (1909-2002)

Social Worker, Adoptee and “Mother” of the Open Records and Anti-Adoption Movements
and

to the disenfranchised and incarcerated adoptees who risked sharing
their personal stories and their feelings for the first time in their lives.

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"A billion here, a billion there;
pretty soon it adds up to real money."
—Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen (1896-1969)

Prologue

More costly to America than its “war on terrorism,” and our unpaid 15-trillion dollar debt, is the hidden price tag of systematically dismembered and incarcerated families and human rights violations in America’s multi-billion dollar *failed* Foster Care, Adoption and Prison industries.

*It is estimated that 150,000,000 people (half the United States population) has had an adoption, or relinquishment of a child for adoption, in their immediate family.*¹ Norman Goldberg, an adopter and founder of the National Adoption Foundation which funds the cost of adoptions, cites “One in four families in America is touched by adoption.” Americans For Open Records (AmFOR.net), a philanthropic organization founded by this writer in 1989, helped over 20,000 adoptees and their biological families to reconnect and produced the first extensive compilation of both public and private sector data on Foster Care, Adoptions and Prisons. It documented that, for the last half of the twentieth century, fostered and adopted children were over-represented in the nation’s prisons and psychiatric facilities and were subjected to a myriad of abuses while in these systems. Many of the 760,000 children reported “missing” each year have been stolen for secret adoption, a multi-billion dollar industry *commodifying* children in the United States, where an average private adoption can cost \$60,000, black market adoptions get up to \$80,000 and a child can bring \$120,000 or more to child traffickers for other illicit purposes. Mass kidnapping of children from one country to another, as during the genocide in Armenia (1915-1937), Argentina (1976-1983), Lebensborn, Germany and German occupied countries (1935-1944), Guatemala (2009), and by child traffickers amid earthquake devastation in Haiti (2010) seem distant and unrelated to domestic concerns unless one knows that even illegally kidnapped children are being legally adopted under U.S. state sealed adoption records laws, as condoned by the U.S. Department of State. That fact helped make the United States the “largest market for stolen children in the world,” according to the United Nations “Rights of the Child” project, while Immigration does not know how many children are taken out of the U.S. for adoption abroad or for other purposes.

Loring Brace, initiator of the Orphan Trains in America, said “One sure measure of any society is how it treats its children.” A country’s children are its most valuable resource, its future. It’s time to take a long hard look at their outcomes to understand the obvious costs as well as hidden price-tag from perpetuating the current failed Foster Care, Adoption and Prison Systems. The goal is toward replacing these systems with more equitable and workable solutions to America’s social problems. America *can* do better for its children and families

¹ Using U.S. Census Bureau September 2010 U.S. population estimate, and based on National Council For Adoption (NCFA) pro-sealed records lobby of adoption agencies’ conservative estimate of “5-10-million adoptees in the U.S.” through 2010 when the National Census counted only “adopted children” (ignoring decades of now-adopted adults, unless respondents counted themselves as adopted “children”) and the Mormon Family History Center’s definition of “immediate family” as quoted by Abigail Van Buren in the *Los Angeles Times* (5-10-82) as follows: parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings

*“65% of kids who age out of foster care have no place to go;
50% of homeless youth on the street
are runaways from foster care.”*
—California Pacific Medical Center,
and Family Law Quarterly

FOSTER CARE

1. FOLLOWING THE FOLLARS

In August, 2011, for the first time in history and in the midst of the nation’s economic crisis, America’s credit rating was downgraded as result of doing nothing to repay what, at this writing, is America’s \$15--trillion debt. Meanwhile Republican and Democrat legislators argued the pros and cons of cutting entitlement programs such as Social Security benefits, increasing or cutting taxes, and paying to create jobs. Possible cuts to America’s multi-billion dollar symbiotic Foster Care, Adoption and Prison systems. and alternatives to these failed systems, were not examined. Shrouded in secrecy and skewed statistics, it has always been unclear what each is accomplishing. It is known that federal funding for Foster Care was officially reported as costing \$9.2-billion, or almost \$20,000 per child per year since 2009, not including \$2-billion spent on “adoption assistance” As intact families are the foundation of any society, incalculable is the hidden pricetag to individuals, families, and ultimately to society, of organized efforts to dismember economically disadvantaged families *unnecessarily*.

“True orphans” are those whose parents have died and no relative claims them. But today, children are being removed from their homes as “economic orphans.” Particularly disturbing is the fact that the “kinship model,” with true parents, is being replaced by the “adoption model” and “psychological parents” at much higher cost than previously successful family preservation programs. According to *PR Newswire* (8-21-00): “The highly touted increase in adoptions of foster children announced by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) actually masks the *failure* of a new federal adoption law. The average annual increase in foster care adoptions since passage of the so-called Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) equals fewer than 1.1% of the total number of children in foster care on any given day,” said Richard Wexler Executive Director of the National Coalition for Child Protection Reform. “But since 1985, the foster care population has increased by an average of 5% per year. **The number of children in foster care right now is the highest it’s ever been. As it encouraged adoption, ASFA made it easier than ever to take children from their parents just because those parents are poor.**”

ASFA endorsed adoption as the primary solution for the backlog of children in foster care who could not return home. But the Act authorized payments of “adoption bonuses” to states that increased numbers of adoptions over an established baseline to cure state deficits. **Where are these children coming from? Simply put, all of America’s children now have a price on their heads.** According to Cornell University about **68% of all Child Protective Services (CPS) cases do not involve child maltreatment but are for “deprivation of necessities due to poverty.”** That is not to say we should ignore the other 32% that may be *actual* abuse and neglect cases which have

increased at an alarming rate. It is saying that “*economic orphans*” should not be in the same category as “abused and neglected” children and that America can do better for its children.

On the one hand, there has been severe under-reporting of *true* child abuse, while on the other hand, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) justified funding by building a bureaucratic Child Abuse Database and many parents have lost children to the foster care system as result of *false* claims of child abuse, particularly during divorce custody battles, backed by Child Protective Services (CPS). The more children rounded up and herded into foster care, the more could then be “rescued” via adoption, and the more federal funds are funneled to the states. The National Association of State VOCAL Organization (NASVO), founded in 1987, umbrella organization for Victims Of Child Abuse Laws (VOCAL) groups, nationwide, was the first major force in bringing the issue to the national attention, helping those *false*ly accused and exposing corruption within CPS.

As the social stigma of unwed motherhood has dwindled, so has the main source of adoptable newborns and so there evolved a mistaken belief that taxpayer dollars are being “saved” by depriving unemployed parents of their children and depriving children of their biological families *who are not unfit*. CPS treats poverty as intentional and neglectful, even though, according to the 2010 Census, 43.6-million Americans (or 15.1% in 2011) were living below the poverty line which is set at \$22,350 annual income. Sociologists and government officials argue that poverty is still understated. On 12-2-00, Julie Steven, of Harvard Law School posted to a news group: “If ‘best interests of the child’ were truly the goal, then most parents would lose their children on the grounds that some other deserving family could give the child a better life. ‘Best interests’ come into play only when a child is truly endangered in the birth environment—something that is seldom a concern in private adoptions but needs to be. Is this really a hard point to understand?”

In May, 2011, several child welfare organizations lobbied Congress for more post-adoption services. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), introduced a bi-partisan bill that would have required states receiving federal subsidies to increase adoptions of foster kids to spend a portion of the federal dollars they already receive on “adoption services” ***and accurately report failed adoptions***, but the bill stalled in committee. Where is the accountability? The *Saginaw News* (Michigan) reported on 2-24-91 that **50% to 80% of all foreign adoptions were terminated**. An Ohio nonprofit currently estimates more than **20% of the nearly 6,300 foster children it has served came from “failed adoptions.”** There is no national data to show precisely how many adoptions fail, or track how many children need additional help, and states are not *required* to track or report the figures. (Source: “Experts Push for Disclosure on Failed Foster Adoptions,” *Fox News*, 8-22-11.). A majority of failed adoptions involve older children bedeviled by trauma and said to have Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) where children struggle to bond and act out against their adoptive families. Children who have been victims of sexual abuse may act out sexually on other siblings in the home. States typically cover a portion of care, but that coverage can run out quickly. The costly services can drain private insurance, leaving parents forced to pay out of pocket or return their adopted child to the state to access government-funded mental health services. “Many states have relinquishment policies that force parents to choose between keeping their children or getting them help. Those who do relinquish their children may face criminal abandonment charges and may be ineligible to adopt again,” said Mary Boo, assistant director of the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) in Minnesota. While the “experts” push for disclosure, National Council For Adoption (NCFA) CEO, Chuck Johnson, in pushing for more adoptions, only admits to” 5% failure of all domestic adoptions of children older than 3 years of age. “

The most current “Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress,” on 6-15-11, for the year 2010, by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), was gathered from 411 communities, covering over 4,700 cities and counties. While it found that 649,879 people experienced homelessness on a single night in January 2010, HUD estimates that a total of 1.6-million persons experienced homelessness but found shelter between 2009 and 2010. In 2011 conversion of abandoned “big box” stores for non-traditional, non-retail but profitable use (such as for children’s recreation centers, museums and technical schools that charge admission fees), was up by 2% to 5%, nationwide, and is expected to increase to 20% by 2013. Conversions to homeless shelters may not be as profitable hope to meet the continuing need. With 2011 unemployment at 9.1%, Obama administration’s short-term jobs creation package will cost \$300-billion to \$500-billion (Source) “Obama Jobs Creation Package Could Easily Top \$300-Billion,” *Fox News*, 9-7-11.) Meanwhile, half a million foster kids face an uncertain future.

2. FOSTER KIDS’ OUTCOMES

70% of all inmates in California’s prisons have spent time in foster care.
One third of all those youth who are ‘aged out’ will end up in prison within one year
-Project Homeless Connect, California Pacific Medical Center.

In recent years, there has been public recognition in the media of the plight of America's foster kids. The most recent estimate, by AdoptUSKids, an organization jointly run by The Children's Bureau and Department of Health and Human Services, is that there are 500,000 kids in foster care. A joint Casey Family Programs and Harvard Medical School study found “rates of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among foster care alumni are up to twice as high as for U.S. war veterans.” The picture they paint is disturbing. These children often drift from one temporary home to another, from one abusive or neglectful situation to another, and often are routinely drugged to control them (“Prescription for Tragedy,” *Los Angeles Times*, 5-17-1998). By the time they are legally emancipated adults and return to the streets from which many were rescued, **75% have been sexually abused**.

Most American adoptees spend time in foster care prior to adoptive placements, and past administrations have escalated adoptions as a “quick fix” for problems inherent in long term foster care, but without considering adoptees’ outcomes. So the issues of foster care and adoption are allied. Foster homes were thought to provide something closer to the one-on-one nurturing the child lacked from his parents or from the ill-reputed orphanage or expensive private boarding school of the past. To the extent that all children have less rights than adults because they are dependent on their parents to nurture them, the same can be said about foster kids. However, the foster child pays a higher “price” when the bond between the child and his biological parents is broken. Those who entered foster care at an older age usually “age out” of foster care, and most often become homeless, are without employable skills, and, as will be shown, are also likely to become incarcerated.

Los Angeles has more kids in foster care than any other city in the nation. Like most urban areas in economic decline, Los Angeles has been so overwhelmed by caseloads and under-staffing that caseworker followup has been lax to impossible, so it is not unusual to read a news story about a child who was injured or who needlessly died in foster care—after being unjustly taken from economically disadvantaged parents who are *not* unfit. The sad fact is **that two-thirds of prison inmates had been in foster care** (Source: “Sex, Drugs and No Place To Go.” *Los Angeles Times*, 2-18-94). Young victims often grow up to become victimizers.

Half of America's homeless youths were runaways from foster care, or had aged out of foster care. Independent Living Programs (ILPs) were an attempt to ease a new generation's transition into society and independence, but they are too late for millions of "the lost." In 2001, the President's Federal Budget Proposals reduced the original 1999 allocation for the Independent Living Program from \$140-million to \$105-million. In 2002, the Bush administration significantly increased such allocations, but it was too late to help 9 decades of former foster kids.

In 2010-2011, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless, 1.2-million children are homeless on any given night. Those who are rescued are placed in foster care; 70% of mothers who had been placed in foster care during their childhood (most as result of being sexually abused), have had at least one of their own children in foster care. Those who have been incarcerated and released from prison without a home try to survive on the streets. And so the cycle replicates.

Foster homes can be state-run, county-run, private nonprofit, or church-run facilities. They may house children of one gender exclusively or both sexes. These children can be of single or mixed races, specific or mixed ages, have educational, physical or mental disabilities, are substance abusers, and may be physically, sexually, emotionally abused or neglected, violent or nonviolent. One would think there would be a wide array of criteria to ensure that the different needs of these children were met. Unfortunately, one criteria far outweighs the rest. **It all comes down to cost.**

Ten years ago, foster parents typically earned only 80-cents per hour (*Time* magazine, 10-8-90, p.44). In 2010, the range was \$446 to \$667 per child per month. For the difficult challenge of fostering a child needing "specialized care" there is an incremental increase of \$84 or \$169 per month (subsidy determined by the child's social worker). So why would anyone want to be a foster parent? For some foster parents without other means of support, the money is adequate incentive. Once their homes are licensed to house a specific number of children, they can receive salaries and the children's upkeep can be subsidized. Television ads alleging that "all a child needs is you," mislead those not actually qualified to handle a "special needs" child, or any child, and those foster parents often make the headlines when physical and sexual abuse or suspicious deaths of foster children are eventually investigated. The older or more abused a foster child is at the time of adoption, the greater the likelihood that the child will be returned back to the agency by his adopters or run away. Stats that support this are grim:

- o "76% of all children in foster care have experienced some form of sexual abuse." ("Adoption and Sexually Abused Children," Joan and Bernard McNamara, University of Maine-Portland, 1990)
- o "50% to 75% of children initially placed in foster care were eventually returned to their parents." ("Adoption Fact Sheet," Office of Civil Rights)
- o "60% percent of inmates in California state prisons were foster children; 69% in Massachusetts prisons were foster children." (Congressional Record)

Too often, foster kids' stories of abuse at the hands of their parents, stepparents, guardians, counselors, or foster parents are disbelieved. Their pain is dulled by drugs, their security and survival dependent on what they can steal or on obedience to the gang they call "family." The runaways, the incorrigibles, the disturbed, the addicts, the violent, are shuttled through a revolving door from group home to juvenile detention, to youth authority, to prison, where they are warehoused without treatment, threatened, assaulted, killed, or recruited by hardened criminals.

Kevin Sieg (in "Growing Up a Foster Kid," (*Newsweek*, 10-26-98, p.20), writes about an "orphan" who never knew his father and was taken from his mother by Social Services when he was in third grade and "aged out" of the foster care system in Cleveland on 7-1-98, at age 18: "He

wonders how he's going to pay for school and where will he go for the holidays and summer. He is completely alone in decision making. Still, he considers himself lucky. Of the more than 20,000 kids who aged out of foster care across America last summer, only 35% graduated from high school. Only 11% will go on to college or vocational school." Sieg feels that kids adapt when their very survival depends on it. But most aren't as lucky as Sieg, who is a music major at the University of Akron. Sieg believes the solution is for more citizens, community and civic groups, churches, synagogues, and the corporate community to be actively involved in foster kids' transition to adulthood and to provide support for their educational and career goals.

The Nebraska Supreme Court agreed with Randolph Reeves, who was scheduled to be executed 1-11-99. His Omaha Tribe filed a brief claiming Reeves was "emotionally damaged" when the State of Nebraska took him from his reservation parents at age 3, and that, because of the removal, the State is "the party to blame" for Reeves' actions. The decision could have significant impact on every facet of child abuse, custody, foster care, and adoption law.

Anti-Death Penalty activists have argued that a person's childhood history may provide mitigating "reasons" (not "excuses") for their violent crimes in adulthood. The real issue of *why* so many permanent family separations are deemed necessary is ignored. Any person who has suffered a trauma should stay in "familiar places," (according to Dr. Yitzak Kadman, Executive Director, National Council for the Child commenting on the mass taking of alleged "orphans" before determining how many of their parents survived Haiti's earthquake devastation in 2010). In view of what is now known of the lifelong impact of early separation on the child, alternatives to foster care need to be expanded.

The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (PL-96-272) contained a provision calling for statewide tracking systems for children in foster care who received care within the previous twelve months. The Reagan Administration chose to implement a "voluntary" system that has ultimately proven to be inconsistent from state to state. One must ask why government is so reluctant to publish *factual data* on children in its care.

Unlike the single issue anti-Vietnam War protesters of the 1960s, "Occupy Wall Street" protesters on the streets, and on college campuses nationwide, have been protesting not only the larger issue of corporate greed and the buying of Congress, but also resulting issues of a bleeding economy such as the rising cost of tuition, insurmountable student debt, biased economics classes and 15% unemployment. There has never been mass protesting against the concern for profits outweighing the needs of the children and adults trapped in America's failed Foster Care, Adoption and Prison systems -- in part because each of these complex industries separate, isolate and effectively censor and brainswash its victims under color of state confidentiality laws.

Incarcerated adoptee, Tony Gillet, born in 1973 when foster parents usually could not adopt their foster kids, was told that his foster parents had a 4-year court battle before being able to finalize his adoption because his mother did not want to relinquish him. Today, becoming a foster parent can be a shortcut to adopting an infant or younger child in states that permit adoption by foster parents.

In "Adoptalk," newsletter of the North American Council on Adoptable Children (Spring 2000), Terry Harrak, who had been a foster kid, wrote: "Being a former foster youth has significantly shaped my outlook on life. Foster care left me completely on the defensive. I always had to defend myself against social workers who never once asked *what I wanted* when considering placements for me. I remember attending my quarterly meeting with my social worker and whomever was my care provider at the time. When I asked my social worker to tell me the purpose of the meeting, she

responded, ‘to make sure the placement is adequate for the child, and will meet his or her needs.’ Then why do you ask me to sit outside? I asked. I entered foster care a few days shy of 16 and aged out at 18. During my 2 years in foster care, I had 2 different social workers, was cycled through 4 different placements, and attended 3 different schools. I’m now 20 years old, work full-time, and go to community college part-time. I look at my peers and see the life they are living—going to school full-time, living on campus, joining college clubs, and going to parties. What I resent most about the foster care system is that workers never made any genuine effort to reunite me with my family or at least help me to develop a relationship. I feel like I haven’t been at home for 5 years because home to me was a little rundown farmhouse where I lived with my father and my brother. If child welfare systems are really in the business for the welfare of children, then my only advice would be to treat them as you would treat your own children.”

Terry Harrak has since been working at the Youth Law Center in Washington, D.C., on issues related to foster care, and also works part-time with the Child Welfare League of America through their Youth Initiative project. In 1999, Terry spoke at the First Lady’s Summit on Independent Living at the White House and went back to the White House to witness President Bill Clinton’s signing of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. He said it was incredible to watch how the independent living legislation moved from idea to law, thanks in part to efforts made by young people. In Y-2000, Terry participated in a “speak out” panel of foster care graduates and adoptees at the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) conference.

Trafficking of Foster Kids

There have been reports of cases in the United States of government-run foster homes that turned out to be fronts for child trafficking rings. A study in the United Kingdom found that 55% of child trafficking victims, who are identified and rescued, eventually again go missing. Worldwide, the numbers concerning child slavery are staggering. More than 150-million children younger than 14 are child laborers; one in six children worldwide. Some girls as young as 13 are trafficked as mail order brides and nearly 90% of domestic workers trafficked from West and Central Africa are young girls. American children who go missing from foster care are rarely found.

On 3-13-04, Ted Gunderson, FBI Senior Specialist Agent (Ret.) delivered a speech to the Congressional Hearing on Child Protection, stating that during his career he “investigated public officials at all levels of government, which reached as high as the White House. Most of all I have chisled-in-stone documentation of an international criminal enterprise involving kidnapping, murders, including human sacrifices by Satanic Cults. Specifically, in regard to Child Protective Services, in some areas and some states, I have been told by reliable sources that a plane load of 210 children from CPS was flown out of Denver, Colorado, on 11-6-97, to Paris, France. Later, a second plane load of children, also under care of CPS, was flown from Los Angeles to Europe.

I have also developed information through reliable sources that, in the past, children have been taken from foster homes, orphanages, and Boys Town Nebraska, and flown by private jets from Sioux City Iowa to Washington DC and forced into sex orgies with politicians. I have interviewed witnesses who were active in an international child kidnapping ring, who advised me that, of the thousands of children who disappear every year, many are auctioned off, at various locations throughout the country. This kidnapping ring involves a case under investigation known as ‘The Franklin Coverup.’ I developed information from a credible source in a major city in the

Southwest U.S. that there is collusion between judges, attorneys and underworld criminals. Children in that system become adopted, four thousand dollars is given to the people who adopt, and the children's names are changed, **and each child is re-adopted up to 75 times, with four thousand dollars going to each adoption every time. The federal Government Adoption Bonus is given to these judges, attorneys, and underworld criminals; it is split among the three groups of child traffickers.**

As an outgrowth of my involvement in the Franklin Coverup Case from Omaha, I learned that a covert CIA operation known as 'The Finders,' based in Washington DC, was actively involved in kidnapping and trafficking of children since the early 1960s. This matter was brought to the attention of the FBI and State Department in 1997. A report by the Metropolitan Police Department was classified 'Secret' in the interest of National Security. The investigation by the FBI was closed down, however, according to the U.S. Customs investigation report. 'The Finders' became an internal matter.

I have given this information to the FBI on *seven* occasions, and have demanded an investigation for the international kidnapping and trafficking of children."

Fostered, Orphaned, Abandoned, Institutionalized Kids Who Kill

"The horrors of war pale beside the loss of a mother."

-Anna Freud, daughter of Sigmund Freud and pioneer in child psychology

As early as 1937, and since, articles in the Journal of American Psychology acknowledged that fostered children suffer psychological problems. (Sydney Tarachow, "The Disclosure of Foster-Parentage to a Boy: Behavior Disorders and Other Psychological Problems Resulting," American Journal of Psychiatry 94, September 1937:401-412 1938; Edwina A. Cowan, "Some Emotional Problems Besetting the Lives of Foster Children," Mental Hygiene 22, July 1938:454-458.) It has long been known that child victims of physical and sexual abuse often grow up to become victimizers. More recently criminal behavior has also been attributed to emotional abuse in childhood. Following are a few examples of how fostered, orphaned and abandoned kids become adults who abuse and kill.

ACQUIN, Lorne J.

Lorne Acquin was a foster kid from Prospect, Connecticut, who sexually molested 10-year old Sharon Beaudoin and then bludgeoned to death her entire family--the mother and 7 children -- and set their home afire to cover up the killings. (Source, Brian Lane and Wilfred Gregg, "Encyclopedia of Mass Murder," *Brockhampton Press*, 1994)

BLACK, Robert ("Smelly Bob")

Born 4-21-47 in Scotland, Robert Black never knew his parents. When Jessie Hunter Black, a 24-year old unmarried factory worker, gave birth to him, she refused to name his father on his birth certificate and had him fostered. He was raised by a foster couple in their 50s, Jack and Margaret Tulip. Jack died when Robert was 5, and Margaret died in 1958 when he was 11. He was once again deprived of a mother. In his 40s, Robert spoke with psychologist Ray Wyre about his biological mother: "I don't know whether it was pressure from her parents or whether she just didn't want me. I don't know." Although another local couple offered to take him in, it was decided that

Robert would go to the Redding Children's Home near Falkirk, close to the place of his birth. Other children, and later adults, called him "Smelly Bob" because he did smell bad. He preferred the company of younger children. His fascination with sex, the secret of birth and the hidden contents of the womb, was clearly exacerbated by the loss of the second mother. Sudden, mindless violence perpetrated against those physically less able than himself was typical of Robert as a boy. His increasingly difficult behavior resulted in his being moved several times. Black first attempted to rape at age 12 with two other boys, but they found themselves unable to complete the act. He was moved again to a facility where a staff member sexually abused him. Over 20 years later a little girl, Caroline Hogg, was abducted from Portabello and later murdered. Others followed as he kidnapped, raped and murdered 3 girls, kidnapped a fourth who survived, and attempted to kidnap a fifth, until he was sentenced to 80 years in prison. He is also suspect in a number of unsolved child murders dating back to 1969 and the 1970s throughout Europe. (Source: *Crime Library* and Wikipedia)

BONIN, William, ("Freeway Killers")

Born 1-8-47 in Connecticut, William Bonin was the child of an abusive, alcoholic father who once gambled away the family home. His mother, Alice Benton, often left William and his brother with their grandfather despite the fact that she had grown up being sexually abused by the man, a well-known pedophile. At age 8, Bonin served his first stint behind bars, being jailed in juvenile hall for stealing license plates and there he became the sexual plaything to older boys, setting the stage for his own twisted understanding of sex. According to Connecticut medical records, Bonin had been approached for sex by an older boy and although young Bonin was afraid of the attacker, he agreed to participate, provided that he be restrained. Bonin eventually returned to his home, where he began fondling his brother and other children in the area. He joined the U.S. Air Force and served as an aerial gunner in Vietnam, where his service record indicates he was a good soldier, winning a Good Conduct Medal. It wasn't until after he received his Honorable Discharge that the military learned Bonin had sexually assaulted two men in his outfit at gunpoint. He moved from his native Connecticut to Southern California, where he began the dark descent into savagery, murdering male hitchhikers who he sexually assaulted, and abducting and recruiting accomplices (Munro, Butts, Miley) who say he had a hypnotic hold over them, that would end in his execution at San Quentin 21 years later on 2-23-96. (See also James Munro.) (Source: <http://www.crimelibrary.com>)

CARIGNAN, Harvey Louis (The "Want-Ad Killer")

Harvey Carignan was born 5-18-27 in Fargo, North Dakota. His mother was around age 20 and single. He was first sent to live with his aunt and uncle in Cavalier, North Dakota, then to his grandmother in Williams, North Dakota, then sent to live with another aunt before running home to his mother. He was described as having behavior problems, a chronic bed wetter with a facial twitch and an imaginary friend named Paul. His mother remarried and had a second son. Harvey claimed he was sexually abused by a babysitter. His mother attempted to place him in an orphanage and, in 1939, when he was 12, he was sent to reform school in Mandan, North Dakota, for the next 7 years. During these years, Carignan claims female employees sexually abused him. He enlisted in the U.S. Army 1948. In 1949 at age 22, Carignan raped and killed Laura Showatler, 57, the first of several such murders. In 1950 he was convicted of First Degree Murder and sentenced to Death By Hanging. The Supreme Court ruled that Carignan's confession was unlawfully elicited and overruled the Death sentence. He served 8 more years at Alcatraz, was paroled in 1960, the first of several paroles, and

subsequent rapes and murders involving beating his victims to death with a hammer. In 1973, when he was 46, Kathy Sue Miller, 15, answered his "want ad" for help at his gas station. Her body was found 2 months later and she was determined to have been sexually assaulted. Carignan was then dubbed the "Want Ad Killer," suspected of raping and killing up to 100 women. He was sentenced in 1975 to 30 years for Sodomy and indicted on Murder charges in Minnesota. Under Minnesota law he could serve no more than 40 years, no matter how many years that total sentence was for (in his case it would be 150 years for multiple murder convictions). He pleaded guilty and only served 40 years. (Source: Department of Psychology, Radford University, Radford, Virginia chronological listing of events concerning Carignan, and "Frances Farmer's Revenge" website on serial killers.)

COOK, William

Born 12-23-28 in Joplin, Missouri, William Cook's father abandoned the family in 1993 when he was 5, and later that same year his mother died. Initially rejected by foster parents because of a deformity of his eye, when foster parents were offered payment to take him they did so for the money. By age 11 he was in and out of juvenile jail and by age 18 had twice escaped jail, was caught, and released at age 22. At age 23 he was sentenced to Death by Gas Chamber for 5 murders. Cook was executed at San Quentin Prison 12-12-52. (Source: Researchers Theresa Gray, Richard Hammond, Radford University Department of Psychology.)

DAHMER, Jeffrey Lionel ("Cannibal of Milwaukee")

Born 5-21-60 to Joyce Annette and Lionel Herbert Dahmer, Jeffrey first murdered when he was 18 in 1975. Increased feelings of abandonment and loneliness go back to his parents' 1977 divorce when his mother left him alone. It led Jeffrey Dahmer to keep dismembered heads and parts of homosexual men he lured to his apartment and killed, and even ate parts of his victims. (Source: "Loneliness Cited in Mass Murder Case," *Los Angeles Times*, 8-4-91, p. A-22)

FISH, Albert Howard, ("The Moon Maniac")

Born 1868, under the name of Albert Hamilton, to a respected family in Washington, DC, Albert's father died when he was 5 and he was sent to an orphanage. He ran away frequently, began to suffer hallucinations and became obsessed with religious themes such as sin, sacrifice, atonement through pain, luring children to their deaths in Depression-era New York City and forcing his own children to paddle his buttocks til he bled. He inserted needles into his groin, scrotum and anus, ate fecal matter, inserted cotton balls doused with alcohol into his anus and set them aflame. Prosecutors are certain he molested nearly 400 children. In 1928 he killed 12-year old Grace Budd, dismembered her body and ate several pieces. Fish was found to be "sane" and guilty of Premeditated Murder, and sentenced to Death. On 1-16-36 it took 2 jolts for the electric chair to kill him because he had left 29 needles in his body which short-circuited the chair. (Source: "Albert Fish: In Sin He Found Salvation" by Katherine Ramsland)

FRANKLIN, Joseph Paul, 27, (Racist Murderer)

Born 4-13-50 as James Clayton Vaughn, in Mobile, Alabama, Joseph Paul Franklin was a White racist. He was the eldest son of an alcoholic drifter who abandoned his family for months and years at a stretch. and a domineering mother he called "sadistic." When his father was home he'd beat his children--Franklin absorbing the worst, according to his sister. As a youth, Franklin felt different

from other children and turned to reading fairy tale books as an escape from domestic violence in his home. Franklin was into food fads and fringe religions, dropping out of high school after an accident severely impaired his eyesight. He married at age 18 in 1968 and beat his wife as his father had beaten him. After his mother's death in 1972 in his teen years, he joined the American Nazi Party and the Ku Klux Klan, changed his name to Joseph Paul Franklin, and from 1977 to 1980, using 18 aliases, he wandered the country killing people solely because they were Black or Jewish. Despite being partially blind in his left eye and completely blind in his right eye, he was a proficient sniper. He was charged and/or admitted to killing 20 people and severely wounding 6, and received 2 Life sentences for murdering 2 Black children, ages 13 and 14. (Source: <http://CrimeCaseFiles.com>)

GARY, Carlton, ("The Stocking Strangler")

Born 12-15-52 in Columbus, Georgia, as a child, Carlton Gary never felt truly bonded to his biological mother or anyone else. He once said "I don't have any parents." His father was a construction worker who wanted nothing to do with his son and saw Gary only once when the boy was 12. His impoverished mother lived a nomadic life, moving about from one address to another, and deposited the youngster with his relatives between Columbus, Georgia and various places in Florida into his mid teens. He was 16 when he came back to Fort Myers, Florida, where he had lived with his mother and found the house empty. He learned that his mother was in Gainesville and followed her there. Then the frustrated, largely unguided teenager embarked on a criminal career, beginning with breaking and entering. The young Black man was convicted of 9 strangling murders of elderly White women and sentenced to Death. (Source: "Crime Library," online)

GRAHAM, Barbara, 30

Born in 1923 in Oakland, California, Barbara Graham had a mother who had been sent to a reformatory when Barbara was only 2. Barbara was then fostered by neighbors and got little education. As a teenager, Barbara was promiscuous, in trouble with the law and sent to the same reformatory where her mother had been an inmate. Barbara was released in 1939, got married, enrolled in a business college, had her first child, divorced by 1941, served a jail term in 1944 for prostitution, married a second time in 1951. She then married Henry Graham in 1953 by whom she had a son. Her boy was 2 at the time of his mother's execution at San Quentin's gas chamber for killing an elderly widow, Mabel Monahan, while attempting to rob her. Barbara never showed remorse. Two films were made about her, both called "I Want To Live."(Source: <http://www.richard.clark32.btinternet.co.uk/graham.html>)

GREENWOOD, Vaughn Orin ("The Skid Row Slasher")

Born in 1944 in Pennsylvania, Vaughn Greenwood, an African-American homosexual, was placed in foster care. He left his foster home in Pennsylvania for California upon completing 7th grade, earning a living as a migrant worker, and by 1964 began killing helpless male derelicts in Los Angeles. After slashing their throats and sprinkling salt around outlines of their heads, he scribbled cryptic marks around the slash wounds, and their shoes were removed pointing toward the bodies. There was evidence that he drank the blood of his victims. Greenwood was indicted on 1-23-76 for 11 "Skid Row Slasher" slayings and convicted on 12-30-76 on 9 counts of Murder, 8 in California. On 1-19-77 he was sentenced to 32-Years-to-Life in prison. (Source: "Serial Killers A-Z," Wikipedia; Serial Killer Central at <http://skcentral.com> .)

HEIDNIK, Gary, 34

Born 5-24-45 to Michael and Elle Heidnik, he and his brother, Terrence, were raised in the Cleveland suburb of Eastlake, Ohio. His father was a violent man who regularly physically and sexually abused his wife. They divorced when Gary was 2. He was raised by their mother, until Gary was 6 when he and his brother were sent to live with their father and stepmother. He allegedly suffered beatings at their hands and suffered a life-long problem of bed-wetting about which his father would humiliate him. At school, he was bullied but scored 148 on an IQ test in 5th grade. He dropped out of school in 9th grade and joined the Army at age 17, serving for 13 months. In Germany, a doctor diagnosed him with schizoid personality disorder. He was honorably discharged in 1962, earned his GED, attended University of Pennsylvania, and in 1985, married Brett, raped and beat her until she left him 3 months later while pregnant. He was never known to have any kind of relationship with his son, Connor. By late 1986, Gary had abducted 6 women and held them in a basement of his house in Philadelphia where the captives were sexually abused, beaten and tortured. One of the women died and he dismembered her body, storing her arms and legs in the freezer, labeled as "dog food." On 3-24-87, one of his captives managed to convince Heidnik to let her out to find more captives whereupon she informed authorities. Convicted of 2 counts of Murder in 1988, Heidnik was sentenced to Death. He was executed by lethal injection on 7-6-99 at SCI Rockview, the last person to be executed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. (Source: *NY Times* 3-3-87; "Strange Portrait of Torture Suspect"; *Crime Library* online, page 7; "Gruesome Evidence"; *Philadelphia Weekly* "Return to the House of Horrors," 3/13/02)

HITLER, Adolph, ("The Fuehrer")

Born 4-20-1889, the 4th child of Alois Schickelgruber and Klara Hitler, his mother died when he was 14 and his father died when he was 16. He then lived in Vienna, an anti-semitic city, on an Orphan's Pension in a homeless shelter, was arrested for avoiding military draft but was declared unfit/too weak/unable to bear arms, yet later enlisted in the Bavarian Army, was wounded; served 9 months of a 5-year prison term, during which he wrote *Mein Kampf*, an inflated autobiography, anti-semitic philosophy, history of Nazi party and primer on how to use propaganda and terrorism to build a political organization -- which he did upon the death of Von Hindenberg in 1934. As Dictator, he annihilated 2/3 of Europe's Jewish population. Hitler committed suicide with his mistress Eva Braun on 4-30-45. (Source: <http://www.remember.org/guide/Facts.root.hitler.html>)

KEMPER, Edmund ("The Co-ed Killer")

Born in 1948 in Burbank, California, his parents fought constantly and divorced. He bounced around between his parents until living with his paternal grandparents on a farm in rural California. At age 10, he was moved to a dark, windowless basement; that's when his fantasies began. At age 14 he was sent to his father, ran away and went on a killing spree -- killed both grandparents, his mother with a claw hammer and decapitated her and raped her headless corpse, and did the same to his mother's friend who showed up unexpectedly. From 1970 to 1971, he roamed the streets of Santa Cruz, California, killing 6 co-eds from UC-Santa Cruz. In 1973 he was arraigned on 8 counts of Murder and is serving a life sentence. He is quoted as saying "It was an urge...A strong urge, and the longer I let it go the stronger it got to where I was taking risks to go out and kill people – risks that normally I wouldn't take because they could lead to arrest." (Source: "What Makes Serial Killers Tick" by Shirley Lynn Scote at TruTV.com Crime Library; and "Serial Killers A-Z")

KING, Alex, 12, and Derek, 13

Born in 1989 and 1988 respectively, Alex and Derek were 7 and 6 years old when sent to live in foster homes in 1995 due to their parents' financial problems. Prior to that, Terry King and the boys' mother, Janet French, a former dancer and waitress, never married but had lived together, along with twins she had by another man while living with Terry. Janet had been diagnosed with postpartum depression ever since Alex was born. Terry was taking care of the entire family including the twins. French moved out of King's home and Terry King placed his boys in foster care. King intended to regain custody of his sons when his finances improved. Alex was sent back to King a month later, while Derek stayed with his foster parents 6 years until Derek's foster family returned him to King. On 11-25-01, using an aluminum baseball bat, the boys bludgeoned to death their father, Terry King, 40, while he slept, then set the home afire to cover up the murder. While his sons were with him, Terry maintained strict discipline which may have been a reason for the murder, but the boys only spoke of alleged "mental abuse" with regard to their father sometimes simply "staring them down." The boys claimed they were afraid he was going to punish them for running away from home the week before and hiding in the home of Rick Chavis, 40, who had been convicted in 1984 of molesting 3 boys of various ages. According to Alex's testimony before a grand jury and letters he had written, he and Chavis had entered into a sexual relationship. Alex wrote "Before I met Rick, I was straight; but now I'm gay." The baby-faced King brothers were tried as adults and convicted of Second Degree Murder. In 2008, Alex was released at age 18, after serving 6 years, and Derek was released a year later. (Source: Gary C. King, Investigation, Discovery.com, 4-10-08; and ABC News, "Good Morning America," <http://abcnews.go.com>)

KNIGHTON, Robert ("Bobby") Wesley

Born 2-5-41 in Missouri to a mother who had 8 husbands and many boyfriends, Bobby Knighton. can't remember wanting to grow up to be anything. Bobby, who only stayed in school through the 4th grade, was sent to a boy's reformatory when he was 12. His only crime was that he looked too much like his father. He was emotionally and physically abused from an early age. He didn't want to talk much about his childhood and said most of it he couldn't remember. When he was 5 or 6 years old, he went to Thanksgiving dinner at his grandparents' house and was forced to sit outside on the porch while the rest of the family celebrated inside. One of his mother's boyfriends hit Bobby hard enough that the child ended up in the hospital. He said that boys at the Reformatory who misbehaved were beaten or placed in a cellar for days at a time. He spent time in other juvenile facilities, and landed in prison in Oklahoma as a young man. At age 33 in 1974, he was in the Missouri State Penitentiary, sentenced to 40 years on Manslaughter and kidnapping charges. In 1989, after 17 years, he was set free. "They told me to go home," Bobby said; "They just didn't tell me where home was. Everybody was gone. I had no one to talk to. I had nowhere to go." He was then a drug addict and within a year of release from prison he was convicted on 2 counts of Capital Murder in the 1-8-90 robbery (of \$61 and a beat up pickup truck) and shooting deaths of Richard and Virginia Denny in Oklahoma, and was suspected of killing at least 5 people, including two men in Missouri, during his 3-day crime spree. Robert Knighton was executed on 5-27-03. (Source: "Kansas Sisters Disagree on Execution of Man Who Killed Their Parents," Associated Press/AP.)

KNOWLES, John Paul ("The Cassanova Killer")

Born 4-17-46, in Orlando, Florida, John Paul Knowles' father gave him up to live in foster homes

and reformatories after the father was convicted of a petty crime. The younger Knowles was first incarcerated at the age of 19. In early 1974, he was serving time at the former Raiford Prison in Florida where he began corresponding with San Francisco divorcee, Angela Covic. Upon her first visit, Knowles proposed marriage. After she accepted, she got Knowles released from prison by paying for his legal counsel. Upon his release, Knowles flew directly to California to be with her. After a psychic warned her of the entry of a new dangerous man in her life, Covic ended the relationship and called off the wedding. Knowles claimed he murdered 3 people on the streets of San Francisco the night that Covic broke off their relationship. Devastated by the rejection, Knowles returned to Jacksonville, Florida.

He was soon arrested after stabbing a bartender during a fight, but picked a lock in his cell and escaped on 7-26-74. Upon his escape from prison, Knowles went on a murderous spree across the country. On 12-18-74, Sheriff Earl Lee and G.B.I. Agent Ronnie Angel were traveling down I-20 with Knowles, who was handcuffed in the back seat. There was no security screen in the car, and Knowles had a concealed paperclip on his person that he used to pick the lock on his handcuffs. Once free, Knowles grabbed Lee's handgun, discharging it through the holster in the process. While Lee was struggling with Knowles and attempting to keep control of the vehicle, Angel fired three shots into Knowles' chest, killing him instantly. Ronnie Angel has refused to speak publicly about the incident since it occurred. (Source: Wikipedia)

MANSON, Charles

Born 11-12-34 as "No Name Maddox," Charlie said his 16-year old unwed mother, Kathleen Maddox, could not remember his birth date, so changed it to 11-11, Armistice Day. He was placed in several foster homes. He said his mother was a teenage prostitute but relatives said she was merely "loose." (Source: "Helter Skelter, The True Story of the Manson Murders," by Vincent Bugliosi)

MASSEY, Jason Eric, 20

Born 1-7-73, Jason Massey was physically abused by his father. His parents abandoned him when he was 2. He was sexually abused by a babysitter at age 5. Called a "bad seed" and a "serial killer" from an early age, at age 9 he tortured/killed animals and killed several girls, ages 10 to 13, when they rejected him. Jason completed eighth grade and worked as a roofer. He was executed in Texas for 7-27-93 Dallas murders of his adoptive sister Christina Benjamin, 13, who he stripped, raped, disemboweled and dismembered, and Brian King, 14. (Source: Crime Library.com and Texas Department of Criminal Justice Offender Information website)

ONOPRIENKO, Anatoly Yariyovych ("The Terminator" and "Citizen O")

Born 7-25-59 in the Ukraine, Anatoly Onoprienko was at first fostered by his grandparents and an aunt at age 4 when his mother died, until, at age 7, his father handed him over to an orphanage in the village of Privitnoe. Oprienko said this predetermined his destiny, remarking that "70% of those who are brought up in orphanages end up going to prison in later life." He confessed to killing 52 people over a 6-year period. According to his ex-wife, "He also kills children to avoid their ending up in orphanages like he did." Although he was sentenced to Death, Russia no longer performs executions since it joined the Council of Europe, so his sentence was changed to Life in Prison. (Source: Crime Life.Com; and Wikipedia.)

PETERSON, Scott, 30

Born 10-24-72, to Lee and Jacqueline ("Jackie") Peterson, Scott Peterson was found guilty of First Degree Murder in the 12-29-02 deaths of his wife, Laci, and their unborn son, Connor; he was sentenced to Death. Keith Ablow, MD, a forensic psychiatrist, presents the thesis that the roots of Scott Peterson's lack of empathy, and also his sexual addiction and sociopathy, lies in his 3-generation "bloodline" of childhood loss and abandonment, and that meeting Amber Frey while his wife was pregnant triggered the "perfect psychological storm." Unable to care for her children, after her husband's murder, Scott's grandmother Peterson placed her four children, including Scott's mother Jackie, then 2 years old, in a Catholic orphanage to be raised by nuns and priests who routinely physically and sexually abused them. After leaving the orphanage around the age of 18, Scott's mother had 3 children out of wedlock with different men who left her. Two of these she placed for adoption, while she reluctantly raised Scott until she sent him away when he began being troublesome.

Scott was incapable of feelings and could only imitate real feelings, which was the reason he appeared emotionally wooden in his behavior after his wife's, Laci's, disappearance. In addition, Dr. Ablow argued, Scott was damaged by his separation from his parents. Jackie had demanded perfection in her growing boy, thus to survive he had to approximate perfection, deadening himself to who he really was. Ablow said the closest Scott came to feeling alive was during sex, resulting in his numerous infidelities after marrying Laci.

Laci is presented by Ablow as being emotionally shallow, someone who always wanted everything to be "pretty." As a result she and Scott were lacking in even the spark of any real emotional connectedness. Then came Amber Frey, who Ablow maintains provided such a spark in the deadened soul of Scott, resulting in what he calls "a perfect storm" psychologically, that caused him to kill his pregnant wife. There were very subtle hints to others that Scott was unhappy about his impending fatherhood. It took Laci a long time to become pregnant and he indicated he would have preferred her infertility. As a man incapable of feelings, he was unable to feel anything for his soon to be born son. To Scott, Jackie, 'killed' her three previous children by giving them away. Scott Peterson was found guilty of First Degree Murder of Laci Peterson, and Second Degree Murder of their unborn son, Connor, and was sentenced to Death. (Source: "Inside the Mind of Scott Peterson," by Keith Ablow, MD, *St. Martin's Press*, 2005.)

RAMSEY, Evan (Alaska School Shooter)

Born in 1981, Evan Ramsey went through a series of foster homes because, at age 7, his father went to prison and his mother became an alcoholic. In one of those homes, he was sexually abused.

On 2-19-97, when he was 16, he walked into his school in Bethel, Alaska, pulled out a .12 gauge shotgun and murdered 2 people. Then Evan put the gun under his chin. But he never fired the final shot. After a short standoff with police, he surrendered and was convicted of Murder and Assault. "My main objective in going into the high school was to check out," he said, "To commit suicide." Up to that point, Evan had a difficult life. Psychiatrist Dr. John Smith, who examined Evan after the murders, found that Evan had attempted suicide at age 10. According to Dr. Smith, Evan was depressed from a young age. By teenage, he was using marijuana, getting poor grades and struggling to control an explosive temper--an outsider, someone who didn't fit in with the athletes and popular kids at school. He was sentenced to 200 years in prison and will be eligible for parole when he's 75. (Source: *CBS-60 Minutes*, 3-7-01, and court testimony.)

SMALLWOOD, Dion Athanasius, 22

Born 8-15-69, Dion Smallwood had Native American and Hispanic parents who divorced and abandoned him when he was young. He was depressed over several rejections at the time he murdered his girlfriend's female adopter in Oklahoma. His girlfriend had left him and returned to her adopter's home when he went looking for her and instead encountered her adopter who did not like him. He hit the woman over the head with a croquet mallet, then placed her in the back seat of her car which he set ablaze while she was still alive. He had a history of mental illness and had sought psychiatric care about a month before the murder but was told to return to the mental facility when they were less busy. Dion Smallwood was convicted of the 2-5-92 murder, sentenced to Death on 5-26-93, was denied clemency and was executed by lethal injection in Oklahoma on 1-18-01 at age 31. (Source: <http://www.clarkprosecutor.org/html>)

SPENCER, Brenda, 16, ("Cleveland Elementary School Shooter")

Born 4-3-62, Brenda Spencer lived with her divorced father, who bought her the gun for Christmas that she used in her 1-29-79 spree killing at Cleveland Elementary school, killing 2 and injuring 9 students. It was said to have been her reaction to her parents' separation and she had been involved with drugs and petty theft and was addicted to violent films. (Source: Brian Lane and Wilfred Gregg, "Encyclopedia of Mass Murder," *Brockhampton Press*, 1994)

UNTERWEGER, Jack, 25

Born 8-16-50 in Austria under the name, Johann Unterweger, Jack was abandoned by his mother, a prostitute, who left him with her alcoholic father and an aunt who was also a prostitute. His father, Jack Becker, an American soldier born in the U.S., also deserted him. Unterweger murdered prostitutes in Los Angeles and in Austria and received his first Life sentence at age 25 when he strangled a prostitute with her bra because she reminded him of his mother -- "I envisioned my mother in front of me, and I killed her." Hailed as a model for rehabilitation, Jack was granted parole in 1990. Within months of his release his success as a writer translated into expensive suits, fancy cars and regular appearances in local talk shows, but he kept up his old habit of strangling prostitutes for kicks, leaving at least 6 dead. In 1991 he was hired to write an article about prostitution in Los Angeles. While on assignment he got to travel in an LAPD patrol car and murdered 3 prostitutes before returning to Vienna. By February, 1992, he was wanted for the murders of 8 women, but escaped with his 18-year-old girlfriend to Switzerland, Paris and New York, pausing to call newspapers and talk shows in Austria to proclaim his innocence. Unterweger was eventually deported back to Austria where he was indicted for the murders of 11 prostitutes, including 3 from Los Angeles. On 6-28-94 a jury in Graz, Austria, found him guilty of 9 of the murders.. Soon After sentencing in 1992, Unterweger used the string from his prison jumpsuit to commit suicide by hanging himself. (Source: "Jack Unterweger Biography," Biography.com, and related articles)

WESBECKER, Joseph, 47

Born in 1942, Jack never knew his father who died when he was 1 year old, and he had difficult childhood with his 16-year old mother, Martha. He was, at first, fostered by relatives, but ended up in an orphanage. As an adult, he took up a trade as a printer, had 2 failed marriages, and in 1988 was prescribed Prozac for depression. He began to talk about fantasized sexual abuse, made a suicide attempt, and was put on a number of other medications, then again given Prozac. On 9-14-89, he

went on a killing spree with an AK47 and other guns at his work place, the Standard Gravure printing plant in Louisville, Kentucky, killing 8 of his former colleagues, severely wounded 12 others, before shooting himself dead. (Source: "Fentress et al v. Shea Communications," <http://www.healyprozac.com/Trials/>)

WILLIAMS, Alex, 17

Alex was born to an 18-year old mother and father who lived separately. His mother would disappear without warning for days or weeks, and on one occasion she abandoned him for a year. During such absences he lived with his maternal grandmother who would beat him with the heel of a glass slipper and tree branches. When his mother was home, she also (in her own words) "whipped him often" and he had head injuries from the beatings. Alex was sentenced to Death for abducting, robbing, raping and shooting to death Aleta Carol, 16, on 3-4-86 and was executed on 8-24-00. (Source: <http://web.amnesty.org/library>)

WOOD, James Edward, 14

Born 12-9-47 as James Godwin, at age 2 James' father was incarcerated in federal prison and his mother, Hazel Godwin, took him to Pocatello, Idaho. and remarried shortly thereafter. By age 6, James had developed a hatred for police and authority figures. When he was 8, his mother died in a potato processing plant fire that he watched from his school across the street and was then raised by an uncle and aunt, Gene and Mildred Wood. By age 9, he began having violent sexual fantasies and spent time at St. Anthony's Youth Corrections Center. At age 14, after stealing a car and setting fire to dumpsters, due to his behaviors, the Woods relinquished their custody of him to the state. At 17, upon release from reform school, James left Idaho to live with his natural father in Louisiana. From then on, James robbed, raped and murdered. At 36, he was sentenced to Death by Lethal Injection but died of a heart attack at age 56 while on Death Row. (Source: Researchers Jessica Weber, Heather Wells, John Wesley, Radford University Department of Psychology.)

3. ALTERNATIVES TO FOSTER CARE

"Train up a child in the way he should go and in keeping with his individual gift or bent and when he is old he will not depart from it."

—The Bible, Proverbs 22:6, amplified

Real family preservation programs include: community based care, funding of education and vocational training, combined public and private partnership job-training and placement programs with employer incentives to hire trainees, residential schools, free national health insurance, on-the-job day-care with incentives for small businesses that encourage parent and large corporations' participation, work-at-home incentives for business, an open system for out-of-home placements with public accountability, kinship fostering, and co-parenting that would better serve the child's short-term or long-term needs while preserving the child's equal protection and fundamental rights under uniform fair laws. Kinship co-parenting is one of many alternatives to permanently removing a child when he cannot be raised by one of his parents. One or both biological parents may share custody of their child with a relative or court appointed guardian. The benefit to the child and his parents is an extended family to share responsibility and homes with which the child is familiar,

rather than frequent moves from one foster home to another and no real family.

In "Foster Care System Begins Overhaul," *Los Angeles Times* (11-10-98, A-1) staff writer James Rainey reported: "Children and Family Services will boost staffing in reorganization that will allow closer, community-based oversight of 73,000 youngsters.--the overburdened, often-criticized Department of Children and Family Services will assign social workers to small neighborhoods. The idea was to recruit foster parents in the same neighborhood where the child had resided in order to involve their families where possible. First Lady Hilary Clinton coined the saying "*It takes a village* (to raise a child)." The "neighborhood approach" has been employed on the largest scale in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, which includes Cleveland and which finds that reversing the feelings of distrust for "faceless bureaucrats" who used to come to snatch babies and break up families may take years. Social welfare activists in Los Angeles are skeptical of programs touted as the "solution" to the problem of abused and neglected children after years of focusing on "foster care adoption" as the "family preservation program of the 1990s." While today's homeless statistics shock and sadden, homelessness, especially among our nation's children, is not a new phenomenon. In "One Shelter's Approach," *Los Angeles Times* (12-27-93, B-4), it was reported that "*on any given night 15,000 parents and children were homeless in Los Angeles County.*" Couched in terms of "*family preservation*" the Family Preservation Act of 1991 made federal subsidies and tax credits available *for adoptions*. The vilified "welfare mom" is being replaced by the "subsidized adopter." Family preservation programs are only as good as their facilitators. The Casey Foundation and others suggest that children are better served if parents and foster parents work together. Before budget cuts, Social Services personnel were being upgraded. The family participants were referred for voluntary assistance by Social Services, Salvation Army, and legislators.

The State has abdicated its obligation to insure that any child will have quality of education, skills training and preparation for adult living, not just for those who fuel the adoption industry. One way to insure these things for children is to help their parents as well. The Clinton Administration's welfare reforms limited Aid To Dependent Children (AFDC) and compelled the average welfare recipient—a mother with two or more children—to get off welfare and go to work within two years. *The Los Angeles Times* (10-16-98, B-1) article, "Welfare Reform Is Flawed, Study Says," by Carla Rivera, confirms the nearsightedness of such plans: "A variety of well-paying jobs that can support a family are available in Los Angeles County but welfare recipients are not being trained for them. The report, funded by the Arco Foundation via the nonprofit Economic Roundtable, identifies 48 entry level jobs that pay living wages and which were projected to yield 145,000 openings over the next 5 years." That was before our nationwide economic crisis and record unemployment. In 2011, the "experts" are saying the real challenge will be "to coordinate a new approach with other programs which may have faded from the spotlight into one system of care." Following are some of the programs "fading from the spotlight" that need to be funded and expanded.

Model Programs That Work

(See "RESOURCES" section at back of this book for current contact information)

Model programs cannot exist without funding. Many successful programs have fallen by the wayside due to lack of funding. Unless America shifts its priorities from funding wars and bailing out Wall Street, there won't be a future generation, let alone "model programs" to replace our failed social programs. Examples of Model Programs that have worked and should be expanded, but may

or may not exist by the time this book goes to press are as follows:

The House of Ruth

Founded by the Sisters of Carondelet in 1978, The House of Ruth has provided women and their children with long term-temporary shelter, comprehensive support and the skills they need to obtain and keep safe, secure, permanent housing. Among the services provided are: basic care, shelter and food, health screening, on-site child care, basic education, parenting classes, high school equivalency, English as a second language, community college classes and money management, substance abuse case referrals, housing placement and moving assistance. "A Mother's Addiction, A Family's Recovery," (*Washington Post*, 7-31-01, A-1), highlights the recovery story of Iyarn Brice, mother of nine. The House of Ruth, Washington D.C., provided up to \$38,000 worth of housing, services, therapy, drug tests, two Ruth counselors and a Ruth staffer, to Iyarn Brice—one of 18 women and 41 children provided with drug detoxification, supervised living, rehabilitation and reunification programs. "The Child Protection, Alcohol and Drug Partnership Act" called for **\$1.9-billion**, annually over 5 years, to treat and rehabilitate substance abusing parents who have children in the welfare system. Local districts planned to add funding. Some child advocates believe that the indulgent acts of addicts nullify their right to raise children. Even when addicts manage to get clean, only one-third are able to do so without a relapse, according to treatment experts. Others say the best solution is having children raised by their parents — despite years of drug addiction—if they are drug-free and caring, as that reinforces children's sense of being loved and diminishes their fears of abandonment. The Act requires officials to find permanent homes for any child who has been in foster care for 15 months of the previous 22 months — a response to dysfunctional child welfare systems and long waits for addicted parents to reform. The result was 330 *adoptions* in the District of Columbia in fiscal 2000—a record. Of the 2,796 city children in foster care, 1,072 were on track for *adoption*. Three of them were Iyarn Brice's children. Rather than "reorganization" or total privatization, perhaps the solution to government incompetence in the Foster Care industry is to offer incentives for public-private partnership roles to corporations, as well as small businesses, in the management of temporary or long term care of children for whom kinship care cannot be found.

Children of the Night

A private non-profit founded in 1979, Children of the Night assists children between ages 11 and 17 who are forced to prostitute on the streets for food and a place to sleep. They have rescued girls and boys from the domination of vicious pimps and network with FBI agents and prosecutors in several states. Child prostitutes require specialized care for effective intervention. Most were first victimized by a parent or early caregiver. In most cases, these children do not have appropriate homes to return to and the only relative may live far from their hometown. For many, the only options are out-of-home placement, college dorm, maternity home, or mental health program. Children of the Night has been in demand by other agencies across the country and around the world to develop similar programs. Special education, alcohol and drug abuse programs are also suggested.

Homebuilders Program (of the Institute for Family Development)

Still a successful, community-based family preservation program, Children of the Night, headquartered in Washington state is designed to assist families at risk of losing their children to foster care. Washington estimated it saved \$17-million in its first few years since the program began

in 1974. The comparisons: Homebuilders, 5 weeks \$2,600; Foster care, 9 months \$3,607; Group Care, 12 months \$19,465; Correctional institutions, 3 months \$14,437; Acute Psychiatric Hospital, just 1 month \$10,000; Residential Treatment, 12 months \$67,525. (Source: National Governor's Association, chart in *Family Values* newsletter.) These figures do not include all of the long-term savings that result from keeping children out of the system. There have been, and still are, tens of thousands of successful voluntary projects initiated by one person, like "The Wandering Monk" who fed poor children in special soup kitchens separated from addicts and derelicts, in New Haven, Connecticut. In "Teenagers Need Effective Parents To Win Drug Battle," *New York Times*, 7-15-90), Brian O'Callahan advised: "We must reverse our spending priorities so that 80% of our "drug war" money is taken away from interdiction, enforcement and rehabilitation and put into parent education and assistance. Programs like Homebuilders, family preservation and parent-school collaboration programs, must be given more funds. The focus must be on talking to parents, not just children. Better parents are a better weapon in the "war against drugs." Senator Patrick Moynihan, arguing *against* a \$1-billion appropriation for family preservation and support, said "The ability of *social workers* to intervene with the goal of family preservation has never been proven."

Homes Not Jails

Abandoned buildings have been converted to homeless shelters by the organization "Homes Not Jails" which holds meetings at the Housing Rights Committee facility In San Francisco.

Primary Intervention Program (PIP)

An early detection and prevention program, PIP is a 3-year grant program which was funded through California's Department of Children and Family Services "Early Mental Health Initiative" for elementary school children ages. It provides children with one-on-one time and attention in a special activity room with a paraprofessional called a "special friend," for non-directed play. The child could take the lead, make choices and have their choices respected—something children often do not have a chance to do. Free parent education was also a key element of the voluntary program which addressed problems in the home to strengthen relationships between parents and school.

Teen Parent Services

Offered to 350 young mothers by BBF Family Services, Teen Parent Services is also known as Building Brighter Futures, a 37-year old nonprofit organization. In order to continue receiving public assistance, the young mothers must stay in the program until they obtain their high school diploma or GED. They get counseling and help with transportation and child care, and discuss issues such as parenting skills, birth control, employment, with volunteers according to their expertise. The focus on the program is to help the young women become self-sufficient.

The Women's Alternatives Center (WAC) of PathwaysPA Inc.

Formerly Women's Association for Women's Alternatives (WAWA), WAC celebrates its successful "Adopt A Family" program first envisioned by anti-adoption pioneer, Jean Paton. An alternative to foster care, it was created to prevent the need to separate mothers and children. Programs are for mothers 18 years or older with children 0-12 years old, Battered Women, Emergency Shelter, Females, Parenting Education, Transitional Housing/Shelter, Vocational Rehabilitation.

In 1887, the Milford Industrial Home, also known as the Nebraska Maternity Home, was a

reformatory and charitable institution for unwed mothers who had financial problems and could not arrange their own care. Each of the "inmates" was taught homemaking and nursing skills and obtained a high school diploma. Those who could go on to earn a living and pay the monthly upkeep for themselves and their children were permitted to stay. *But those who did not pay within six months had to give up their babies for adoption*, which need not be the price to pay today. An innovative program, sponsored by Women's Alternatives in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, serves only female heads of households and their children by providing educational and clinical services to women in a crisis situation through three to six month comprehensive residential and non-residential programs for mothers and children with problems. By providing temporary housing, a supportive environment, relevant skills and necessary training for female heads of household, WAC enabled families to become financially and emotionally independent and effectively manage and direct themselves and their children within their communities. WAC was funded as a demonstration project on a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and its operation was maintained through corporate, foundation and community support. The Center's residential families lived in a safe and supportive environment. WAC also helped prevent child abuse and neglect and made the community more aware of the needs of the female headed household.

Bridge of Hope

Media called Bridge of Hope "the most innovative program for homeless mothers and children in the nation," similar to WAC but extends post-program services including mentoring. Headquartered in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, the Michigan program was launched with 1,000 homeless applicants.

Genesis House

Described in "Life Off The Streets," by Wendy Cole (*TIME*, 11-16-98), "At Genesis House, society's 'throwaway women' get a fresh chance. Opened in 1983 (on Chicago's South Side) by a British-born feminist theologian named Edwina Gately, Genesis House is just one of a handful of United States recovery centers for prostitutes, many of whom are raising children. As social services and law enforcement agencies have learned about its success rate and unusual approach in dealing with seemingly intractable clients, it has become a model for similar programs from Florida to Thailand. Nonetheless, Genesis House was in financial jeopardy from the loss of a half million dollars in federal funds and had to find volunteers to replace about half of its twenty-five paid staff members. About 70% of enrollees complete the program and 80% of the graduates don't relapse."

SOS Children's Village

In "SOS Tries To Save 'Unadoptables,'" (*Press-Enterprise*, 10-11-92), Maya Bell of the *Orlando Sentinel* reported: "These are women who are committed to giving new lives to children with dim futures, children who have drifted from foster home to foster home, children torn from their brothers and sisters. They will live in the first "SOS Children's Village" in the United States, a one block neighborhood in northwest Broward County, Florida, where the recipients are about to embark on an important experiment to treat one of society's greatest ills. They will participate in a program that has built homes and provided professional full-time mothers for 25,000 "unadoptable" children in 26 countries around the world. They have been succeeding in salvaging some of America's neediest kids.

Launched 43 years ago in Austria to care for the orphans of World War II, SOS Village came

to Florida at the urging of Broward Circuit Court Judge Estella Moriarity. When Moriarity read the obituary of SOS Founder Hermann Gmeiner, a Nobel Prize nominee, six years ago, she knew kids who would benefit from his vision. She had seen plenty of them in her courtroom. Although highly regarded, the SOS Villages had not come to the United States without questions from Child Welfare experts for one reason: By its design, SOS Villages do not provide "traditional homes." Fathers are not welcome. In fact, SOS Moms who marry are asked to leave. *Neither does SOS allow adoption*, the very thing driving Child Welfare experts dealing with society's "throwaway kids." SOS Mothers are to be forever the psychological and spiritual parent, but not the legal one.

Why aren't SOS kids being adopted? According to David Hughes, SOS Director, they are subjected to too many changes, reinforcing their feelings of rejection and depleting what little self esteem life had left them. Single women proved more suitable than couples who are difficult to find and keep for the long term, perhaps because these single moms do not have the pressures of marriage to contend with and can be more centered on the child. SOS retains custody of children in its care as a form of "quality control." The organization can easily get rid of the rare mother who does not work out.

Al Polito, Director of Broward County's SOS program, says it will not accept children with severe emotional behavioral problems, although few foster children are without problems, especially those who fit the SOS criteria of "having little chance of being adopted." The professional Moms in the Broward program were paid \$18,000 per year in 1991 but their only job was in their homes and their only commitment was to their children. They were given no allowance to run their households, to feed their kids, to buy them clothes, to pay their power bills. They had only the support of Polito, the Village administrator/father figure, three "aunts" who live in a nearby house and a "network of experts." Most recently, SOS Children's Villages has been assisting with the identification and protection of Haiti's earthquake orphans.

Father Flanagan's Boys Town (Nebraska)

Historically, Father Flanagan's Boys Town has billed the state only for costs of wards who needed special education. But in September, 1998, the Nebraska State Supreme Court ruled that Nebraska taxpayers must shoulder costs of educating young wards of the state who are placed at Boys Town and similar institutions. State officials said it was likely to cost taxpayers \$2-million annually, plus \$11.5-million back payments to Boys Town and other institutions that educate wards of the state.

Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Girls Town USA (Texas)

Stephen Girard College (Pennsylvania)

Milton Hershey School (Pennsylvania).

These are examples of other model residential care and education programs. Although Milton Hershey School recently fell under criticism for refusing admission to a boy who is HIV positive, the school has had a long-held reputation for helping the disadvantaged.

Open Arms

Open Arms is no longer co-sponsored by a Savannah hospital and Lutheran Ministries. It filled the gap left by parents without grandparent support, HMOs, Social Services or busy nurses who don't have the time to simply cuddle and nurture an infant. "Open Arms" took care of "border babies"—infants who were born seriously premature, were abused or abandoned, or whose parents

could not care for them. The infants stayed in a three-bedroom bungalow operated by Open Arms until the courts placed them in foster care, put them up for adoption, or returned them to their parents.

Communities need to promote hospital volunteerism through churches, libraries, retired citizens groups, local organizations.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Mentoring programs are one-to-one matches that provide ongoing support and supervision to the Big, Little and Little's family. They offer training to help ensure that the match is working for everyone and that matches consistently spend more time together sharing everyday activities – eating out, playing sports or attending sports events, going to movies, sightseeing and just hanging out together. What mattered to the children is that they had a caring adult in their lives.

What You Can Do

The preceding examples of Model Programs include those which may be an alternative for families in danger of losing children to the Foster Care or Adoption system in your city. Even for children already in Foster Care, citizens, community civic groups, churches, synagogues, and the corporate community need to be actively involved in foster kids' transition into adulthood and provide support for their educational and career goals.

Quality after-school and summer programs can provide safe, engaging environments and inspire learning outside the regular school day. While there is no one single formula for success in after-school programs, both practitioners and researchers have found that effective programs combine academic enrichment, cultural, and recreational activities to guide learning and engage children and youth in wholesome activities.

The best programs develop activities to meet the particular needs of the communities they serve. Common elements of quality programs include: Goal Setting, Strong Management and Sustainability with a focus on goals, solid organizational structure, with oversight and accountability, an annual operating budget, accurate bookkeeping, affordable fee structures and/or multiple funding sources including in-kind support.

They should also have quality after-school staff, including volunteers, attention to safety, health and nutrition issues in safe places with adequate space and materials, linkage between school day and after school personnel, and strong involvement of families, and evaluation of program effectiveness.

Some examples of successful after-school programs include **Community Collaboration for Education Enrichment (CCEE)**, in San Antonio, Texas; **Lake County Teen Connection** (Upper Lake, California); **Boys Harbor and The Harbor for Boys and Girls** (East Harlem, New York); **Proyecto Sano y Salvo (Project Safe and Sound**, Tucson, Arizona); and **Summer Transitions** (Little Rock Arkansas).

Acquiring off-school property sites for new programs or a new foster home model includes converting abandoned “big box” buildings, military bases, hotels, and other abandoned structures to permit use as residential educational-vocational schools.

“Adoption is a form of domestic terrorism”
-Reverend Ruth Peterson

II ADOPTION

1. FOLLOWING THE DOLLARS

*Half the United States Population is Affected by Adoption,
a Multi-Billion Dollar Industry*

There are now about 50,000 public agency adoptions per year in the United States, plus uncertain numbers of privately facilitated adoptions. Using the government's own broad though under-estimated statistic of only “5-10-million adoptees,” if one includes the adoptee's two “immediate families” by birth and by adoption, conservatively estimated, **150-million Americans—almost half the United States current population—has had an adoption, or relinquishment for adoption, in their immediate family.** This is partly due to the fact that, decades ago, the emphasis changed from society's desire to provide a needy child with a substitute family, to providing a childless couple or individual with someone else's child through adoption, an ongoing experiment in euthenics (outcomes controlled by environment), rather than eugenics (outcomes controlled by breeding).

In 1939, unwed mothers known as “The Fuhrer's Brides” were young Aryan girls who were encouraged to become pregnant as part of Hitler's “selective breeding” plan at a time when the “unwed mother” in America was considered shameful. The lesson learned by the 1940s and 1950s now-adult adoptees, whose single mothers were pressured to relinquish them as newborns for adoption, for an alleged “better life” because the “stigma of illegitimacy” would allegedly “ruin the child's and mother's life,” is that a “better life” is something that no agency could predict nor guarantee. As relinquished children who were never adopted grew up instead in foster care, there was a glut of government supported children in the foster care system. Those who were immediately adopted by strangers now report severe problems resulting from their adoptions.

As divorce rates rose in the 1970's and 1980s, and single parenthood lost its stigma, generally women no longer experienced the same societal pressure to surrender their children. The number of babies surrendered in the U.S. and Canada began falling, while consumer demand rose dramatically, in part because women who had postponed motherhood for careers were now finding themselves infertile (“Making Time for Baby,” *Time Magazine*, 4-15-02). According to another article at that time, “Love For Sale” in *Adoptive Families* magazine, “For every newborn available, there are now almost 40 [potential adopters] searching.”

In 1960, 72% of all adults over age 18 in the United States were married. Today, only 51% are married (according to Census analysis by Pew Research), and children are being taken as “economic orphans” from parents who are *not* unfit, in order to provide a supply to meet the demand by single individuals and married couples for “adoptable children.” In the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case known to the general public from media as “The Baby Jessica” case, prospective adopters, the DeBoers, ignored court orders to return the child from out of state when the parents, the Schmidts, wanted their baby back. When the case reached the U.S. Supreme Court, on 7-26-99 Justice John Paul Stevens opined: “Neither Iowa law, Michigan law, nor federal law authorizes

unrelated persons to retain custody of a child whose natural parents have not been found to be unfit, *simply because they may be better able to provide for her future and her education.*" But there have been similar cases where single mothers have been persuaded to relinquish their babies for adoption out of state to circumvent fathers wishing to establish parental rights and obtain custody. The Federal Parental Kidnap Prevention Act has been reserved for divorce custody situations but not kidnap for adoption.

The answer to today's poverty-stricken families is not to increase costs to *dismember* families but to save costs and create jobs to *rehabilitate* families. And the answer is not to pay adopters subsidies to raise a stranger's children. The answer is to restore family preservation on political agendas. Historically, handling of abandoned or relinquished children was left to the state. But on 7-24-89, Reagan Administration's "White House Memo #906627: Administrative Support For The Adoption Option" put the federal government in the adoption business by offering tax incentives and cash subsidies to people who adopt. It also paved the way for the House version of the 2001 "Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendment Act." The primary benefactor of grant funds from this Act is The National Council For Adoption (NCFA) umbrella of Christian adoption agencies. Following is a look at what taxpayers pay a "welfare mom," compared to an "adoptive mom."

In 2011, in order to qualify for state assistance, a "welfare mom" is not allowed to own real estate, boats, stocks or bonds, nor even a safe car worth over \$1000, and must prove that she has almost no money in the bank, just so she can collect \$539 a month to support herself and 2 children and, in the process, be deemed a "parasite" on society, and be subjected to periodic home inspections, psychological evaluations, "maintenance agreements," Minnesota Multi-Phasic tests (MMPI), drug and alcohol evaluations or urine screens. On the other hand, in 2011, adopters, who allegedly take over financial responsibilities for children they adopt "as if born to them," can collect federal subsidies until the child is 18. If the child stays in school, subsidies continue to age 21. There are also adoption tax credits – one of those "loopholes" Congress avoids mentioning. There are state funded subsidies, as well as federal funding through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. The daily rate from State funds is the same as foster care payments - \$410-\$486 per month per child, unless the child can also be designated "special needs," *which they all can.*

Under the National Adoption Assistance Training Resource and Information Network (NAATRIN), a service of the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) a State subsidy profile from a State Department of Social Services (DSS) for "special needs" may be defined as: "physical disability; mental disability; emotional disturbance; a significant emotional tie with the former foster parents where the child has resided for one or more years and separation would adversely affect the child development if not adopted by them." But their "significant emotional ties" with their biological families since birth do not enter the calculation. Additional "special needs" designations are: a child 12 years of age or older; racial or ethnic factors; a child having siblings or half-siblings. A "special needs" child may also get an additional Social Security check. Florida, Louisiana, and Wisconsin claimed 100% of their public adoptions were "special needs" in order to obtain funds. In their "State of the Children Report" by Boston's Institute for Children, it was reported: "In part because the States can garner extra funds for "special needs" children, the designation has been broadened so far as to become meaningless."

Adopters also receive: Medicaid for the child; a clothing allowance, and reimbursement for adoption costs such as adoption fees, court and attorney fees, cost of the adoption home study, and "reasonable costs of food and lodging for the child and adopters when necessary to complete the adoption process." Under Title XX of the Social Security Act, adopters are also entitled to "post-

adoption services that may be helpful in keeping the family intact" while the biological family is dismembered. Perks for adoptive families include daycare, specialized care, respite care, in-house support services such as housekeeping, personal care, counseling and other child welfare services. While the subsidy profile states it does not include money to remodel the home to accommodate the child, subsidies *can* be negotiated and remodeling *could* possibly be accomplished under the "innovative incentives to remove barriers to adoption" section.

So great has been society's desire to increase adoptions, Americans even borrow to finance adoptions before it will subsidize a "welfare mom" and her child. Bank of America, Hebrew Free Loan Society, among others provide secured and unsecured loans to enable adoptions.

Since 1990, insurance companies have been writing "Adoption Cancellation Insurance" policies that cover adopters for certain expenses have paid in the event that she or the father change their minds and revoke their relinquishments of parental rights. Foreign adoptions are now covered by some insurers. (See also "Insurance Companies - A Conflict of Interest" chapter in this book, for detailing on who and what is covered adoption by insurance plans.)

Recently, there was an extension of federal college benefits to wards adopted after age 16.

There are also many books and e-mail lists that teach adopters how to "negotiate" to maximize their subsidies. In Florida, for instance, one adopter is receiving over \$2500 a month in subsidies for one child and plans to adopt 3 more teenagers in order to obtain 3 more large subsidies.

By 1998, the average cost of a private (attorney assisted) adoption had already soared to \$60,000 (as cited by Amy Thurston, National Adoption Information Clearinghouse/ (NAIC), Washington, DC on 7-16-98). Multiply \$10,000 tax credit per child times only 50,000 adoptions and there goes another **\$500-BILLION**.

According to the Child Welfare League of America's government publication "Adoption and Privatization: An Issue Brief: "Forty-one states—a remarkable 82%—were planning or implementing fundamental changes in the delivery of their child welfare services and many of these systems identified "privatization as a key approach to structuring service delivery more efficiently." Although privatization is not new (80% of all adoptions in California are private or independent adoptions), the shift in allocation of service delivery responsibility is alarming, as the private sector is taking a far greater role in providing, managing and monitoring adoption planning and services, traditionally provided by public agencies.

In cases where children must be removed for neglect due only to economic hardship, **if the incredible incentives currently provided to adopters were instead allocated to help families who are simply disadvantaged, the Child Protective Services budget could be reduced from \$12-billion to \$4-billion or less.** This could create new jobs for family rehabilitation services and for families so they can be self-sufficient, thus lowering costs, while eliminating excess social workers, administrators, lawyers, juvenile court personnel, therapists and foster parents and systems that are self-perpetuating.

There's also a hidden price-tag. Despite that debates on the economy point to record unemployment and homelessness, few consider that the majority of our nation's homeless have always been individuals who had been warehoused in the Foster Care System and also, increasingly, those who were thought to have been "rescued" by the Adoption System, and/or recently released from prison, nor what to do about it.

How do adoptees feel about being adopted? The following was posted by an adoptee named "Julie" on Adoption Insights Message Board 10-5-03 "I was 'chosen' and not 'born'...Because of how adopters present this, I am one of many adoptees who pictured themselves at a supermarket with

their adopters browsing the aisles of babies as they pushed their cart along. Adoption rhetoric doesn't allow for a story of our birth, a connection to humanity. No wonder so many of us felt we were aliens. I remember my adopters' natural son remarking, when my 'chosen' story was told, 'Yeah, you weren't born -- you were hatched!' My adopters never corrected him because they were incapable of even thinking about my actual birth, much less speaking of it. Being 'chosen' by your adopters is NOTHING compared with being UN-chosen by your own mother (which, despite the circumstances, is how most of us feel)."

By 2011, the teen birth rate as a source of "supply" of adoptable newborns, fell 37% since 1990 (according to the National Center for Health Statistics), thus increasing "demand" for adoptable children by married, single, heterosexual and homosexual individuals and couples. Even now while millions of families have lost their incomes and homes, there is still an intolerance of the poor and a preference for dismembering disadvantaged families, rather than to subsidize them or to fund model programs that provide skills training and create jobs to support family preservation. Economic orphans have parents. What if the current "market" for adoptable children bottoms out? This writer believes that prevention, through more humane, individualized custody law, instead of adoption, is better than treating pathology in future generations of "chosen children."

Of course, government has their own incentive for encouraging adoption. Every baby surrendered by an unemployed, unsupported single mother means one less welfare recipient but the math is all wrong, yet never questioned as the public is conditioned by organized special interests who profit from maintaining status quo. As an example, media ran with the ultimate "Welfare Mom," Nadya Suleman, dubbed "Octomom" for bearing octuplets while single and unemployed (*AP* and *Orange County Register*, 10-18-09). Suleman and her Beverly Hills doctor, Michael Kamrava, were assailed for allowing her to be implanted with 12 embryos even after she already had 6 children she could not support. Capitalizing on media attention at her every new hurdle, Suleman, a former stripper, became the happy recipient of private charitable donations and the poster child for the despised "welfare mom" for keeping her 14 children, mostly at government expense.

Actually, the average single welfare mom had, for decades, been a young, White, middle class woman, pressured her parents and baby broker to surrender her newborn, as detailed in the scholarly documentary, "Wake Up Little Susie: Pregnancy and Race Before Roe v. Wade," (by Rickie Solinger, *Routledge* 1992). In the 1940s to 1960s mothers relinquished primarily due to the social stigma of "illegitimacy," and most so-called "voluntary" relinquishments have been coerced as a means of fulfilling a politically or socially motivated agenda. Eileen T. Brazelton. Pediatric physician, and child psychiatrist, T. Berry Brazelton, MD, in "A Psychiatrist Comments," wrote "Politics, rather than an understanding of children's needs, often dictates decisions about a child's placement." The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997 allows funding for "family preservation and support services for no more than fifteen months" as a move to speed up adoptions.

The National Council For Adoption (NCFA - formerly National Committee For Adoption) was founded in 1980. It is the largest umbrella organization of Christian adoption agencies intent on "Christianizing" families through adoption. It is also the largest pro-sealed records lobby. NCFA is headed in 2011 by its president and CEO, Charles "Chuck" Johnson, a licensed social worker. NCFA gives the false impression that it is a government agency and represents itself as the "authoritative voice for adoption" to the government and to all. On 10-15-01, NCFA, was awarded over \$20-million in government grants from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) "to promote adoption awareness." Just over \$1-million of the NCFA funding comes from "public support," not including another fifty-plus thousand that comes from membership dues. Its members

are nonprofit adoption agencies. The Gladney Centers for Adoption and Bethany Christian Services are members. While both are, indeed, non-profit, one only has to look at their IRS 990's to see where the money is rolling in. The Gladney Centers in Texas have one main "hospital" group and two other big "funds." Combined, there is over 39 million dollars declared as assets and another \$12,154,675 claimed as income after expenses. That's over 50-million dollars. Bethany Christian Services breaks out to three main states: North Carolina, Iowa, and Michigan with a combined income of \$ 3,098,830 and assets of \$ 1,236,37. Seeing these huge "non-profit" numbers makes it easier to comprehend how American adoption services is over a 3-billion dollar a year industry. It behooves the agencies to fund a lobby group that promotes their needs, causes public opinion to be swayed in their favor and facilitates an environment beneficial for their bottom line by promoting adoption. (Source: "National Council For Adoption: Mothers, Money, Marketing and Madness," by Claudia Corrigan D'Arcy; and NCFA's Forms 990). By contrast, the American Adoption Congress (AAC), an open records lobby of adoption affected individuals and family search groups, filed their Form 990 for \$39,338; Bastard Nation, a pro-open records group of adult adoptees, declared only \$2,872; while Americans For Open Records (AmFOR), a philanthropic organization which charges no fees, does no fund-raising, and assists adoption affected individuals who volunteer their assistance to other adoption affected individuals, consistently reports out-of-pocket *losses*.

On 10-17-00 the U.S. Congress, under Public Law 103-310, amended the Public Health Services Act to authorize specific activities pertaining to Infant Adoption Awareness (IAA, Title XII, Sub-title A). The legislation requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to award grants "to develop and implement programs to train designated staff of eligible health centers in providing adoption information and referrals to pregnant women *on an equal basis* with all other courses of action included in non-directive counseling to pregnant women."

Over \$9-million per year is budgeted for "Infant Adoption Awareness Training Programs" through grants, the greatest portion of which has gone to the National Council For Adoption. The brochure provided by the NCFA says the "good news" is they had trained more than 11,000 individuals. According to Nielsen tracking service, local television stations donated more than \$778,000 worth of air time (not counting the networks such as *ABC*, *CNN*, and *Lifetime*). Outdoor advertising giants Viacom and Lamar provided highway billboards, and radio stations and other media outlets are helping to say very publicly "Thanks for considering Adoption." The brochure tells of one Master Trainer, a caseworker for the Gladney Center for Adoption, who spoke daily to a pregnant mother on the phone and when her baby was born, traveled all the way across West Texas to be with her "in her time of need" using "compassion and many of the counseling tools and techniques" from the training to help the mother make "her" decision. With IAA training, when a mom decides that she wants to keep her own son or daughter, a "professional" will be there to make a "powerful impact." The mothers are encouraged to relinquish their newborns *for economic reasons* "in child's best interests." Concurrent with the push to "increase adoptions," there was a significant *decrease* in state administrative grants in Medicaid, a reduction which severely impacted parents who were at risk of losing their children to the system as result of such reductions, thus increasing the pool of "adoptables." **More than ever before in our nation's history, there has been a deliberate, organized strategy by the Religious Right to place a bounty on the heads of children and adopt them into Christian homes, instead of family preservation.**

"In 2001, Foster Care accounted for \$4.97-BILLION in federal spending alone. Adoption cost the American people at least **\$33.35-BILLION**, not just \$1.4-billion value already placed on

“Adoption Services” in Y-2000. (Market Data Enterprises, *PR Newswire*, 12-14-2000). In 2011 while America is in economic crisis, grant funding already committed to NCFA cannot be recouped. These figures did not include private grants, nor “Post-Adoption Services” such as agency “counseling,” nor income through its Gladney Centers and Bethany Christian Services agencies. There are also adult adoptee and natural parent reunion registries, and a cottage industry of private family search and reunion services headed by adoptees, parents, and adopters, some working in concert with the agencies and courts, raking in \$60,000/year, and a few independent searchers providing free or expenses-only paid assistance. Adoption subsidies exempting private non-profit adoption agencies from taxation also means loss of state revenues.

Wendy’s fast food restaurants places collection boxes in front of their cash registers and has various promotions to fund the Dave Thomas Adoption Foundation which funds “Wendy’s Wonderful Kids” which partners with businesses to provide grants of \$65,000 or more **to adoption agencies, including Bethany Christian Services (according to the Foundation’s 2009 Form 990), to hire recruiters** to recruit adopters for foster kids ages 10-18. While the Foundation’s website shows 86.8% of funds going to grants, the main criticism by the grantees has been that the grants are not enough to cover a recruiter’s “Master’s Degree salary.” The Foundation whose only goal is “to increase the number of adoptions of hard to place (older) children from foster care,” offers no statistics on those adoptees’ outcomes.

According to the National Council For Adoption (NCFA) in their "Brief of Amicae Curiae, Addendum" in opposition to Oregon's Ballot "Measure 58" which opened records to adult adoptees in that state, the alleged purpose of sealing adoptees' birth records is: "(1) To protect the parties to adoption from public scrutiny; (2) To protect the integrity of the adoptive family and prevent unsolicited or unwanted interference from others; (3) To be consistent with all other social services which hold confidentiality as a predominant principle of ethical practice; (4) To facilitate the grieving process for biological parents by providing closure." Obviously, NCFA didn't survey the 20,000 adoptees and parents who requested and obtained family reunions through AmFOR, nor the 2,000 adoption search-support groups nationwide - many with over 200,000 registrants. How is it that adopters can be deemed "fit to parent" yet they are allegedly too immature to deal with the reality of the child's parents directly or via the courts, while divorced parents must do so? Study after study evidences that the parent grieving loss of a child never has closure so long as that child remains lost to an unknown fate, in much the same way that parents of any missing child continue to grieve.

In "Cash Incentives for Adoptions Seen as Risk to Some Children" by Leslie Kaufman (10-29-03), it was reported that: "States across the country, often in response to cash incentives offered by the federal government, have been under intense pressure in recent years to move children through their foster care systems and into permanent homes. Indeed, the number of annual adoptions nationally almost doubled from 1995 to 2001, and New Jersey adoptions more than doubled in an even shorter time, to 1,364 in 2002 from 621 in 1998. The payments to parents willing to adopt can amount to hundreds of dollars a month per child. In New Jersey, Raymond and Vanessa Jackson, who starved their six adopted children and one foster child, resulting in the death of one of them, received more than \$30,000 in government payments last year. Once children are formally adopted, the state is no longer entitled to closely monitor their well-being - a greater amount is paid to the families who adopt medically fragile or psychologically troubled children -- the risk exists that families take on more than they can handle, sometimes just for the additional money. “

"Have we gone too far too fast?" asks Gary Stangler, executive director of Jim Casey Youth

Opportunities Initiative, a private foundation in St. Louis focusing on getting children out of foster care. "I worry that with all the applause going to the increasing numbers of adoptions, that we are possibly putting these young people into families not equipped or prepared to handle them." Richard Wexler, the director of the National Coalition for Child Protection Reform, says he was concerned that the new law "would create a huge incentive for quick and dirty slipshod placements." (See also "The Baby Brokers Directory" at <http://AmFOR.net/BabyBrokers>)

Former Riverside County California Social Worker, Winona Durbin, MSW, assisted many adult adoptees' searching not only for their parents but also for their siblings. Statisticians estimate that 80% to 99% of American adults have one or more siblings. Siblings separated by police power of Child Protective Services (CPS), private attorneys, agencies, and "adoption facilitators," do not see their separations as being in their "best interests" and most social workers now agree.

Three Degrees of Secrecy: Closed, Open and Semi-Open Adoption

*"Until I hold my original birth certificate in my hands,
I can only be sure of who I'm not, not who I am."*

-Robert Wilson Harrington McCullough, adoptee

There are three degrees of secrecy or openness in adoption – Closed Adoption, Semi-Open Adoption and Open Adoption. But with each type, usually the child's true birth record is withheld and an "amended" (falsified) birth certificate is issued; it names the adopters as the only parents *on date of birth*, usually changing the child's name, and certified as a "true record" by the Vital Records office, despite that falsification of a vital record is a crime in every state. Political uproar challenged Barack Obama's eligibility to be President based on his alleged place of birth, alleged stepfather adoption, alleged absence of a long form "original birth certificate," and possible mis-interpretation of the "natural born" requirement, all of which continues to be an issue at this writing.

Closed Adoption. In Closed Adoption, the most common form of adoption practiced in the United States since the 1940s, the biological parents and adopters remain secret with no contact prior to or after the placement of the child is finalized. Social workers who have come to be nationally respected authorities in their field have been vocal as to the problems with closed adoption, but it seems as though no one is listening. Nancy Murray, Adoption Placement Supervisor at "The Whole Family," in Colorado, asserts "Closed adoption is institutionalized denial," while Reuben Pannor, MSW, former Director of Community Services at Vista del Mar Child Care Services of Los Angeles and co-author of "The Adoption Triangle," warns "Closed adoption is malpractice."

According to Attorney Elizabeth J. Samuels, Associate Professor of Law at Baltimore University ("How Adoption in America Grew Secret," *Washington Post*, 10-20-01), closing of records was "consistent with an emerging social idea about adoption: that it was a perfect substitute for creating a family by childbirth, and so the adopted child had no other family and would never be interested in learning about any other family."

But no one had asked the adoptee how he or she felt about this. Even adult adoptees are subject to the disclosure law, if any, in the state in which the adoption was finalized. In her book, "Twice Born," psychologist, Betty Jean Lifton, herself an adoptee, wrote: "When I was born, society prophesied that I would bring disgrace to my mother, kill her reputation, destroy her chances for a good bourgeois life. Society, by sealing birth records, by cutting adoptees off from their biological past, by keeping secrets from them, has made them into a separate breed, unreal even to themselves.

Semi-Open and Open Adoption. In Semi-Open Adoption, the parents and adopters may speak with each other prior to the child's birth and know basic information about each other, via the agency or attorney, such as first names and state of residence, but contact information is not shared.. After the adoption is finalized, the parents and adopters might exchange letters and photos but only via a third party -- usually the adoption agency. But without a practical means of enforcing adoption "agreements" which are made outside the "Petition and Final Decree of Adoption.." they rely on the integrity of the parents and adopters. In 2001, California was the first state to enact legislation that attempts to make such agreements enforceable by law, which remains to be seen. Adoption attorneys with a busy legal practice, despite their dual representation of both the parents and adopters in private adoptions, usually will not act as go-between once the adoption is finalized.

"Open" adoption has been an effort to "reform" closed adoption by demonstrating that such adoptions, facilitated by private adoption agencies or attorneys in *some* jurisdictions (for instance in Traverse City, Michigan, and San Bernardino County, California, but not in neighboring Riverside County, California), is a better expression of custody for all concerned. **In open adoption, the child's original birth certificate is still sealed and a falsified version issued according to state law**, a slap in the face to the parties striving for truth in "open adoption" arrangements. But because adoption laws, particularly with regard to open adoptions, differ from state to state, even under a federal uniform law, enforcing an open adoption visitation agreement across state lines can be difficult at best. While open adoption has served to disprove the need for closed adoption in "voluntary" relinquishments, mothers are still coerced into relinquishing babies for closed adoption.

Commercialization of Adoption, Commodifying Children

The extent of adoption's commercialization and disintegration of human rights became apparent to this writer several years ago when I responded to an ad by Dependent Care Connection (DDC) in Westport, Connecticut. Advertised as a "national counseling and referral service," this United States and international clearinghouse was a "baby supermarket" with a computer hotline for large corporations including California Law Corporation, and adoption agencies needing immediate information as to availability of babies and children according to age, gender, size, color, and nationality for adoption anywhere in the world. They offered a \$20,000 annual salary for telemarketers. Today "embryo supermarkets" at fertility clinics create and sell "designer embryos" on speculation for adoption. The ethical questions of such trafficking aside, the number of adoptees created this way, and how they fared, was and still is unknown,

Commercialization of adoption is not a new low in child welfare ethics. In the 1999 Evan B. Donaldson Institute Symposium on Ethics and Adoption one of the topics broached by the panel was the concern that there is a growing trend towards commercialization and amateurization of adoption which is leading the adoption industry to turn children into commodities. Amateurization was increasingly allowing individuals and businesses that have no experience in social work to make placements in adoption. Today, as the federal government, backed by adoption agencies, call for increase in the number of children available for adoption, where will they come from? Your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, brothers, sisters could easily be the next victim of the Child Protective Services (CPS) strong-arm of Social Services.

Media promotions aimed at "increasing adoptions" target prospective adopters' wants, rather than the child's needs and best interests. If anyone doubts that adoption is an industry that

commodifies children, they need only consider the following examples of such commercialization.

In 2008, in a paper titled “A Market Segmentation in Child Adoption International Law Review of Law and Economics” by Attorneys Erwin A. Blackstone, Andrew J. Buck, Simon Hakim, and Uriel Spiegel, they state: “Recognizing heterogeneity of children will yield **price differentiation** on segmented **markets**. Such differentiation is important especially in the **market** for adopted children where the lifetime consequences of a poor match can be severe. Revenues from the **sale** of highly demanded children could subsidize the adoption of the less desired children.”

It’s not only adoption agencies that commercialize adoption and can be downright offensive about it. Celebrities like Madonna and Angelina Jolie figure significantly in the public perception about contemporary adoption and provide a marketing tool via gossip magazines as they seem to defy bureaucratic necessities required of “regular people” who wish to emulate them. Cambodia, Malawi and Ethiopia have been among the countries in which governments have accommodated celebrity adoptions. An Ohio couple who now has an Ethiopian daughter “just like Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie” showcased their acquisition on Facebook.

“Baby For Sale” ads were bound to show up on Internet, including eBay and Craigslist. A Michigan woman was under investigation for allegedly auctioning off her 2-year old girl on eBay (*Sky News* report). According to police, another eBay user posted a \$1,000 bid for the child, thinking the auction was a fake and contacted authorities when the bid was accepted. (Source: Catherine Smith, *The Huffington Post*, 5-23-11). German police took a baby into protective custody after the mother tried selling him on eBay. The 23-year old woman from Krumbach, Germany, auctioned her 8-month-old son for a starting bid of one Euro (approximately \$1.57). She said it was all a joke but police weren’t laughing and believed the mother might be involved in child trafficking. The eBay listing said the mother was selling the child “because he cries too much.” eBay removed the auction after just 2 hours” (*TG Daily*, 5-27-08). Then there was the eBay ad in Shanghai, China: The starting bid for a baby was 1 yuan. If a bidder agreed to pay 28,000 yuan (US \$3,457) for a boy, or 13,000 yuan for a girl, the Buyer would win the auction immediately.

And then “A Dallas man, Patrick Lee Ryan, 33, Faced charges of Buying or Selling A Child, Disorderly Conduct, and Committing A Computer Crime” in connection with a Craigslist ad that advertised a baby for sale. Craigslist immediately took down the ad when contacted by police. (Source: “Oregon Man Arrested for Craigslist Ad to Sell Baby,” by *KATU Staff*, 3-26-08). On 2-17-08 *Russia Today* reported that a Russian mother offered her baby girl for sale on YouTube’s Kijiji for \$1,000 to pay her rent (View news video in English at YouTube).

Companies have learned that pitching adoption to kids increases sales. In 1976, Xavier Roberts invented “Little Person” dolls. Roberts was a teenager when he started the “Babyland General Hospital” in Cleveland, Georgia, where people could “adopt a baby” (the hand sewn dolls were never called “dolls”), complete with “adoption papers.” Roberts and five friends started the Original Appalachian Artworks company to produce the dolls. But when the Coleco toy company began mass-marketing the dolls in 1983, they were renamed “Cabbage Patch Kids.” Pickford Bears company dresses its “Baxter” plush bears in early 1900s affluent attire with a tag detailing the “success story” of Joshua Goldberg, an adoptee, who celebrated his 100th birthday; it tells how he “began making teddy bears on his adopter’s sewing machine when he was 8 years old, dressed them in the clothes of the day, and fastened a brass button on them. Every year thereafter, he made another special bear and went on to become successful in business,” The collector bears now valued at up to \$100 each come with a tag that says “May Baxter bring luck and prosperity to your life in

the new Millennium,” thus promoting the misconception that, unlike the unfortunate step-kid, Cinderella, adoptees prosper. From an early age, children are encouraged to accept their “adopted children” as toys.

Commercialization of adoption can also be subtler. A 2011 issue of *Redbook* magazine carries an ad which, at first glance, appears to simply be selling brown quartz jewelry for \$85 apiece. But the gemstones are further described as “signifying love, hope and a dream of *parenthood through adoption*” and the included gold leaf charm “symbolizes a family tree” – evidently the adopter’s family tree, since adoptees have no knowledge of their own genealogy. The ad is sponsored by AdoptUsKids, an adoption agency.

At some point pet stores and pounds made “adopt a pet” part of the vernacular, followed by “adopt-a-highway” campaigns.

A *CNN Tech* report, “Adoption Seekers Use YouTube, Facebook to Find Birth Moms,” (by Stephanie Chen, 3-10-09), proves “it pays to advertise” when buying or selling a baby. It advises “With a high demand for domestic infants, adoption experts say the wait for a baby can be months or years. *To gain a competitive edge*, a growing number of adoption-minded couples are using websites like YouTube and Facebook to sell themselves as parents. Going online is cheaper, faster and reaches a wider audience than using just print advertisements and word of mouth” they say. Some wannabe parents are uploading YouTube videos featuring a hodgepodge of photos, home tours and interviews. Others are writing blogs on personal web sites to give mothers a glimpse of their adoption journey. To help spread the word, prospective adopters are utilizing social networking sites like Twitter, MySpace and Facebook, hoping their friends may know of a potential ‘birth’ mom.

“Today’s teens and young adults looking for prospective adopters are more tech savvy than before,” says Jeff Siler, who owns ParentGallery.com, a free site created in 2007 where couples wanting to adopt can post pictures and videos online. “Even before teens talk to an adoption agency, they may already be trying to Google for an answer online.”

In 1999, Dave Thomas’ Adoption Foundation even partnered with the U.S. Post Office to market adoption by creating a 33-cent “adoption postage stamp” which featured the phrase “Adopting a Child, Shaping a Life, Building a Home, *Creating a World*.” Those who thought Wendy’s founder, Dave Thomas, was motivated by his own “positive” adoption experience should note that although the entrepreneur was adopted at birth, his adopter died when he was 5. He was raised by his adoptive grandmother *who didn’t tell him he was adopted til age 13*. Thomas was a high school drop-out who left home after 10th grade. He tracked down his biological parents but they had already died. (Source: Wendy’s foundation websites including its 2009 Form 990.)

2. ADOPTSPEAK and CENSORSHIP

AdoptSpeak and Censorship are tactics employed by special interests to manipulate the public's perception of adoption by controlling terminology - for instance, terms such as “birth” mother which reduces relinquishing mothers to breeders. Adoption reform activists prefer “mother” but to assure clarity also use “natural” or “biological mother.” AdoptSpeak, a term coined by this writer, is the practice of inventing and utilizing terminology that reflect half-truths and lies about adoption as evidenced by **“The Adoption Fact Book,”** by National Council For Adoption (NCFA). In “The Righteous Mind (Why Good People Are Divided in Politics and Religion),” author Jonathan Haidt. Professor of Psychology at University of Virginia, describes how Conservatives are schooled to

demonize Liberals through use of specific and powerful words as outlined in their manual, **“GOPAC Language: A Key Mechanism of Control”** - words used in Newt Gingrich’s speeches - for instance: abuse of power, betray, bizarre, corrupt, criminal rights, cheat, corrupt, disgrace, radical, traitors, red tape, unionized, waste, welfare -which exemplify Gingrich as a “good moral psychologist” who is at the same time as “hypocritical” as any politician. Similary, The Adoption Information Institute, headquartered in Bennington, Vermont (originally founded in 1996 as “Celebrate Adoption”) does not identify it’s president or members on its website which promotes their **“Journalist’s Guide To Adoption”** but indicates a contributor to the book is Adam Pertman, an adopter and Executive Director of the Evan B. Donaldson Institute. They claim that their “Guide” is the “best unbiased resource and research to help journalists understand the adoption process and ethical adoption practices” but in an attempt to satisfy all sides, it was written so that journalists will “use more accurate and appropriate language,” and *“determine when adoption is germane to coverage.”* The Guide emphasizes “The crisis in foster care, teen parenting and infant homicide” – buzz words used by the adoption industry to *promote* adoption.

“Adoption Censorship” is the deliberate banning of certain adoption language, stories, or information, perceived to be “negative.” For example, when Warner Brothers writers and producers decided “Maybe I’m Adopted” would be a cute title for their planned Fall-2001 sitcom about a teenager with a zany family, including a father with a drinking problem, and who sometimes wondered that very thing, little did Warner Brothers anticipate the firestorm of protest by apparently organized adoption supporters. In July 2001, all promotion of “Maybe I’m Adopted” was replaced by “Maybe It’s Me.” This writer posted a message to Warner Brothers suggesting that the late political satirist, George Carlin, could then update his famous comedy routine “Seven Dirty Words You Can’t Say On TV” to “Eight Words” including “Adoption.” (Source: “WB’s Sitcom Slammed,” *Variety*, 6-5-01). Since then, the comeback “because I’m adopted,” or “maybe you’re adopted,” has not only gained acceptance but also got laughs when uttered by Jay Leno on ABC’s “Tonight Show,” and Drew Carey, Colin Mochrie, Ryan Stiles, et al on “Whose Line Is It Anyway?”

Conservatives might say they are willing to “find *common ground to negotiate*” but will never use the term *“compromise.”* Adoption reformers have produced their own “language guides” as described by Wikipedia, the Internet Encyclopedia and by Jessica Del Balzo in her book, “Unlearning Adoption” in which she categorizes “Preferred Adoption Language” (“PAL”) and “Honest Adoption Language” (“HAL”). Such “guides” tread on freedom of the press by attempting to dictate language that reflects bias pro or con.

In another example, Wikipedia, lists many serial killers with mention of their adoptive status; nevertheless, pressure must have come to bear with regard to Wikipedia’s removal of a contributor’s mention of “adopted murderers” in an article that Wikipedia evidently had published but then edited with the following explanation: “Adoptee murderers removed from the article. Quite a many people are adoptees, so of course you’re going to find them among murderers as well. As such, this remark proves nothing and only accounts to sensationalism” (by Timo Honkasalo 13:59, 29 Oct 2004, UTC). Honkasalo neither defines “quite as many” nor indicates the source of his conclusions.

Next, Wikipedia’s page on Adopted Child Syndrome states “the term has never achieved acceptance in the professional community” but omits the fact that it has been a historically significant theory used as a defense that saved some adoptees from the Death Penalty.

As late as the 1980s, fear of “breaching confidentiality laws” was so great, nationwide, that

most newspapers did not permit ‘adoptee seeks parents’ or “mother seeks adoptee” ads. In fact, the “A” word was seldom permitted in any context in media, if it could be avoided. Yet the *Los Angeles Times* had already begun publishing baby brokers’ “baby want ads” in its “Personals” column.

3. CHURCH, STATE, and ADOPTION

“There is no god higher than truth”

-Mahatma Ghandi

Separation of Church and State is a basic doctrine of American government. It is also a central issue in adoption because the adoption industry is chiefly driven by Christian adoption agencies and their chief lobbyist, National Council for Adoption, which was partly financed by our federal government to promote adoption (plus \$1-billion over 4 years).

The Christian Right, Catholics and Adoption

“In the Old Testament, the phrase ‘I will blot out their names’ is a more powerful threat than even physical death.”

-Rollo May, MD (in “Man’s Search for Himself” 1953, p92)

Throughout history, the Catholic Church has been a primary instigator of family separations. The Church had several reasons for casting the “unwed mother” as a “sinner,” and her child as a “bastard child,” and for allowing mother and child to be magically “redeemed” via the lies of secret adoption. Adoption was and still is one of the Church’s tools for Christianizing the world and increasing its own power and control. The Church accomplishes this goal by placing children with Christian adopters who are *required* to raise the child according to the Church’s beliefs, and by falsifying the child’s “Baptismal Birth Record” to reflect that the adopters are the parents at date of birth, in the same way that the State “amends” (falsifies) adoptees’ original birth certificates. In the Catholic Church’s scheme to “Christianize” the world, the Church uses its domestic adoption agencies, such as Catholic Charities and Catholic Social Services, and foreign adoption agencies, such as Holt International, to go a step further than other denominational adoption agencies in facilitating family separations. The Catholic Church has frequently claimed that living parents are dead or unknown, and that children are orphans when they have living parents.

Another example of adoption politics in religion is found in “Bloodline of the Holy Grail—The Hidden Lineage of Jesus Revealed,” by Laurence Gardner, Royal Historiographer (*Element Books*, 1997). The very foundation of the Roman Catholic Church and Christiandom is based on Jesus Christ being a single, celibate Messiah born to a virgin, Mary. Gardner uses the King James Bible, archival manuscripts, and other data to prove that Jesus had a brother, James; that virgin meant “young woman” (Semitic); that Jesus’(Essene) parents’ had two marriage ceremonies—one legitimized his conception; that Jesus married and had children; that his lineage can be traced from the House of David through the Royal House of Stewart; and that the Catholic Church erased his lineage to advance its political power. In Sophian legends, Jesus and Mary Magdalene had a son, “Michael” (“One Who is Like Unto God”), while the explosive fiction novel and movie, “The DaVinci Code,” advanced the story that Jesus’ wife was Mary Magdalene and their having secret daughter, Sarah, and the secret society that protected her and her descendants from

discovery. According to the legend, Sarah bore children of her own, carrying on her father's bloodline. It flowed through generations, eventually reaching the French Royal family, and from there, the rest of the world.

Today, *The History Channel's* "uncensored tv series, "Ancient Aliens," theorizes that "the Gods coming down from the sky," mentioned in ancient texts of every major religion, were actually extraterrestrials – visitors from outer space. In an age when children can hear that Jesus Christ had a secret family and that we may all be descendant from "ancient aliens," does it make sense that adult adoptees are prohibited by law from knowing their own true human origins?

Holt International was notorious for lying not only about the child's orphan status, but also about the child's age (for example, in Korean adoptions), so that the child would be more appealing and "adoptable" to American adopters. Mira Battey of Cathedral City, California, is one of tens of thousands of Korean adoptees in the U.S. who have discovered this. Not only is her alleged birth name, Mi Ra Ahn, a made up name, and that names such as "Ahn" and "Kim" were given to many Korean adoptees, but also that she is probably a year older than her record indicates, that her mother did not actually abandon her, and that her adopters signed a contract agreeing to raise her to according Catholic belief in Jesus Christ.

Patti Lemmer wrote AmFOR that she searched for her two daughters for 40 years, eventually finding them with the help of the "Unsolved Mysteries" television show. Catholic Charities of Indiana had forced her to sign their "death certificates" as well as relinquishments for adoption. The phony death certificates enabled Catholic Charities to hide any paper trail so that Patti and her daughters could not find each other, even as the system legally permits today.

Another adoptee wrote AmFOR: "I was raised a Catholic by my adopters and it was a Catholic priest who told my adopter I had 'bad blood' because my mom was a prostitute. I got that shoved down my throat for years because of this priest. Even when I became an adult, he damned me to hell in front of other people for getting a divorce – and then he died, naked, in his housekeeper's bed. It sickens me to think how many adoptees the Church destroyed" (Gen Goad, adoptee, 10-4-00).

On 2-3-02, "CBS 60 Minutes" re-ran the segment about the Church's scheme with regard to 10,000 migrant children, alleged by the Catholic Church to be "orphans" and sent from Britain to Australia allegedly to be "adopted" there. Instead of adoption, the Christian Brothers (Australian priests) used the kids as slave labor to build their mission, part of a scheme to populate mostly Aboriginal Australia with White Christians. These priests sexually abused the kids, a fact which was generally known back in England, as was the overall scheme, all the way up to the Queen. The clincher is that the kids were not orphans but were told their mothers were dead-- and the mothers never gave permission for their children to be relinquished for adoption. The mothers were told it was "too late" to reclaim their kids when they went to get them back from foster care and that the children had been "adopted" in Britain. The mothers were never told that their children had been sent to Australia. Only one in 10,000 was adopted.

Margaret Humphreys of the Children's Migrant Trust began finding the mothers alive. England won't acknowledge or apologize about what was done and only recently began to help fund reunions of the adult children with their mothers, most of whom have probably died off by now or soon will. (Margaret Humphreys' book on this scandal, "Empty Cradles," is available from Amazon.com.)

The Duplessis Orphans scandal was called North America's largest case of institutional

abuse in a lawsuit brought by adults who, as children in the 1940s to 1960s, were sexually abused, beaten and subjected to horrors such as electroshock therapy and lobotomies, by priests and nuns of the Catholic Church of Quebec while in their care. The atrocities were hidden by the Church who falsely labeled over 5,000 children as "mentally deficient" and renamed the orphanages as "health care facilities" in order to receive federal subsidies. Most of the "orphans" had been taken from unwed mothers who were promised "a better life" for their children. In the 2001 settlement, the claimants received an increased offer from the Quebec government for a flat payment of \$10,000 per person, plus an additional \$1,000 for each year of wrongful confinement to a mental institution. The offer amounted to approximately \$25,000 per orphan, however it was limited to each of 1,100 (of 3,000) surviving orphans the government had labeled as "mentally deficient," and did not include any compensation for victims of sexual or other abuse. Faced with few choices, the offer was accepted while the remainder received nothing. Many believe that justice was not done and criminal wrongdoing was allowed to go unpunished. (Sources: *CBS Archives*)

One example of discriminatory application of disclosure law is that of Gregory Mox, an adoptee incarcerated in Michigan, who applied to Catholic Services of Macomb, Michigan, for disclosure, enclosing the required \$60 fee donated by AmFOR, for his "non-identifying" social and medical background information from his adoption file, to which he is entitled under Michigan statute. Sister Joan Ales returned AmFOR's check and repeatedly refused to provide Greg any information, nor did she even respond to him directly "within 63 days" of his request as Michigan law requites, nor since. But Catholic Services of Wayne County, Michigan, readily provided extensive non-identifying information to Bryan Andrew Harr, also an incarcerated Michigan adoptee, and even waived the \$60 fee due to his indigent prisoner status. The clincher here is that both of these adoptees were convicted of the same crime of Murder. Sister Ales expressed her bias against prisoners in general to this writer. Greg's and Bryan's Catholic Social Services adoptions were said to be largely responsible for their behaviors that led to the murders as detailed in this book under "Adoptees Who Kill." Michigan law also permits ALL adoptees, including incarcerated adoptees, to be registered on the Michigan State Mutual Consent Registry and to have a court appointed "confidential intermediary" search for and contact the adoptee's mother. Sister Ales insisted on being the intermediary (for a \$250 fee), a conflict of interest considering she had already refused him and could retain the \$250 without provision of any information to Greg.

Protestants and Adoption

"Adoption is a form of domestic terrorism."

-Reverend Ruth Peterson

In 1981, the Presbyterian General Assembly in Houston, Texas, unanimously passed their open records policy in "Overture 39: Supporting Legislation Regarding the Right of Adult Adoptees and Their Natural Parents from the Presbytery of Newton" (at Madison, New Jersey, 3-10-81), which speaks of Moses (the first adoptee), God, and sealed records laws.

Lutherans, on the other hand were not so liberal. Richard and Carol Krueger filed a \$2.6-million lawsuit against Lutheran Social Services and Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, alleging "the agencies deceived them about the physical and mental health of their adopted son, Rick, and his biological parents." ("Wrongful Adoption," *ABA Journal*, April 1990.)

In 2010, the Southern Baptist Convention announced a new "Adoption Fund" which

subsidizes the cost of Bethany Christian Services pastors by \$2,000. (Source: *PR Newswire*, 7-19-10). Bethany Christian Services reported a 26% increase in adoptions they facilitated in 2010. In addition to the taking of Haitian children for adoption in the U.S. during the 2010 Haiti earthquake devastation, Bethany attributes the increase in adoption to new movements within Christian churches which are “creating attitudes for young couples.” Bethany has been getting more families to adopt by partnering with organizations such as Catalyst, Saddleback Church, Q Conference, Southern Baptist Denomination, and Christian Alliance for Orphans and obtaining grants “to increase adoption” from Wendy’s Dave Thomas Adoption Foundation.

Sexual molestation of adopted children is not limited to any one religious group, as revealed at <http://reformation.com/CSA/variousabuse.html>. A 62-year-old Ocala, Florida pastor whose name was been withheld in consideration of his two **adopted** daughters who he molested, was convicted of 9 sex-related charges. The younger adopted daughter was forced to have sex with her adopter, when she was 11 years old in his study where he wrote his sermons. The man is father to his older adopted daughter's son. (Source: *Associated Press/AP*, 1-18-01).

Mormons and Adoption

“Everyone on this planet is separated by only six people...

But how to find the right six people.”

-John Guare, “Six Degrees of Separation.”

The Mormon Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints regards accurate documentation of one's genealogy to be an essential requirement of the religion. The church has the largest collection of vital records information worldwide. Yet the Mormon Church has encouraged adopters to "seal the adoptee to the genealogy of the adopter," denying them knowledge of true heritage because the Mormon stronghold of Utah also falsifies its adoptees' birth records according to Utah state law, naming the adopters as the parents on date of birth and will not permit an adult adoptee automatic access to his/her true birth record. The official website of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at <http://www.lds.org> states: “Placing an infant for adoption through LDS Family Services helps unwed parents do what is best for the child. It ensures that the child will be *sealed* to a mother and father in the Temple and it enhances the prospect for the blessings of the gospel in the lives of all concerned.”

In "Adoption Laws Threaten Death of Genealogy," an article by Attorney Brice M. Claggett in the National Genealogical Society (NGS) Newsletter, Claggett describes how “genealogical research, whether for medical purposes, sociological studies, or hobby purposes, is becoming increasingly impaired with each passing generation by secrecy laws. The bogus record names the adopters as the parents and does not reveal in any way that they are not the ‘birth’ parents. Thus, the researcher has no way of knowing that the apparent ancestry of the child as shown in public records is bogus.” Attorney Claggett estimates that **IN ANOTHER 4 GENERATIONS OR SO, ABOUT HALF THE ANCESTRY OF THE AMERICAN POPULATION WILL BE BOGUS.** (See “Death of Genealogy” on AmFOR’s web-site for detailing.)

Utah law also limits time for a single father to assert his parental rights to 20 days and has come under fire due to adoption agencies sending single mothers from other states to Utah for relinquishent and adoption of their babies with the intent to prevent fathers from asserting parental rights for claim of custody and contesting the relinquishment timely.

Jews and Adoption

*"[If] he knows the 'why' for his existence
he will be able to bear almost any 'how.'"*
-Victor Frankel

AmFOR has completed family searches for adoptees raised as Catholics who discovered their biological parents are Jewish, as well as adoptees raised as Jews who discovered their biological parents are Catholic. Complexities of Jewish tradition raise many issues for these adoptees.

Adoption in Jewish life is older than the Bible. Moses was the first adoptee, raised by Pharaoh's wife and later returned to his people ("Let my People go"). Unable to have a child of his own, Abraham adopted his servant Eliezer as his heir. Jacob adopted two of his grandsons as his sons. Esther was raised by her cousin Mordecai. The classical Jewish statement regarding adoption refers to Michal, the wife of King David: "Merab bore them and Michal brought them up, therefore they are called by her name; this teaches that whoever brings up an orphan in his home, Scripture ascribes it to him *as though he had begotten him*" (Sanhedrin 19b). This may be where the "as born to" myth originated and which adoption brokers and agencies have since used as a marketing tool.

There is no equivalent in Jewish law to civil adoption, which requires the adopters to assume all rights and responsibilities towards the child, becoming the legal parents in every way. In fact, there is no word in classical Hebrew that means "adoption." In modern Israel, the word "ametz" is used, a reference to "a branch transplanted to another tree" (Source: Psalms 80:15-16).

Adoption does not change a child's status in Jewish law. Unlike civil law, Jewish law places great importance on bloodlines and lineage. Even if a child is adopted in the civil courts, the child maintains his or her biological "identity," meaning that if a Gentile child is adopted into a Jewish home, the child remains Gentile. To be considered Jewish, the child must go through a formal conversion.

If the male adopter is a "Kohen" or "Levi," this status is not passed on to the adopted child. Conversely, a Jewish baby whose biological father is a "Kohen," (theoretically) that child, even when adopted, will always remain a "Kohen."

If the baby is the firstborn of a Jewish mother, he requires a Pidyon HaBen (the ritual redemption of the firstborn), even if the adopters have other children. However, with rare exceptions, all legal adoptions must be finalized according to state adoption confidentiality laws and most civil adoptions for the past 6 decades have been sealed records adoptions, prohibiting naming the natural parents and requiring that the child's surname be changed to his adopters' surname on the birth certificate, as of the date of birth.

The Jewish community is deeply divided on conversion policies for adopted children. Jewish law will differ depending on whether the mother is Jewish or Gentile.

It may seem odd, but many Orthodox Jews will avoid adopting a baby born of a Jewish mother. The reason: the baby could be the result of adultery or incest, and therefore a "mamzer." By Jewish law, a "mamzer" cannot marry a Jew of "legitimate" birth. Because of these concerns, many Orthodox couples prefer to adopt a baby born of a Gentile mother who would not be subject to these laws. All Conservative and Orthodox rabbis require the formal conversion of a child born to a Gentile mother. Many Reform rabbis dispense with this ritual, teaching that it is sufficient simply to give the child a Hebrew name. However, such a child, named in a Reform temple, may have difficulties later in life if he or she chooses to affiliate with a more traditional synagogue or marry

a Conservative or Orthodox Jew. Similarly, an Orthodox rabbi may not recognize a Conservative conversion, and may refuse to officiate at the marriage of such a convert.

A child adopted and converted to Judaism as an infant has the right to reject the conversion upon reaching the age of majority (12 for a girl, 13 for a boy). On the other hand, an adopted child who grows up in a loving Jewish home and receives a serious Jewish education can reaffirm that conversion. They represent a radical change for the Jewish community.

Despite that Hitler's "Master Race" plan resulted in mass extermination of Jews, today's infertile Jewish couples, desperate for a child, evidently don't view adoption, which exterminates the child's true heritage, as a form of genocide. The "midrash" teaches, "The one who brings up a child is called its parent, not the one who gave birth" (Source: Exodus Rabbah 46:5).

In the 1950s and 1960s, Jews could not adopt through the predominately Christian adoption agencies. In desperation, those who could afford "black market" adoption bought their children. Adoptee Bill Berle explains that his adopter, the famed comedian, Milton Berle, through his celebrity contacts, found "black market" channels for procuring the newborn boy for his wife Ruth (Source: "My Father, Uncle Milty," by Bill Berle). Yvette Silverman Melanson, stolen along with a twin brother from her Navajo family 43 years prior, was raised rich, White and Jewish, in Brooklyn. (Source: "Reunion Day at 43, Navajo Native Finally Home," *Boston Globe*, 6-2-96).

Statistics are hard to come by, but it appears that adoption among Jews is on the rise. The main reason is that Jews often postpone childbearing until later years and then the woman finds she is infertile. According to the "1990 National Jewish Population Survey" by the Council of Jewish Federations, **3% of all Jews in America, or 246,000 of 8,200,000 Jews, were adopted.** There are about 60,000 adopted children under age 18 in the total Jewish population. Desperation of infertile Jewish couples accounts for 25% of the adopted children who came from overseas.

"The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Adoption Loan Program" of The Hebrew Free Loan Society (HFLS) assists Jewish couples and singles with the high cost of adoption-related expenses. It is a unique financial resource for those who have sufficient income to support a child but are unable to afford adoption expenses. HFLS also provides loan assistance to single-parent families, a population with high levels of need, and large families of modest means.

David and Michelle Slotnick desperately wanted a child. After five years of trying to conceive, the couple was anxious to begin the adoption process. They had spent most of their \$25,000 in savings on infertility treatments and they could not afford the \$20,000 to \$30,000 in fees that are associated with adoption HFLS provided loans to the Slotniks who then adopted 2 children..

Muslims and Adoption

"I and the person who looks after an orphan will be in Paradise together like this..."
(then he raised his forefinger and middle finger together).

-Mohammed, himself an orphan.

In Islam, the central notion of justice in the Shari'ah is based on mutual respect of one human being by another. The just society in Islam means the society that secures and maintains respect for persons and their rights through various social arrangements that are in the common interest and welfare of all members.

Islam views adoption as a falsification of the natural order of society and of reality. And the prohibition of legal adoption in Islam has been, in fact, ordained to protect the rights, not of a

single class, but of the adopted, adopter, natural parents, other individuals affected by the adoption, and society as a whole. The child is an extension of his father and the bearer of his characteristics. During his lifetime he is the joy of his father's eyes, while after his father's death the child represents a continuation of his existence and an embodiment of his immortality. The child inherits his features and stature as well as his mental qualities and traits, both the good and the bad, the beautiful as well as the ugly. The child is a part of the father's heart and a piece of his body. These facts cannot be altered by adoption of that child by anyone and Islam has provided the inalienable right of the child to his lineage as well as that of the natural father to lineage.

The child in Islam also has the equally inalienable “right to legitimacy.” The principle of legitimacy holds that every child shall have a father and one father only. This is why Allah has ordained marriage and has forbidden adultery so that paternity may be established without doubt or ambiguity and that the child may be referred to his father and the father to his sons and daughters. Hence, adoption cannot be used in Islam to hide the illegitimacy or the paternity of the child.

By adopting someone's child, *as one's own*, the rightful and deserving heirs to the property of a man are deprived of their shares. Hence Islam has made it haram (forbidden) for a father to deprive his natural children of inheritance. Allah has established the distribution of inheritance in order to give each eligible person his or her share. In matters of inheritance, the Qur'an does not recognize any claim except those based on relationship through blood and marriage (Qur'an 8:75).

Taking a stranger, by adoption, into the family as one of its members and allowing him the privacy to be with women who are not close relatives (non-mahrem), is a deception, for the adopter's wife is not the adopted son's mother, nor is his daughter the boy's sister, nor is his sister the boy's aunt since all of them are non-mahrem to him and vice-versa for an adopted daughter. Also when the adopted child's lineal identity or paternity is changed, it is quite possible that the adopted child may, unknowingly, enter into incestuous relationships by marrying close relatives of the natural parents (mahrem) or otherwise his marital chances may in general become subject to confusion.

When the adopted child receives a claim on the inheritance of the adopter, the anger and wrath of the real relatives may be aroused against the adopted who the relatives feel forces himself or herself upon them and usurps their rights, depriving them of their full inheritance. Often such anger leads to quarrels, fights, and even killings, as we see nowadays, and to the breaking of relations among relatives. Therefore, it is not conducive to family solidarity and overall harmony and peace, which are necessary for social stability.

However, "adoption" is also used in another sense. This use of adoption is not prohibited by Islam -- that is, when a man brings home **an orphan** (including a foundling or abandoned child) and wants to raise, to educate, and to treat as his own child. In this case, he protects, feeds, clothes, teaches, and loves the child as his own **without attributing the child to himself**, nor does he give him or her the rights which the Shari'ah reserves for natural children.

But if a man is childless and has no children of his own, and he wishes to benefit such a child (orphan or foundling) from his wealth, he may give him whatever he wants during his lifetime. This is a meritorious and noteworthy act in Islam, and the man who does it will be rewarded by Allah. (Source: "Adoption Laws In Islam: Some Issues" by Zahidul Islam Biswas, an advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and specializing in rural justice and family law.. The article was first published in 'Law and Our Rights,' *The Daily Star*, No: 206; 9-10-05, Bangladesh.)

4. RACE and ADOPTION

"No one has been barred on account of his race from fighting or dying for America, there are no white or colored signs on the foxholes or graveyards of battle."

-President John F. Kennedy

Many mixed race adoptees have written to AmFOR wanting to know their true nationality and race. Race matters not only to the adopted person, but also to baby brokers' wallets, as follows.

Excerpted from "Buying and Selling - Preacher Calls Adoption Fees Discriminatory" (by Dean Schabner, *ABCNews.com*, 3-12-03): "When a couple seeking to adopt a White baby is charged \$35,000, and a couple seeking a Black baby is charged \$4,000, the image that comes to the Reverend Ken Hutchenson's mind is of a practice that was outlawed in America nearly 150 years ago -- the buying and selling of human beings."

In a California case, the *Budapest Sun* (8-1-02) reported that women were offered "between \$1,000 and \$8,000" in exchange for their infants. In 1996, RNC Agency reported that, since 1994, more than 100 babies were sold to American couples for a reported US \$80,000 per child with the mothers receiving US \$18,000 for "White babies" and US \$1,000 for "Roma babies" (7-10-96). Other reports noted that mothers received US \$1,000 for "dark-skinned" children, or US \$12,000 for "White-skinned" ones and agents charged American couples US \$20,000 per child (RFE/RL, 7-18-96; *Reuters* 7-16-96; *CNN*, 6-23-96). *CNN* cited a US Internal Revenue Service agent as providing the latter information.

In a study by Evan B. Donaldson Institute, 80% of Korean adoptees experienced discrimination from strangers; 75% from classmates; 39% from teachers and 80% grew up thinking of themselves as White or wishing they were White. One woman reported despite that her adopter was heavily engaged in tracing her own Swedish genealogy, her adopter "would get upset with me because I wanted to find out who I was."

Native Americans were the first group targeted for systematic family interference, and remain the most impacted ethnic or racial group in America, as they were similarly targeted in Canada. Interference in Native American families dates back to the colonial period, when Indian children were removed from their homes and educated in White boarding schools. The book, "Lost Bird of Wounded Knee," by Renee Samson Flood, is told through the sad life of Zinkala Nuni ("Lost Bird"), an infant who survived the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre of at least 150 Lakota Sioux men, women and children, only to be adopted by a White general as a political stepping stone for his ambitions, later abandoned to a miserable life of a harsh boarding school, discrimination, being passed among many men, a side show attraction in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and Vaudeville, and dying at age 29 of diseases from which she had no immunity.

In the book "Stolen From Our Embrace," co-author Suzanne Fortner and Ernie Crey, investigate the impact of residential schools and "the Sixties Scoop" where many Canadian First Nation children were taken from their families and adopted into White homes largely because First Nation parents were not seen as fit, or in the case of Crey, were not able to access the same services as White families, and suffered effects of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, abuse and the effects of policies that have discriminated against First Nation people for generations. The strategy of removing Native American children from their homes to assimilate them remained strong until the mid-1970s. Many children were also adopted out to White families, often through established organizations like the Child Welfare League's Indian Adoption Project. Indian babies were also

simply sold to White couples on the black market.

In 1978, Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act, seeking to reverse the policies that led to the massive removal of Indian children from their homes. As a result, the number of Indian children in out-of-home care outside the tribal community dropped from one-third to one-fifth. Thus, as Native Americans became politically empowered, the autonomy granted to their families has increased. Years later, California Bill AB 1325 (by Beall and Cook) was signed into law on 10-11-09 and went into effect on 7-1-10, allowing "tribal customary adoption" (an informal process) for American Indian children in foster care." It is significant that such adoptions are permitted without termination of parental rights, yet with same force and effect as an order of adoption." So while the legislature, and apparently ACLU, supported Native American adoptees' right to have pre-adoption information (to identify their tribe of origin) that non-Natives were not permitted, they also condoned taking Native American children for adoption in manner that would be illegal in non-Native adoptions.

A book titled "Native American Transracial Adoptees Tell Their Stories," by Rita J. Simon and Rachel Hernandez, is a collection of interviews given by adults, ages 25 to 59. While none of those interviewed seemed to embrace the tragedy of a "lost bird," none claim to have been left wholly intact by the experience of transracial adoption.

Initially, African American children were excluded from child welfare practices. Many African- American children in the pre-Civil War South were subjected to apprenticeship laws, whereby the parent, often coerced, sold the labor of their child to a White master. In the period following the Civil War, the child's labor was often sold to the master who had formerly owned her outright. The parent received a nominal amount, and the child was said to receive basic care and instruction in a skill. This "skill" consisted of menial labor in the house or in the fields, and often the "care" that the child received was inhumane.

Largely ignored by the "baby savers" until the mid-1950s, because, traditionally, Black families took care of their own, and Black children were not wanted by White adopters, during the rediscovery of child abuse and neglect, African American children once again began to be removed from their homes and placed in a system that viciously discriminated against them. The 1970s saw an over-all "browning" of the child welfare system. By 1973, 52% percent of the children in New York City's foster care system were African American. Upon removal from their homes, New York City's African American children were placed in a system run by private religious organizations. As these agencies gave priority in services, first, to members of their own religion, second, to other White children, and last, to African American children, African American kids were disproportionately placed in "less desirable placements," and their chances of being adopted were exceedingly slim. The private, or "voluntary agencies," adhered to these practices despite the fact that they received 90% of their funding from the city. Newspaper accounts from the time painted a picture of large religious organizations, their portfolios rich with donations, milking the city for money to provide care and services to children while simultaneously denying these children proper care due to "lack of funds." Of course, this burden was felt most sharply by African-American children.

The manner in which voluntary agencies treated a child depended entirely on skin color. A White child was more likely to receive a specialized therapeutic placement, while a Black child would be told that the facility was full, would be put on interminable waiting lists, or would be rejected outright. Also, African American families who lost a child to the child protective system were less likely to receive services to allow the child to return home. African American children

were less likely to be adopted, resulting in a series of increasingly harmful placements. Race played such an important role in the allocation of services that one adoption agency, when confronted with a child in their nursery whose race they could not easily determine, turned to the resident anthropologist at the Museum of Natural History, to assign a race to the child. Although the more obvious forms of discrimination were eliminated in response to a series of lawsuits, African American families continue to be targeted more frequently for intervention by child welfare services.

Excerpted from "Transracial Abductees - Outcomes of Inter-country Adoptions" by Tobias Hubinette (Lee Sam-dol), a Korean adoptee living in Stockholm, Sweden: "The most scientific of studies on Intercountry Adoptees' Outcomes were conducted in Sweden. In spite of the adult adoptees in the study having been adopted to couples belonging to the Swedish elite, it was estimated that 90 % of the adopters belong to the upper and middle classes. In spite of this, 6.6 % of the inter-country adoptees had a post-secondary education of 3 years or more compared to 20% of biological children of the adopters with whom they grew up as siblings. "

"Inter-country adoptees less often have children, and those who are parents are more often living without their children if they are males or as single parents if they are females. Males more often than females have indicators of social maladjustment. Moreover, epidemiological studies show high levels of psychiatric illness, addiction, criminality and suicide compared to the control groups. Females more often than males have indicators of poor mental health. The most shocking finding was a record high odds ratio of 5.0 for suicide compared to ethnic Swedes, in an international perspective only comparable to the staggering suicide rates registered among indigenous people in North America and Oceania, which makes parallels to 'cultural genocide.'"

Adult adoptees in the above study were checked in population registers and compared to equivalent control groups among ethnic Swedes. The results show that "the group has substantial problems trying to establish themselves socio-economically in terms of level of education, labor market achievement and creating a family."

"In this perspective, it becomes more evident than ever that inter-country adoption is nothing else but an irresponsible social experiment of gigantic measures, from the beginning to the end." For a historical perspective, Tobias Hubinette explains "The scope of the Holocaust created such a shock that the West was forced to change its world view from open racism to the idea of equality for all races, at least *theoretically*. This idea destroyed the "world order" that dominated the last 500 years – that the West had the right to conquer, exterminate and rule over non-White people. De-colonization was followed by violent conflicts, and the first inter-country adoptees soon started to arrive.

Korea has been by far the largest supplier of foreign babies for the U.S. adoption market; 62% of all babies adopted from abroad are South Korean. At first, the women do not want to give up their babies. According to a questionnaire distributed, 90% want to keep the babies, says Kim Yongsook, the director of Ae Ran Won. But after "counseling," perhaps 10% will keep them.

Excerpted from: Adoption Law - Adoptions of Native American Children by Joan Heifetz Hollinger: "It is estimated that several thousand Native American children are adopted each year by individuals who are not Native Americans and have no ties to tribal communities. The appropriateness of these adoptions is a highly contested socio-cultural issue, analogous to concerns about the wisdom of international and transracial adoptions. "

Because of the unique and historic relationship between the federal government and Native American tribes, Congress is empowered to regulate family law matters affecting tribal members.

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978 governs many of the jurisdictional and substantive aspects of adoptions of Native American children, superseding state laws that would otherwise be applicable. In construing ICWA's dual mandate to preserve tribal integrity and promote the welfare of Native-American children, state and federal courts have yet to achieve a comfortable balance among the potentially conflicting principles of tribal survival, child welfare, and parental autonomy. This conflict is especially troublesome when the parents of a Native American child do not want the child placed with Native Americans or a tribe argues that a child who has not previously lived in a tribal community should be placed on a reservation.

On 1-22-02, Dale Edmond asked “Are Caucasian Families Able to Parent Their Asian-Born Adopted Children Effectively? As an Asian American adoptive parent of an internationally adopted Asian child, I feel a certain responsibility to speak out on an issue that I have witnessed on numerous occasions--the issue of subtle racism on the part of Caucasian parents towards their Asian children. Thankfully, I am not speaking here of overt racism, and I do realize that most Caucasian adoptive parents have the best of intentions. What I am referring to here is the tendency of Caucasian American parents to treat the culture here in the U.S. as the universal norm, thereby treating all other cultures as deviants from that norm, whether in a positive or negative light.” (Excerpted from the brochure of Adopted and Fostered Adults worldwide, of the African Diaspora, AFAAD, PO Box 24771, Oakland, CA 94607 - <http://afaad.wordpress.com>).

5. GEOPOLITICAL MASS CHILD STEALING

A Matter of Supply and Demand

True “orphans” are those whose parents have died and no one claims them. But labeling a child an “economic orphan” provides him a one-way ticket to the world marketplace. Because, in the U.S., the states are financially rewarded for “increasing adoptions,” the supply of babies and children for sale must keep up with the demand. Thus, self-policing Child Protective Services arm of public Social Services, as well as independent adoption agencies that do not have to respond to Freedom of Information Act requests intended to check up on government, finds creative ways to “acquire” babies and children. It’s a pity that individuals within U.S. Social Services agencies and legislators don’t form a coalition with a website to oppose forced adoptions, as in the U.K.

Britain is catching up with the country that the United Nations called “the largest market for stolen children in the world” – the United States -- according to a British Social Services webpage (<http://staffordshire-socialservices.wordpress.com/tag/domestic-violence/>) which features John Hemming, Member of Parliament in the United Kingdom, in support of his campaign to end forced adoptions in the U.K. The webpage incorporates both an article by Christopher Booker (“The Real Scandal Hidden by Gags Is What Goes On In Family Courts,” 5-28-11) and AmFOR’s webpage, “Adopted Child Syndrome - It’s History and Relevance Today” (<http://AmFOR.net/acs>). Booker’s article states: “The walls of secrecy surrounding snatched children are creating a one-sided justice system. Mr. Hemming’s concern stems from his longstanding campaign to expose the secrecy surrounding the family courts where one of the most shocking scandals in Britain today is flourishing out of public view. This is the increasing number of children who are seized by Social Services from loving, responsible parents, thanks to a system which often defies basic principles of justice. humanity and common sense -- (very much like the foster care and adoption industries in the United

States). Hemming bravely cites an example of a woman warned by a judge that “if she escalates her case with John Hemming or another local Member of Parliament, she would be imprisoned” - contrary to one of the most ancient rights of a citizen.

In time of war, many children become separated from living parents, then placed in orphanages and offered to or taken by Americans and other foreigners as available “orphans” for inter-country adoption. This occurred after the Korean War, during “Operation Babylift” in Vietnam, as well as during natural disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti.

The taking of South Korean children for American adoption started in 1955 after the Korean War which lasted from 1950 to 1953. When the war was over, many children were left orphaned. In addition, a large number of mixed race ‘G.I babies’ (offspring of U.S. and other western soldiers and Korean women) were filling up the country’s orphanages (Jang, 1998). Western religious groups as well as other associations started the process of placing children in homes in the USA and Europe (Jang, 1998) when Harry Holt, a “born again” Christian from Eugene, Oregon, went to Korea and adopted 8 war orphans (Rothschild, *The Progressive*, 1988). His work has been followed by the Holt International Children’s Services. The first Korean babies sent to Europe went to Sweden via the Social Welfare Society in the mid 1960s. By the end of that decade, Holt International Children’s Services began sending Korean orphans to Norway, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland and Germany (Hong, *Korea Times*, 1999). For the next decade, most of the children adopted from Korea were G.I. Babies, fathered by American soldiers who served in the Korean war. Amerasians now account for fewer than 1% of adoptees, Foreign adoptions serve many purposes for the government (Rothschild, *The Progressive*, 1988) - **but were all Korean adoptees actually “orphans?”**

Lebensborn (“Spring of Life,” in antiquated German) was a Nazi program set up in Germany in 1935 by SS leader Heinrich Himmler, providing maternity homes and financial assistance to wives of SS members and to unmarried mothers, and also ran orphanages and relocation programs for children. Lebensborn expanded into several occupied European countries during World War II. The Lebensborn program was restricted to individuals who were deemed to be “biologically fit” and “racially pure Aryans,” and to SS members. In occupied countries, thousands of women facing social ostracism, because they were in relationships with German soldiers and had become pregnant, had few alternatives other than applying for help with Lebensborn. After World War II, it was reported that Lebensborn was a “selective breeding program.” While individuals were not forced to have sex with selected partners, the program did aim to promote the growth of “superior” Aryan populations. During the war, Lebensborn also processed the **adoptions** by German families of children from occupied northern and eastern Europe, alleged orphans. At the Nuremberg Trials no evidence was found of direct involvement by the Lebensborn organization in the kidnapping of thousands of Polish children who were subjected to “Germanization” by sending them to re-education camps and fostering them out to German families, a project, also directed by Himmler.

While America has theoretically gone past the “stigma” of illegitimacy, unwed motherhood, and mixed-race families, and even gay parenting, Korean traditional society still places significant weight on paternal family ties, bloodlines, and “purity of race.” Children of mixed race or those without fathers are not easily accepted in Korean society (Jang, 1998). Many families would go through excessive and expensive procedures such as surrogacy or in vitro fertilization to ensure that their offspring are at least “related,” than to accept a child of a complete stranger into their family. Indeed, it was the case until recently, that Korean citizenship was directly tied to family bloodline.

Children who were not a part of a Korean family (i.e., orphans) were not legal citizens of Korea. Another reason is the “stigma of adoption.” In 1986, South Korea had 18,700 orphaned or abandoned children. Almost half were sent abroad for adoption, **70% of these to the United States**, the rest to Canada, Australia, and eight European nations (Rothschild, *The Progressive*, 1988). While their motives cannot be easily determined, their methods are efficient and well-established. Ninety-five percent of families who do adopt choose babies less than a month old so that they can pass them off as their natural-born offspring, overlooking older adoptable children (Yun, *Korea Times*, 1997).

When Western countries started to face a shortage of healthy, domestic babies available for adoption as a result of social welfare programs, legalized abortions, and use of contraception, many Western couples became open to the idea of adopting children from abroad. This was the start of a popular trend which is still present today, *as the demand for babies by infertile, upper and middle class couples in the West is rising* (Jang, 1998). The procedure of international adoption is, today, a growing and often favored method for couples to build their families and new countries are constantly opening up for international adoption, both as sending and receiving countries. **Korean adoptees bring in hard currency, which is roughly \$15-to-\$20-million a year.** They relieve the government of the costs of caring for the children, which would otherwise be a drain on the budget, and \$15–20-million was, at the time, significant, compared to spending on social welfare. Critics claim Korean adoption agencies established *a system to guarantee a steady supply of healthy children*. **Korean and other international adoptees, even more than domestic adoptees, are highly over-represented when it comes to suicide, suicide attempts, mental illness, substance abuse, social maladjustment, crime and other social and personal issues** (Hjern et a., 2002).

Korean adoption agencies support pregnant-women's homes; three of the four agencies run their own. One of the agencies has its own maternity hospital and does its own delivery. All four provide and subsidize child care. All pay foster mothers about \$80 a month to care for the infants, and the agencies provide all food, clothing and other supplies free of charge. They also support orphanages, or operate them themselves. Along with advice from 'counselors' at the agencies, **this system not only makes the process of giving up a child easier, it encourages it.**

When the time for departure arrives, the babies are flown to their foreign families. Payments are routinely paid to maternity hospitals, midwives, obstetricians and officials at each of the four agencies acknowledged. The agencies will cover the costs of delivery and the medical care for any woman who gives up her baby for adoption. The agencies also use their influence with hospitals, and with the police, to acquire abandoned children (Rothschild, *The Progressive*, 1988).

The adoption abroad of Korean children has been criticized both in and out of Korea. A number of adoptees grow up feeling out of place or alienated from the Western society they are placed in. Despite the fact that many are well adjusted and go on to live happy and successful lives, in Sweden, there has been a declining trend in adoptions in recent years, but this is only due to a drop in the Korean birth rate, which is now the lowest of any developed country. Church groups and other adoption facilitators have therefore resorted to outright kidnapping of children who are not confirmed orphans, as during the chaos of the Haiti earthquake when children separated from surviving parents were easy prey.

“Operation Babylift” was the name given to the mass evacuation of children from South Vietnam to the United States and other countries (including Australia, France, and Canada) at the end of the Vietnam War (from 4- 3-to-26- 75). In April 1975, when the Americans signed a cease-fire accord with Vietnam, North Vietnamese troops spread through the South. The war's end

caused hundreds of thousands of citizens to flee the country, fearing for their lives. With the central Vietnamese city of Da Nang having fallen in March, and with Saigon under attack and being shelled, on 4-3-75 President Gerald R. Ford announced that the U.S. government would begin evacuating orphans from Saigon on a series of 30 planned flights aboard a C-5A Galaxy cargo aircraft. By the final American flight out of South Vietnam, over 3,300 infants and children had been evacuated, although the actual number has been variously reported. Along with "Operation New Life," over 110,000 refugees were evacuated from South Vietnam at the end of the Vietnam War. Thousands of the airlifted children were adopted by families around the world. Service organizations including Holt, Friends of Children of Viet Nam (FCVN), Friends For All Children (FFAC), Catholic Relief Service, International Social Services, International Orphans and the Pearl S. Buck Foundation petitioned the government to help evacuate the various "war orphans" in their facilities in Vietnam. ***The operation was controversial because not all children on the flights were bona fide orphans, although many were earmarked for adoption.*** Documentation was often sketchy or inaccurate. In a few cases, natural parents or other relatives who later immigrated to the United States from Vietnam requested custody of children already placed. The hasty evacuation in the final days of the war also led to debate over whether the rescue operations were in the "best interests" of the children.

For at least the past five decades, even illegally procured or kidnapped children have been "legally" adopted with the blessings of the United States Department of State. In a memo dated December, 1992, responding to United Nations investigations into kidnapping and the UN's "Sale Of Children Report," the U.S. State Department's legal advisor, Peter Pfund, opined that ***Children kidnapped from other countries could be legally adopted in the United States under state confidentiality laws if it was judged to be in the child's 'best interests'.*** The specific wording of the Pfund Memo is as follows: "December, 1992 HAGUE CONVENTION ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION, U.S. Federal Implementing Legislation -- Issues (by Peter Pfund, Assistant Legal Adviser, for Private International Law, U.S. Department of State (12/92 Memo):

"-2- DeHart has suggested that there may be only two legitimate grounds for non-recognition [by Congress ratifying the Intercountry Adoption Convention and Treaty]: **(1) that the child was abducted from its biological parent(s); and (2) the consent of the biological parent(s) was false or obtained by fraud. Neither would nullify an adoption made either abroad or in the United States as receiving State as contrary to public policy under the present wording of convention Article 22 unless recognition would also be contrary to the child's best interest."**

"-4- Preservation of Information Concerning the Child's Origin, Article 25, as presently worded, requires States parties to the convention to preserve "information concerning the child's origin" until the laws of both countries involved in international adoption to have access to that information. Such access may only become possible years or decades after an adoption takes place. Many U.S. states have different provisions concerning preservation of such information. Such information is likely to be gathered mainly by countries of origin from which a child is adopted. In order for the United States to be able to comply with its obligations to other countries party to the convention under Article 25 to preserve such information, the federal legislation may need to impose a uniform preservation obligation throughout the United States. Federal legislation would presumably not impose any requirements for access, which would be left for the individual states of the United States to set."

In 1999, Elian Gonzales' Cuban father's custody battle between Cuba and Florida brought home the problems inherent in intercountry custody and adoption disputes as the world watched

former Attorney General Janet Reno's every move in that drama. According to the United Nations "Rights of the Child Project/Sale of Children" Report, "***the United States is the largest market for stolen children in the world....with California being the largest market for stolen children in the United States.*** The U.S. is one of few countries in which American and foreign children can be institutionalized and adopted under state secrecy laws, making it difficult to follow the money trail.

China, South America, and most Third World Countries have been popular with baby brokers since Romania and Russia halted international adoptions of Caucasian-looking children. A legal adoption of a foreign child costs an average \$20,000, while an average private domestic adoption of an American child costs \$60,000 (according to Amy Thurston, National Adoption Information Clearinghouse/NAIC). Most Iraqi war orphans would now be up for grabs were it not for that country's anti-adoption and anti-foreign guardianships policy.

Adam Pertman, *Boston Globe* Staff Writer, author of *Adoption Nation*, and an adopter, wrote: "There is a wall between those who can adopt babies and those who cannot, and it is built of money."

Couples who adopt usually have combined salaries of \$50,000 to \$60,000, (according to Herbert Friedman, a Boston adoption attorney and as stated by Norman Goldberg, National Adoption Foundation – in "Conservative Spotlight: Norman Goldberg" *Human Events*, 11-10-00, by Joseph A. D'Agostino). *Adoptive Families* magazine (July-August, 1995, p.6), reported that Norman Goldberg, *an adopter*, founded the National Adoption Foundation (NAF) in 1995 which made an arrangement with Nation's Bank, Danbury, Connecticut, since merged with Bank of America, and offers "grants and unsecured loans to families looking for a way to pay for adoption."

Additionally, over 1,000 companies nationwide have been providing workers with "Adoption Aid" ranging from paid leave to large cash payments.

Wendy's Hamburgers restaurants has been paying their employees \$4,000 per adoption or \$6,000 for adoption of a child with "special needs," plus 6 weeks paid leave. In 1990 President Bush appointed Wendy's Dave Thomas to head the White House Initiative on Adoption and in 1992 Thomas established the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption with the goal of increasing adoptions of more than 150,000 children in foster care by making adoption easier and more affordable.

Perhaps the words of the man who has been America's most adamant supporter of the adoption industry sums it up best: "This is a capitalist system where the laws of **the market** work their magic," said Bill Pierce, former president and still active in projects of the Washington-based National Council for Adoption. "People seem to believe that \$16,000 or \$17,000 is too much for a new car. If we're going to have quality service, you're going to have to pay for it." ("Corporate America Helping Foot the Bills," *Boston Globe*, 3-9-98)

Ten years prior to that statement, this author had written Pierce informing him of her 18-year battle in attempting to provide her son's adopters with pertinent medical information in Connecticut and of similar instances due to sealed records. On 11-5-86, he replied that NCFA "did not have the time nor resources to look into the matter in Connecticut." Regarding records: "NCFA favors mutual consent registries." And regarding open adoption: "We have not done any studies but there has been work done by some including **four papers** by **one** of the agency directors, Arlene Kraft" and citing "Our estimate is that approximately 5-million adoptees live in the United States. We are interested in the important area of medical denial cases but as I said, we are overwhelmed with work. At some point we may be able to give the area the study it deserves and speak out appropriately." Just what kind of "work" is more important than life-and-death issues of the adoptees NCFA has

been creating? NCFA was not interested in adoptees' outcomes then and is not interested now.

Over a decade after Pierce's 1986 letter, the writings of NCFA's Thomas Atwood erroneously advise that adoptees "*don't need access to family medical information.*" To date, NCFA still cannot find the time to address the life-and-death issues of adoptees while collecting federal money to increase adoptions.

A Brief Chronology of Government Protected Child Stealing (1851-2011)

1851 - Massachusetts passed the first modern adoption law recognizing adoption as a social and legal process based on child welfare rather than adult interests. Historians consider the 1851 Adoption of Children Act an important turning point because it directed judges to insure that adoption decrees were "fit and proper." However, how this determination was to be made was left entirely to judicial discretion.

1854 - New York Children's Aid Society, under direction of Loring Brace, sent unknown numbers of children West on "orphan trains" to be adopted or indentured as farm and ranch laborers until legal age. The first known case of abuse and murder of an adopted child was that of Christian Rohnor, age 2, whose adopters locked him in an attic and starved him to death.

1868 - Massachusetts Board of State Charities began paying to "place out and board" children in private homes rather than institutions. Subsequently, religious organizations in other states began placing out children in private homes.

1870 - For the first time, a California statute allowed the legal transfer of a child into the care of unrelated adults who would promise to "raise such child as his or their own, as if born of the body of such person." Birth certificates of adopted children were not made secret but often did not exist as it was not until 1915 that every child in California was required to have his/her birth recorded and kept by an office of vital records as part of a national program to register births. Infants of unmarried women could be left with the San Francisco Lying-In Hospital and Foundling Asylum, which could either place the infants with adopters or in apprenticeships until they reached adulthood. At this time, older children could be used for labor on family farms but there was no market for infants; many "illegitimate" infants died in the late 19th and 20th centuries after their desperate mothers paid "baby farmers" to take them and place them for adoption because the "baby farmers" were unable to care for them.

1872 - The first major outcome study, "How Foster Children Turn Out," was based on placements by New York State Charities Aid Association.

1909 - **The first White House Conference on the Care of Dependent Children declared that poverty alone should not be grounds for removing children from their biological families.**

1912-1921 - Investigations into "baby farming," commercial maternity homes, and adoption ads took place in Boston, New York, Baltimore, Chicago and other cities.

1915 - The Bureau for Exchange of Information Among Child-Helping Organizations was founded (renamed Child Welfare League of America in 1921); Abraham Flexner declared social work "hardly eligible" for professional status.

1916 - The "IQ Test" was popular among those worried about "feeble minded" mentality

1919 - For the first time, a national program required recording of births and the first empirical field studies of adoption gathered basic information as to how many adoptions took place, of whom and by whom.

1930 - As adoption of infants became more acceptable in the U.S. as an emotional act, particularly by infertile couples, Florence Clothier, a psychiatrist, observed "Severing of the individual from his parents and racial antecedents lies at the core of what is peculiar to the psychology of the adopted child ." Prior to the 1930s, many Americans were uncomfortable with the idea of raising the child of an unmarried woman as their own, for fear of "bad genes," a false concept expressed even today. Social workers began "sealing" birth and adoption records.

1935 - In the middle of the Great Depression, California was one of the early states to seal original birth certificates of adopted individuals from those individuals; Oakland's Assemblyman Charles Fisher cited problems of blackmail of adopters in southern California and presented a bill (January 1935) to make original birth certificates of adoptees unavailable to "anyone," including the adopters, the natural parents and "the child," except by court order. The Social Security Act included Aid to Dependent Children, Crippled Children and Child Welfare. Justine Wise Polier, head of Manhattan's Domestic Relations Court became an important early critic of "matching" adopters to biological parents to keep the fact of the adoption a secret from the child.

1939 - Valentine P. Wasson published "The Chosen Baby" on telling children about their adoptive status with the "**chosen child**" myth.

1940s-1950s - Pro-secret adoption propaganda began with 1940s journalists, Pearl S. Buck (author of "Out of Wedlock: A Study on the Problems of the Unwed Mother and Her Child," reprinted 1978, *Greenwood Press*), and Leontyne Young. Both were adopters who advised that it is "in the child's best interests to forever separate children from their unwed mothers." Also in this time frame, according to an article in *Good Housekeeping* (March, 1991) entitled, "The Woman Who Stole 5,000 Babies " Tennessee Children's Home Society Director, Georgia Tann, with the help of Judge Camille Kelly and the Crump political machine, stole babies and toddlers through coercive acquisition techniques, as well as outright kidnapping off the street, and by lying to mothers that "the baby died." She sold children to adopters who could pay, in Tennessee, New York, Kentucky, and California-- including Hollywood celebrities such as Joan Crawford ("Mommie Dearest"). Tann died just prior to prosecution in the 1960s. Jane Roe, was a mother who, in 1956, had been told that her infant son had died, only to be contacted by him 20 years later to learn that her son had lived, been placed for adoption without her knowledge, and sought contact with her. The Affidavit of Jane Roe, in *Doe v. Sundquist* (1996) successfully challenged Tennessee's sealed adoption records laws which, in the 1950s, enabled Georgia Tann, Director of Tennessee Children's Home Society, in collusion with Judge Camille Kelly and the Crump political machine, to steal 5,000 babies for black market adoptions, concealed by falsified, sealed birth records.

1941 - In "Problems of Illegitimacy As Concerns the Worker in the Field of Adoption," we find the admission that "the philosophy of the agency, to a large extent, determines whether the unmarried mother will keep her baby." This is also true today.

1944 - In *Prince v. Massachusetts*, a case involving Jehovah's Witnesses, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the state's power as "parens patriae" (parent of the country) to restrict parental control in order to guard "the general interest in youths' well being" as legal guardian absent natural guardian.

1953 - A "Uniform Adoption Act" was proposed, but few states adopted it. Jean Paton, MA, MSW, a social worker and adoptee, conducted the first studies on families involved in sealed adoption, under the name The Life History Center. in Philadelphia. In the June 1955 edition of *Western Journal of Surgery*, Paton described "passive, hostile and dependent behaviors in an adopted boy—behaviors she later defined as "Adopted Child Syndrome." Her studies revealed confused,

damaged children and families, due to this secrecy and stigmatization. The stigma may be a thing of the past, but statutory secrecy remains. In Paton's first book, *The Adopted Break Silence* (1954), she concluded the adopted "feel isolated, unwanted and lonely to an extent that few realize. Adopted people have a tendency to spend many years in unraveling the mystery of their origins and particularly in breaking the fantasy of their parents." While Paton is credited with pioneering both the Open Records Movement and the Anti-Adoption Movement, she said her supporters described her as "too sweet for the fray," in both the early 1950s as well fifty years later, when, well into her 90s, Paton delivered her anti-adoption speech at American Adoption Congress national conferences and wrote eye-opening "letters to the editor" as well as her own memoirs, which, like closed adoption, spanned half of the twentieth century. This author was privileged to visit with Paton at her log cabin home at Cedaredge, Colorado, in 1987, and to have maintained a dialogue of kindred philosophies until she died on 3-27-02 at age 93. Her cause lives on.

1956-1957 - Cornell University studies on higher integrated functions of the central nervous system concluded that the brain may be damaged in its functional capacity during long-maintained efforts to adapt to adverse life situations (such as those with which adoptees may be unable to cope).

1958 - Paul Toussieng, MD, child psychologist at the Meninger Clinic, Topeka, Kansas, observed a disproportionae number of adopted children in psychiatric treatment and commented that the "chosen child" story suggests the child's "real parents" didn't want him and were "bad parents."

1960 - Psychiatrist Marshall Schechter published a study claiming that adopted children were 100 times more likely than their non-adopted counterparts to show up in clinical populations.

1969 - Social work theory advocated secrecy by advancing myths about the needs of adopted children. A Public Affairs pamphlet titled "You and Your Adopted Child" stated "Instances of extreme curiosity and concern almost never happen. However, should a youngster ever raise the question, it is important, of course, to make it very clear that a search is unrealistic and can lead to unhappiness and disillusionment."

1971 - Florence Fisher founded the Adoptees Liberty Movement Association (ALMA) "to abolish the existing practice of sealed records" and advocate "opening of adoption records to any adopted person over age 18 who wants, for any reason, to see them."

1975 - The federal government stopped collecting statistics on adoption and total number of adoptions could only be guesstimated. Child Welfare League Executive Director Joseph Reid argued in Senate subcommittee hearings that "profiteering in child placement should be made a federal offense." It was not a crime then, and is not a crime now. As late as 1945, according to a Federal Children's Bureau consultant's report, less than half the United States had enacted measures designed to prevent baby brokers from conducting business as "commercial agencies." In 1957, the New York State Joint-Legislative Committee on Marital and Family Laws investigated illegal importation of babies to the United States from Greece and Italy. *The baby brokers had erected billboards in thirty-three states offering babies for sale without violating federal law.*

1976 - Concerned United Birthparents (CUB) was founded by Lee Campbell in Massachusetts and was later headquartered in Encinitas, California. Margaret Lawrence gave a talk to the 84th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association from her paper, "Inside, Looking Out of Adoption." She stated, "There is a slave psychology in the adoptee because he must submit to the will of his parents as a reflection of what they have done for him."

1978 - The American Adoption Congress (AAC) umbrella of adoptee/parent search and support groups was founded, and the Indian Child Welfare Act (Public Law 95-608) was amended

to provide adult adoptees of Native American heritage "different" rights than non-Indian adoptees. Adoptees' "Attachment Disorder," first advanced in the 1960s, was further deemed applicable to a "sub-set of the spectrum of adoptees" who exhibit eight antisocial Adopted Child Syndrome (ACS) behaviors," according to noted child psychologists Kirschner, Sorosky, Schechter, Carlson, Simmons, Work, Goodman, Silverstein, Mandell, Menlove, Simon, Senturia, Offord, Aponti, Cross, and others. However, "Attachment Disorder Therapies" such as dangerous "Re-Birthing" and "Holding Therapies" proved to be junk science – but not until the use of such so-called "therapies" over the past decade resulted in injuries and deaths. Inappropriate treatment does not discount that a specific set of inappropriate behaviors resulting from problems, predominately possessed by the adopted, do exist. The problem with Dr. Kirschner's "sub-set of the spectrum of adoptees with Adopted Child Syndrome" is that the spectrum is never defined, so it is likely that all adoptees are at least at risk.

1982 -The following was published in "Behavior Genetics, Over-representation of Adoptees in Children with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)" vol. 12, no. 3: "In a sample from two populations of children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD: DSM-3) diagnosis for hyper-activity, a 17% rate of non-relative adoption was found. This figure represents approximately an eightfold increase over the base rate on non-relative adoption, estimated in non-ADD control groups, and in the general population. This analysis suggests that approximately 23% of all adopted children would be expected to have ADD. However, in applying all possible variables, the percentage is probably much higher."

1988 - June Idler, Riverside County, California Juvenile Probation Department, quoting from the Interstate Juvenile Compact of 1988, concurred that "45 % of all '602s' (felonies committed by juveniles) were committed by adoptees." Mona Charen, Ann Landers, and other newspaper columnists supported the government's ridiculous, unsubstantiated, untrue statistics of Buck, Young, National Committee For Adoption (NFCA) , such as "only 6% of adoptees search for their parents." Search groups with over 100,000 annual registrants could not exist unless a larger pool of searching adoptees existed.

1989 - Americans For Open Records (AmFOR) was founded by this author as the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child was underway. AmFOR disseminated "The Open Record Newsletter without charge (1989-2003 issues archived at <http://AmFOR.net/OpenRecord>) and expanded its nationwide lobbying and free search-support activities to international activism via its volunteer network of natural parents and adoptees as well as non-adopted civil and human rights activists and some adoption professionals.. President Ronald Reagan's "White House Memo #906627 (7-24-89): Administrative Support For The Adoption Option" put the federal government into the adoption business by offering tax incentives and cash subsidies to people who adopt "special needs children." The National Committee For Adoption (NCFA), pro-sealed records lobby of adoption agencies, published their first edition of "Adoption Fact Book," which falsely claimed that there were "only 5-to-10-million adoptees in the United States" and that "only a few adoptees want to search for their natural parents." Family rights activist, Eugene Austin, began disseminating pamphlets referring to adoption as "geopolitical mass child stealing "

1991 - A front page story in the *Houston Chronicle* about baby broker Leslie Thacker, who sold United States babies in England, France, Italy, and Mexico, reported that Thacker was criminally convicted of "buying a baby."

1992 - United Nations Center for Human Rights (Geneva, Switzerland) issued its "Rights of

the Child" Project "Sale of Children" Report which includes adoption, slavery, pornography, and prostitution. The report identified the United States as the largest market for stolen children in the world. The Special Rapporteur for that UN endeavor authorized AmFOR to contribute data.

1993 - the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation with respect to Inter-country Adoption began, to which AmFOR was invited to contribute its data.

1993 - Bastard Nation, a group of adoptee activists, was founded to promote "the full human and civil rights of adoptees" including access to sealed records.

1994 - The 1994 Uniform Adoption Act, which critics dub the "Evil Act," prevents adoptees from gathering sufficient information about their biological parents by sealing adoption-related court records "for 99 years," provides insufficient periods for revocation of relinquishment of parental rights (to the delight of unscrupulous baby brokers), and does not require legal notification of a non-spousal father of a pending relinquishment.

1997 - The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) stressed permanency planning for children and represented a policy shift away from family reunification and toward adoption.

1998 - President Bill Clinton directed DHHS to work with courts and nonprofit agencies for a "National Adoption Reunion Registry" of children legally eligible for adoption, yet the federal government still resisted implementing a National Adoption Data Collection System approved by Congress that same year. American kids also disappear.

1998 - The National Adoption Information Clearinghouse nationwide data on adult access to their own adoption file information was as follows: 9 states had no statutory scheme for disclosure to adult adoptees; those states were Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming. Iowa offered an application for pre-1941 adoptions disclosure. In 4 states—Kansas, Alaska, Tennessee, and Oregon where voters passed Measure 58 --- adult adoptees could access their original birth certificates identifying their biological parents upon presenting identification. Despite legal challenges, the Oregon law went into effect in Y-2000.

2000 - The 2000 federal Census did not actually count adoptees by asking for "the number of children in household, natural or adopted," while forty states amended laws for disclosure of identities under certain conditions; many states required adult adoptee and parent registration, yet most would not inform the party who had not registered that their missing waiver of confidentiality was required or that contact was requested. Some states, such as Delaware, now use a "contact veto" to register a party's *refusal* to be contacted or *refusal* to disclose information. In a report titled "Living Arrangements for Children: Fall 1996," written by Jason Fields and released in 2001, the U.S. Census Bureau stated that the number of adopted children in the U.S. "rose from 1.1 million in 1991 to over 1.5 million in 1996." However, the Census Bureau was quick to point out that this number might not truly reflect the number of adopted children as many adopters may not have wanted to reveal to Census takers the adoptive status of "children in the household by birth or adoption" as the Census question was worded.

2000 - Adoptee Birthfamily Connection posted a message by Mary Rindahl which echoes those of mothers whose doctors or midwives falsely told them "the baby died." Decades later some of those "dead babies" showed up as adult adoptees searching for their mothers, most having been stolen at birth for black market adoption. Mary writes: "My own child was born 11-25-70 in Wheatridge County at the Lutheran Medical Center. He weighed 8 pounds 14 ounces and his alleged 'body' disappeared from the delivery room as though it never existed. The doctor refuses to take responsibility for my son's disappearance. I will never stop searching for him."

2001 - The federal government guaranteed over \$1-billion funding over the next 4 years, mostly earmarked to promote adoption under the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendment Act (S.1503). California's then-Governor Gray Davis, by his exclusive order, froze the sale of all California's birth and death records, ostensibly to combat ""identity theft" while California's AB-1349 was seeking to open original birth records to adult adoptees but failed to pass. Shay Bilchik, Executive Director of the Child Welfare League of America-CWLA, told a national conference in Anchorage, with regard to Alaskan Native American children and American Indian children who had been taken from tribal homes to be adopted by White families: "It was wrong, hurtful and born of ignorance," and "Foreign born children adopted by Americans are now granted automatic citizenship under Title 1 of the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 (CCA- Public Law 106-395, Section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, effective 6-13-01)." However, in 2011, the situation has not improved for most adoptees wishing to know their medical and social backgrounds.

2003 - The United Nations Special Rapporteur on "Rights of the Child," overwhelmed by reports about increased trafficking and sale of children for adoption, began to look into coercion and fraudulently obtained relinquishments from single mothers, not only in Third World countries but also in "developed countries," including the United States. A collaboration between courts, agencies, and families is needed to ensure system-wide changes that are in the best interests of children and families (according to The Commission on Human Rights - Rights of the Child, Fifty-Ninth Session. Item 13 of the provisional agenda, 6 January 2003, Report submitted by M. Juan Miguel Petit, Special Rapporteur, E/CN/2002/79, page 25).

In the same Report, under IV. Other Issues on Focus: - A. Adoption 110: "During the course of 2002, the Special Rapporteur received many complaints relating to allegedly fraudulent adoption practices. Where such practices have the effect that the child becomes the object of a commercial transaction, the Special Rapporteur, like his predecessor, considers that such cases fall within the "sale" element of his mandate. The Special Rapporteur was shocked to learn of the plethora of human rights abuses which appear to permeate the adoption systems of many countries. The Special Rapporteur considers that the best environment for most children to grow up in is within a family, and that the adoption by a parent or parents of a child who does not have a family able to look after him or her is a commendable and noble action. Regrettably, in many cases, the emphasis has changed from the desire to provide a needy child with a home, to that of providing a needy parent with a child. As a result, a whole industry has grown, generating billions of dollars of revenues each year, seeking babies for adoption and charging prospective parents enormous fees to process paperwork. The problems surrounding many intercountry adoptions in which children are taken from poor families in undeveloped countries and given to parents in developed countries, have become quite well known, but the Special Rapporteur was alarmed to hear of certain practices within developed countries, including the use of fraud and coercion to persuade single mothers to give up their children."

2010 - The National Census asked the number of "adopted sons and daughters" in the household, still resisting counting several decades of adopted adults. At this time, thousands of Black children, alleged to be orphans, disappeared in the wake of Haiti's earthquake disaster, many known to have been taken by mostly Christian religious groups and by baby brokers for adoptions in the U.S., Canada, France and other countries, without having established whether the children's parents were alive and searching for them amid the earthquake rubble. On 1-31-10, Child Welfare expert, Dr. Yitzak Kadman told American and Israeli media and the Knesset Committee of the U.N.

Rights of the Child "Experts agree that a person who suffered trauma, including Haiti's orphans, should stay in familiar surroundings. Send experts to Haiti to help them on their own soil and not to adopt a symbolic child as a humanitarian gesture. Converting them to Judaism and bringing them to a different culture will be very difficult for the children."

2011 - ACLU's openly gay Executive Director, Anthony D. Romero, signed his name to a nationwide mailing of a "rights" survey mailed to AmFOR for multiple choice responses. Survey question #3 asked whether the individual believes that "attempts to limit the rights of people to marry and/or **adopt children** based upon sexual orientation not only hurts families but violates the most fundamental precepts of American freedom and must be resisted." On 7-7-11, AmFOR wrote to Mr. Romero: "While it is understood the intention was to further anti-discrimination with regard to one's sexual orientation, which we support, the concept of an artificial "**right to adopt**" is offensive and untrue."

Confirmation of Delivery tracking indicated Mr. Romero/ACLU received the letter 7-9-11. By the end of 2011, there was still no comment from Romero.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS and ADOPTION

"A right is not a right in America, unless it is enjoyed by all Americans."

-Archibald Cox, Special Watergate Prosecutor

With regard to the secrecy component of most adoptions, The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) in a proposed Draft Model Adoption Act of 1980, wrote: "There can be no legally protected interest in keeping one's identity secret from one's biological offspring; parents and child are considered co-owners of the information regarding the event of birth....The [biological] parents' interest in reputation is not alone deserving of constitutional protection." This section, however, was deleted before passage at the behest of Senator John Tower of Texas, noted womanizer, alcoholic, and adopter, bolstered by 3,000 letters HEW received - 98% of adopters who wrote objected to the open records provision. Since then, more than the 10% in 1980 are in favor of giving their adult adopted children/adults the rights that the non-adopted world has.

With regard to adoption itself, many "children's rights" organizations tout an artificially created "right of the child to a permanent family" as also meaning a "*right to be adopted*," which is often further misconstrued as a "right to adopt" or claim entitlement to another's child. Several governments have changed their formerly liberal adoption policies and even halted intercountry adoptions as result of deaths of children at the hands of American adopters.

Since 2010, The United Nations/UNICEF has been working to keep children in their communities and countries of origin and in the event that children need to be relocated, for example due to natural disasters, UNICEF does not facilitate nor advocate inter-country adoptions. Per United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child details (in Article 21), the appropriate priority for placement of children through inter-country adoption: first, by restoration of their natural family; or then, by placement with other family members or relatives; and then, appropriate care within their community or country of origin. Only after these options have been exhausted can the child be considered for adoption overseas to an unrelated family. This would seem an obstacle to adoption marketing strategies, but to the contrary, the marketers simply expanded their efforts.

The Declaration of Human Rights by Amnesty International arose directly from the

experience of the Second World War and represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled. It consists of 30 articles which have been elaborated in subsequent international treaties, regional human rights instruments, national constitutions and laws. Adoption, as it is practiced in America, violates at least 15 of the 30 Articles of the Declaration of Human Rights, as follows:

Article 1: "All human beings are born free and equal dignity and rights." Adoption law refers to the "adopted child" even beyond legal age and treats the adult adoptee as property since s/he is never permitted emancipation from his/her adoptive status. may not exercise the same rights under the same conditions as non-adopted citizens (example: access to their true birth record from vital records offices).

Article 2: "Everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status..." Social status and religion as well as politics are inextricably woven into the fiber of American adoption. The National Council For Adoption (NCFA) upon whom government relies for adoption data, is a sealed records lobby of Christian adoption agencies. Holt's International's contractual agreements with prospective adopters include a written requirement that the child will be raised as a Christian and worship Jesus Christ.

Article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." Adoptees are not at liberty to access true information about their pre-adoption identities and their families' identities; they cannot have security of person, having been given or sold to strangers for adoption.

Article 4: "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms." In a free society, each person more or less holds title to his own human capital, and is prevented by law from selling this title except for limited periods of time (examples: Athletes and movie stars under contract), and under a restricted set of conditions. A dollar value was placed on human lives at various times in America:

1. When White Americans bought and sold Black Africans for slaves;
2. When monetary damages are awarded in an industrial accident or death, turning on the capital value of the person at time of the accident or death;
3. When one contracts for one's labor;
4. When a child is adopted.

The first step in removing rights from slaves and adoptees is to change and withhold their true identities.

Article 5: "No one shall be subjected to torture, or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." Closed adoption is regarded by activists as a form of child abuse, because it prevents free exchange of information that may be vital to the child's well being, such as family medical updates, social background, and changes in circumstances.

Article 6: "Everyone has a right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law." Adoption law in every state requires that the adoptee's true birth record be sealed from his own or anyone else's access. Thus, the adoptee becomes a "legal fiction." The child's parents also become "non-existent" as the parents before the law upon relinquishment of their parental rights.

Article 7: "All are equal before the law and are entitled, without discrimination, to equal protection of the law..." Adoptees are treated as "separate but equal," in violation of the United States Constitution's Bill of Rights and basic human rights. Neither are rights applied to all adoptees equally. The courts have been clear (in *Brown v. Board of Education*) that "separate but equal" is

unconstitutional.

Article 8: "Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law." The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly denied Certiorari to hear class actions by adoptees in the 1970s —(*ALMA Society v. Mellon*, and *Yesterday's Children v. Kennedy*) — and by "adoption affected persons" in 1990 (*Carangelo v. O'Neill/State of CT*) which challenged the constitutionality of adoption itself and fundamental rights of persons impacted by adoption). Attorneys said they believe the Supreme Court is "not ready" to hear such issues, perhaps because if the Court decides the practice unconstitutional, all past adoptions could be deemed null and void..

Article 10: "Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charges against him." Child Protective Services (CPS) exercises its police power when removing children from their families based on "suspicion" of abuse or neglect, often arising from anonymous phone tips. The burden is then upon the parents to prove their fitness to parent, usually not before a jury, while authorities retain possession of the children.

The adoptee usually is not physically present in court for any proceedings leading to his/her placement and adoption; s/he may or may not have a Guardian ad Litem appointed, but no public jury trial would be permitted in any case, and the proceedings are sealed from public scrutiny as "confidential."

Parents of voluntarily relinquished children are usually not permitted to participate in a hearing on a petition to adopt the child.

Adult adoptees are referred to the Juvenile Court or Adoptions Court regarding their grievances and for court orders to release their adoption decree, birth record, adoption record and even to access the hospital medical record of their birth. The Juvenile Court treats the adult adoptee as a child and the Adoptions Court is equally discriminatory on who shall have access to what, since it has a conflict of interest in maintaining confidentiality of its files, so more often denies requests to violate that confidentiality. Parents and adoptees may request an Administrative Fair Hearing, if certain criteria are met, but Administrative Hearings are neither impartial nor "fair" as public and private adoption agencies are pretty much self-regulating, self- policing and self-serving.

Article 12: "No one shall be subject to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has a right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks." Coerced relinquishment of parental rights for purpose of procuring children for adoption has been the ultimate "government interference into the family."

Article 15: "Everyone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality." Over the past several decades, most adoptees have been deprived of knowledge of their true nationalities and even of their true race or multi-racial backgrounds.

Article 16: "The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State." Article 16 also stresses the "right to marry and to found a family," but in recent years more American families have been "non-traditional," that is, single-parent families. Today 51% of Americans are married (per Pew Release of 2010 Census), but since 1996 only 16% of children placed for adoption have been raised in two-parent households, as compared to 25% of children raised by two parents in the general population (according to a 2001 Release of US Census study "Living Arrangements of Children: Fall 1996" by Jason Fields).

Article 18: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion." The objective of the largest, best funded, and most powerful lobby of adoption agencies, the federally and privately funded National Council For Adoption (NCFA), is to "Christianize" children through adoption into Christian families. Federal funding of religious endeavors is a violation of the principle of separation of church and state.

Article 20: "Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association; no one may be compelled to belong to an association." Adoptees are prohibited by law and practice from freedom of association with their own families and are instead compelled to form a lifelong association with strangers

Article 25: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services . Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection."

In America, funding and support for the vilified "welfare mom" has been plundered and instead benefits are diverted to the "subsidized adopter."

Right to Personhood and the Degradation of Personhood

The issue of "*personhood*," through knowledge of one's true identity, origins, and biological connectedness, has became the primary issue for most adoption reform activists. Should the practice of adoption in America be abolished?" Children's rights advocates argue for the right of a child to a safe, permanent home. But why strip the child and adult adoptee of his true identity (degradation of his *personhood*) in the process? Does the child and adult adoptee have a right not to give up his *personhood* forever, in exchange for care in childhood?

7. GAY, LESBIAN, TRANSGENDER and ADOPTED Double Identity Dilemmas

Homophobia has, for centuries, kept secret the sexual orientation of gay and lesbian individuals who only recently have been coming out of the closet. They are supported by organized groups claiming equal rights with regard to housing, employment and benefits of marriage. Consider how difficult it is for adopted individuals to overcome not only feelings of rejection from having been relinquished by their natural parents for adoption by strangers, but also from having to come to terms with their own sexual identity, usually at an age when they are seeking their social identity, as well as their pre-adoption identity, particularly when different from their adopters' sexual identities.

Two views most often expressed regarding Gay and Lesbian parenting are usually couched in terms of one's "right" to have children, including by adoption. This writer's position, or "third view," is that, while no one should be discriminated against based on their sexual orientation, no one, Gay or Straight, has a "right" or "entitlement" to adopt someone else's child. On the other side of the coin, even though some states still prevent Lesbians and Gays from adopting, those same states rely on Gay people to be foster parents to children in need of stable homes.

When Gays or Lesbians wish to have children, typically, one parent is the biological parent and the partner *adopts* the child as would a stepparent. A gay male may utilize a female surrogate who

is artificially inseminated with the Gay parent's own sperm; a Lesbian female may become artificially inseminated by a Donor male. The resulting child has either "two Dads" or "two Moms" or whatever designation is decided to describe the family unit. Much has been written about the problems and adjustments that children go through when raised by people who are obviously of a different race or nationality or who simply "don't bond" due to genetic individual personality. In the 1940s to 1960s, social workers believed that closely "matching" the physical characteristics of the natural parents with the adopters would fool the child into believing he was being raised by his biological parents. In the late 1960s social work theory changed and social workers advised adopters to gradually tell the child that he is adopted in terms oriented to the child's age at each stage, **hence the "chosen child" story took hold.** While the last few years have seen acceptance of Gay/Lesbian adopters, some cases have revealed a return to the natural parent and adopter "match" concept.

In the midst of historical bias of the Catholic Church against homosexuality, and cross purposes of Gay/Lesbian "rights" organizations lobbying states to enable adoption of children by same-sex couples, *The Catholic News Agency* reported: "The symposium by the Mexican Institute on Sexual Orientation (Renacer, 2-19-10, "Homosexual Adoption: What Science Has Discovered") revealed that most children adopted by same-sex couples display "greater levels of stress" and suffer from "suicidal tendencies and attempts." Based on research by George A. Rekers, Professor of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science at the University of South Carolina, the presenters noted "Boys and girls adopted by lesbian and homosexual couples show a greater level of stress than that which is already generated by their status as orphans or children abandoned by their biological parents."

The Rekers study further explained that "Due to high incidence of psychological disorders among adopted children, those living with a practicing homosexual in the adoptive home are especially vulnerable to psychological damage and an increasing inability to adapt." Oscar Rivas, Renacer president, underscored "according to international experience, based on various studies and research, the conclusion is that, in matters of adoption, the Rights of the Child, not those of the parents [adopters] are what should prevail." The Rekers study was the basis for rulings in Florida prohibiting adoption of minors by same-sex couples

In "Lesbian Mom Wants To Give Baby Boy Sex Change" (by Marsh Larimore, *Weekly World News*, 10-6-05), Lesbian mom, Kim Marshall, wanted her son to be a girl solely because she herself is Lesbian. There have also been a few cases where biological parents, dissatisfied with the sex of their newborn, have subjected the child to sex change surgery. The result is a child growing up confused by genetic versus physical sexual orientation and being subjected to discrimination.

CALVILLO, Lupe (aka Meagan Breanne Mendoza)

Born a boy on 7-6-72 and adopted by relatives, Lupe grew to be 6 foot tall and a pre-operative male-to-female transgender incarcerated in a man's prison. (See "Abuse of Gay and Transgender Prisoners" regarding Lupe's multiple burdens of being adopted, addicted, incarcerated and a transgender.)

CASSADY, David Dwayne

On 8-4-68, David Cassady was born as David Gaston at Saint Mary's Catholic Hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and was raised by his adopters in Georgia, where, at age 23, he was convicted of Forgery and Aggravated Sodomy. In 1992, when he was 25, David was also convicted for Aggravated Sodomy, Impersonating an Officer, Kidnapping and False Imprisonment, with concurrent

Life sentences. Prior to his adoption, David was in Foster Care at St. Augustine, Florida, from 1969 to 1970, along with his brother, Robert, and when they were about 3 years old, both boys were adopted by Royce and Carol Cassady. In 2007, leads provided by AmFOR to David and to his adopter led to finding his uncle who lived only four blocks away from where David was raised, and also led to contact with his biological mother, Julie Ann Gaston. He learned that his biological parents had been married and divorced in 1991 and that his father died in St. Augustine in 1998. His adopter, Carol, had been pursuing a genealogical search for David's father's side in hope of tracing any siblings or other relatives.

All seemed to be progressing well in his search. But then I did not hear from David again until 2008 when he wrote: "It's been a long road to follow. I'm sorry it has taken such a long time to get back to you. I did contact my mother through the mail and she then wrote back. However, she has said some things I did not like. One was that she would never have 'allowed' me to come to prison and she was going to change my (Gay) lifestyle. First of all, my adoptive mother did not "allow" me to come to prison – I put myself there. She has been loving and supportive. And if my real mother wants to change my lifestyle, she needs to go back 40 years to do that. I don't write her any longer. I will wait til I'm released to talk face-to-face. I'm thankful for your help. I needed to know who she is. I've been on CSU (mental health lockdown) because I tried to commit suicide. I've got myself back together and am trying to get out of prison....I would like to exclusively market my story to Christian churches. Yes, I committed my crime but I was wrongfully convicted due to the jury pool being illegally placed and ordered to be tossed out. The judge will not retry my case which is almost 17 years old. I am willing to plead guilty for 20 years or 'time served.'" David obtained a PhD in Theology and is seeking support from Christian Church congregations via a petition to the Governor asking for parole and allowing him to enlist in the Military as an Army Chaplain.

DARLING, Gia

Born a boy in Guatemala and adopted by an American, Gia is a male-to-female transgender and an adopter. (For Gia's story see "Gay, Lesbian, Transgender Parenting in Guardianships and Adoption")

MANNEX, Russell

Russ was born 9-25-65 as Shannon P. Smith at Saint Anne's Convent in Santa Ana, California. Since 1999, Russ has been serving his 10-year sentence for Attempted Rape and had a history of alcohol and drug abuse. He was incarcerated in 2001 at California's "model" Substance Abuse Treatment Facility at Corcoran State Prison in California in 2001 when he wrote AmFOR: "During my childhood, my adoptive parents were always honest with us about our adoptions, making sure to explain that we had been "**chosen**" which made us "special." However, I never felt "special." *I felt "different" and often ruminated on thoughts of being "rejected."*" I became very hurt inside despite the love offered by my adoptive parents. I experienced further alienation when I began noticing I had feelings for other guys. I suppressed my sexual orientation because growing up in a conservative community made it impossible for me to express my concerns, so these feelings were never discussed.

I was adopted at the age of 2 months and know absolutely nothing about my biological parents except for their nationality. According to the adoption agency, my mother was too young to raise me and her conservative family believed the best option was to send her to a convent and allow her baby to be adopted. My dad is East Indian and my mom is 1/4 Italian and 1/4 Irish. When I was on the outside, I always worked and tried to spend a lot of time with my wife and son but made a mistake

and now have a 12-year sentence. For whatever it's worth, I am in no way angry at my parents for giving me up for adoption. I love them even though I have never known them. Thank you for working with adoptees, including those of us who are incarcerated. I've tried to make sense as to why I did not feel loved by my adopters. I ran away from home at age 5 because of physical and emotional abuse as result of their alcoholism *and not considering me one of their own*. I felt unloved, unworthy, guilt, shame, anger, resentment, fear of abandonment, rejection, denial and distrust, all at the same time. By age 8, I began serious lying and set a field afire which was only a hundred yards from our house. I wanted to "belong," and tried to cloud my feelings. If I would just hint that I wanted to know about my biological parents, I'd get a negative reaction. I began to use and sell marijuana, and, at age 16, I attempted suicide by swallowing 40 Valium pills with turpentine. But before I could completely load my shotgun to finish the job, I passed out and awoke in a Detention Center a week or so later, where I self-inflicted stab wounds and refused to eat. I was ordered by the court to see a psychologist for six months. But within a couple months, the psychologist—the first person I had begun to trust—molested me. Shortly afterward, a teacher and a friend of the family both molested me.

I continued lying, stealing, smoking and selling pot, truancy, withdrawal from people, promiscuity and self destructive behaviors in general. I managed to enter the military at age 17 and, from then on, nurtured a work addiction as a way *to gain acceptance* and a sense of self-worth. Despite an honorable discharge, my criminal thinking continued. My first wife and I ended up in a federal prison for counterfeiting U.S. currency. Five years after my release, I began this sentence of 7 to 15 years in 1994 for Attempted Rape. Since late 1997, I have been a cancer survivor in search of my past—still trying to fill an empty hole. God help me. Then one day my biological mother and my brother (her other son) found me through AmFOR's Adopted Prisoners website. Finally I heard a Texas accent on the phone and we've been in communication ever since. At first, she had some difficulty with my being Gay. But we are hoping I can go to Texas to visit her when I'm out, or possibly even transfer my parole. Connecting with my mother has changed my life. The only 'loose end' is finding my father, Thomas Phillips Smith. I hope to some day finally meet him. Thank you for your help over the years. You have given me a beautiful gift." Russ shared that he is writing a book about his life, titled "Rocket Man."

In 2010, I was surprised to receive an e-mail from Russ informing me he had been released from prison, was looking for work, and hoped to visit his mother in Texas when he could afford to. I didn't hear further until 2011 when his adopter, Lorraine Mannex, phoned me to thank me for helping Russ find his natural mother. She said it has had a positive impact on his life and that all was going well for Russ.

WEST, Nicolas

A native of Chile, Nicolas was adopted by a missionary couple from Tyler, Texas. Prior to his being kidnapped, beaten, robbed and murdered, solely because he was Gay, his adopters refused to accept his gay sexual orientation. (Source: <http://www.holysmoke.org/fem/fem0385.htm>)

WORLEY, Ron

Ron Worley killed Joyce Wroczynsk, afraid she would "tell others he was gay" and he would lose his adoptive family. Further information about him and his adoption is found under "Adoptees Who Killed Strangers." (Source: "Maximum Sentence: Killer Gets Life Without Mercy," by Rachelle Bott, *Charleston Gazette*, wvgazette.com, 2-28-02)

8. MORE PITFALLS OF ADOPTION - THE DATA

"There are 3 kinds of lies:

lies, damned lies, and statistics."

-Benjamin Disraeli, British Prime Minister 1874-1880

How Many Adoptees?

Despite all the spending for adoptions under the hodge podge of non-uniform state laws and federal mandates, the Department of Health and Human Services seems to be resisting the necessity for counting adoptees. Using the most commonly cited figure of "6-million adoptees in the U.S.," it can be conservatively estimated that **150-million Americans—almost half the United States population—has an adoption in their immediate family.** The 2000 Census was the first census to ask for a tally of "children in household, natural or adopted" but did not count all adoptees in the United States. Then the 2010 Census ventured to count "adopted sons and daughters" but did not inquire as to whether the adult completing the questionnaire is adopted, thereby passing up a chance to count several decades of now-adult adoptees about whom state and federal governments have been legislating, while subsidizing adopters and relying only on the National Council For Adoption (NCFA), pro-sealed records lobby of adoption agencies, for adoption data. That figure has fallen into the same black hole as most "official" adoption data. So on 3-17-10, this writer sent an inquiry to Robert Groves, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, asking why the Census Bureau resists counting adoptees. No reply. A followup letter was sent on 6-8-10 with Confirmation of Delivery. No reply. That letter asked whether the federal government does not want the Census to "make official" what we, the organizations who DO count the increasing numbers of adopted Americans, already know – that half the U.S. population has an adoption or relinquishment for adoption with statutory falsification of birth records in the immediate family.

Who's Counting?

For "adoption data," the federal government has relied on The National Council For Adoption (NCFA – formerly the National Committee For Adoption) a 1,200-member organization of Christian adoption agencies, which lobbies to "increase adoptions" and also to "keep adoption records sealed;" 55 are Mormon and 11 are affiliated with the Gladney Center in Texas (formerly Gladney chain of homes for unwed relinquishing mothers). NCFA's web-site "Adoption Fact Book Page" was described on Internet's Alta Vista search engine as **"covering a broad array of statistics and half-truths."** NCFA's adoptee poster child was President Gerald R. Ford, despite the fact Ford was raised by his own mother and always knew his own father. His was a step-parent adoption, and not the typical adoptee experience.

In contrast to NCFA, the American Adoption Congress (AAC), an umbrella for about 114 search-support groups that network with thousands of groups and individuals worldwide, and which favors open records for adult adoptees, includes on its web-site its annual budget of only which is a fraction of the NCFA's budget even before NCFA was awarded the \$6-million federal grant. So-called "independent" data collection can also be controlled by government when funded by government. In 1998, the Justice Department was unhappy with New Hampshire University researcher Jerry Hoataling's findings in his 30--page, "Condensed Executive Summary Report on

Missing Children" (6-14-90). His report revealed a high incidence of family abductions and kids disappearing from institutional care. Hoataling was supposed to work another year under contract to the Justice Department but his project funds were cut off, ending analysis; so he could not answer this writer's question on how many "missing children" were sold for black market adoptions. He said the official records kept on adoptions were so inefficient, that even though there was a basis for methodologies, he was "finding ranges that worked out to be 4, 5, 6 and 10 times as high."

Who's Relinquishing?

Unlike the 1950s to 1980s relinquishing mother who was in her teens or early 20s, and unwed, since the 1990s, 60% of surrendered infants were from married couples in poverty with 3 to 6 children. The greatest change of demographics in adoption was in foster care adoptions. In 1999 (and today) 80% of California adoptions were private agency/attorney facilitated adoptions of foreign children; 80% of public agency adoptions in California were foster children. (Source: Notes from Evan B. Donaldson Institute Symposium on Ethics and Adoption.)

Who's Adopting?

In a report titled "Living Arrangements of Children: Fall 1996," written by Jason Fields and released in 2001, the U.S. Census Bureau stated that the number of adopted children in the U.S. "rose from 1.1 million, in 1991, to over 1.5 million in 1996." However, the Census Bureau is quick to point out that this number might not truly reflect the number of adopted children as many adopters may not have wanted to reveal to census takers the adoptive status of "children in the household." There has been a steady increase in single and single-gay parenting through adoption, despite that adoption is touted as providing children with a "stable two-parent family." Historically, the "unwed mother" and the "single parent" have been unjustifiably blamed for a wide range of social ills, yet most relinquishing parents are not told that their children may not be placed in the "preferred two-family home." Organized groups of single and gay persons in some states have successfully asserted what they believe is their "right" or "entitlement" to adopt.

Childbirth entails medical, economic, and social risks. Adoption entails risk of a pregnant woman changing her mind about relinquishing her child and risks associated with raising a stranger's child. With adoption, the prospective adopters can be emotionally and financially manipulated, while parents may be coerced. Moreover, state laws make the process cumbersome and expensive. The bottom line is that the adoption system doesn't work for the majority affected. Over 100,000 websites, news groups, books, articles, lobbies, and lawsuits by the adoption-affected tell us so.

How Do They Fare?

The "*chosen child*" story most often told to adopted children only emphasizes, in their minds, that they were "not chosen" by their own biological families. Add to that the assumption by agencies and adopters that every child is "better off" being adopted by strangers, and one can understand how a child may carry feelings of rejection and inferiority into adulthood.

Georgianne Bone, herself an adoptee and former employee at Patton State Hospital, a mental health facility in California, worked with three Caucasian male patients – a rapist, a child molester,

and an arsonist. All three had been adopted from foster care. One might assume their behaviors originated at the pre-adoption stage, unless one considers that most adoptees who killed were adopted at birth (as detailed in this book in "Adoptees Who Kill").

According to the article, "Getting a Hold on Rage, Some Adoptive Parents Find Love Alone Isn't the Answer — Now They're Upset That The State Won't Help Pay For a Promising New Treatment" (Jack Kresnak, *Detroit Free Press*, 6-25-95) **"There is no formula for making a stranger's child live up to their adopter's expectations. To a child, the burden of such expectations translates as abuse."**

This is well understood if one considers that each individual has his own genetic and acquired personality and tolerances and that adoptees are still "punished" for the sins of parents when adoption wipes out their true identities, origins and reality, to be replaced by the "legal fiction" that they were "born to" their adopters. This is misrepresented, even today, on adoptees' "amended" (falsified) birth certificates, despite that children are now told that they are adopted but not the who, what and why, leaving a child to fantasize whether his mother was a prostitute or princess, whether he was unwanted or was somehow to blame for his abandonment.

Dr. Lee Bloom, former Unit Director, Coldwater Canyon Hospital, Hollywood, California, was quoted (in "Growing Up Behind Bars," *Rolling Stone* magazine, 12-20-86): Of internees at Coldwater Canyon Center for Personal Development Psychiatric Hospital, **65% to 85% are adoptees.** Most were referrals from the Juvenile Probation Department. Coldwater Canyon psychologist, Richard Sherman, later reported **"At times, as many as half of Coldwater's preteen and teenage hospitalized population are adoptees."**

Dr. Phyllis Chesler, in "Mothers on Trial," quoted Dr. William Murdoch, child psychologist at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Loma Linda, California, and Director of Charter Hospital In-Patient Unit, Redlands, California, as follows: **"40% of psychiatric internees are adoptees.** Adopted children have a higher rate of emotional and psychological problems than the general population of youngsters."

In "Sacred Bond," Chesler also quoted Dr. Steven Nickman (as cited by Geraldo Rivera, "The Geraldo Show," 7-28-88): **40% of adoptees end up in schools for disturbed children (of an estimated 2% of the general population).** Reuben Pannor, MSW, Director of Community Services at Vista del Mar Child Care Services of Los Angeles, co-author of "The Adoption Triangle" and nationally recognized adoption expert, reports that in his counseling experience, **"About 35% of young people receiving psychological help are adoptees."**

Betty Jean Lifton, quoted from a report by an Illinois physician at a conference of The American Adoption Congress Conference, NY (1988): **"20% to 35% of internees at several hundred private psychiatric hospitals, in 13 regions, are adoptees."**

Lincoln Caplan ("An Open Adoption"), quoted in *Bottom Line* (9-15-90), estimated "Five to 15% of the patient load in mental clinics is the average reported figure for adoptees under psychiatric care, although official (government) statistics estimate only 2% of the population are adoptees. Twenty to 30% of adolescents and children in private psychiatric therapy are adoptees." Often an adoptee's "dysfunction" results from post-adoption abuse of another kind as the following AmFOR case file reflects.

Donna Lee Morgan was named Donna Lee Sayre at birth on 7-10-53 in San Antonio, Texas. She resided with her adopters from 1959 until 1966 when, at age 13, she was abandoned by her adopters, John and Florence Morgan, to a state mental hospital where she was confined against her will by court

order for seven years until 1973 when, at legal age, she was magically permitted her freedom. The court order alleged "schizophrenic reactions" and "sexual preoccupations" (she was 13) with "autistic reveries." Today, it might have been determined that she had been sexually abused and was reacting as any sexually abused child would react, but sexual abuse was not often reported; even in the 1970s past sexual abuse of young female adoptees by their male adopters or other adoptive family members is frequently reported today by now-adult adoptees. Donna was able to get her adoption file opened by court order and found that her biological mother had died. She also obtained her medical-psychiatric records from the Florida mental hospital, but the Baptist Hospital in Texas initially refused to release her record of birth. It was only through AmFOR's intervention and much persistence that it was eventually provided to her with an apology from hospital staff.

H.J. Sants and E.E. Wellisch suggested that adopted children have, in addition to general causes of maladjustment, the burden of "adoption stress" — the stress to which they were subjected as result of their particular status. They found "genealogical bewilderment" to be a large factor in their condition. The theory is that a child's ignorance of his past causes "genealogical bewilderment," which makes him/her more prone to dysfunction. Professor David Fanshel, of the New York School for Social Work, reported that **25% of the girls in residence at the school maintained for disturbed girls by the Jewish Board of Guardians in New York were adopted.**

A decade after social worker and adoptee, Jean Paton, published her 1953 studies on adoptive families—the first studies linking adoptee behaviors with their adoptions—sociologist and adopter H. David Kirk, in his 1964 book, "Shared Fate: A Theory of Adoption and Mental Health," characterized adopters as being "role handicapped" and adoptees as being "prone to behavioral problems and emotional disturbance," in part because of the differences between adoptees and their adopters that belied the "as born to" myth. After more than another decade, David Kirschner, PhD, coined the term "Adopted Child Syndrome" in his 1978 studies describing a set of 8 behaviors as underlying Dissociative Disorder in the adoptees he studied ("Son of Sam and the Adopted Child Syndrome," *Adelphi Society for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy Newsletter*, 1978). Twelve years later, Kirschner maintained: "In 25 years of practice I have seen hundreds of adoptees, most adopted in infancy. In case after case, I observed what I have come to call the Adopted Child Syndrome, which may include pathological lying, stealing, truancy, manipulation; shallowness of attachment; provocation of parents and other authorities, threatened or actual running away; promiscuity; learning problems; firesetting; and increasingly serious antisocial behavior, often, leading to court custody. It may include an extremely negative or grandiose self-image, low frustration tolerance, and an absence of normal guilt or anxiety. ("The Adopted Child Syndrome: What Therapists Should Know," "Psychotherapy in Private Practice" Vol.8 (3) *Hayworth Press*, 1990). Kirschner concludes his paper with "Finally, I believe that *most* adoptees have the same emotional vulnerabilities that are seen in dramatic form in the Adopted Child Syndrome, and that *all adoptees are at risk*," yet he is careful to qualify that by claiming that only a "subset" of "a spectrum" of adoptees have Adopted Child Syndrome behaviors, without defining the spectrum in which the subset occurs. As a result of interviews with over 20,000 adoptees, this writer believes it means "the *entire spectrum* of adoptees," with extremes of *acquiescence* at one end of the spectrum, and of *rebellion* at the other end of the spectrum, in response to adoptions' impositions.

Psychologist David Lykken, PhD, who specialized in criminal behavior, believed "only a few" children with antisocial tendencies were born with such predispositions and blames most cases on "poor parenting" (which can include adoptive parenting), and "If children were born to unlicensed

parents, the state would intervene. Unlicensed parents would permanently lose children to adoption."

Psychologist and adoptee, Betty Jean Lifton, wrote in "Journey of the Adopted Self: A Quest for Wholeness" (Basic Books, 1994): "Adoption disease... can lie dormant most of one's life. If it erupts in childhood, adolescence, or early adulthood, and if dismissed, it can subside into numbness. But it can stir malignancy in some adoptees all their lives."

Two decades after John Bowlby's "Attachment and Loss" published in 1969, and as advanced in "Primal Wound" by Nancy Verrier, Kent G. Bailey, PhD, authored "Human Paleopsychology: Application to Aggression and Pathological Process," (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1987). Bailey supports the concept of Paleopsychology—a term he coined. Bailey sees adoption to be a "dysfunction of kinship," and that the adoptee perceives many people in his world as "strangers." This may even include his adopters. This "stranger" effect is not so much a "syndrome" per se as a "paleo-psychological" state that comes directly from an unconscious feeling of a "lack of belonging," or, as Michael Reagan, adopted by President Ronald Reagan, expressed it, feeling as "an outsider" (in his book, "On the Outside Looking In"). Further, Bailey believes that, by and of itself, the adoptee's specific loss of the most elementary biological kinship, in the process known as adoption, may cause paleo-psychological regression experienced as uncontrollable rage deep from within his/her own ancient history, which, when focused, may find as its end predatory violence deep within the self, and may be a reaction experienced by the adoptee, either as a child and/or adult, that, as the most primitive wound to the psyche, is experienced at the very essence of his/her humanity. Such views are borne out in "Primal Wound" by Nancy Verrier, and in the case studies in this book.

9. DEATH BY ADOPTION

Forensics cannot detect the element of adoption but no one survives adoption unscathed. This chapter is concerned with untold stories behind suicides by adoptees and parents, adoptee deaths due to withholding of the adoptee's and adoptee's family medical background, and adoptees abused and murdered by their adopters and helping professionals.

Suicide and Attempted Suicide by Adoptees

"Out of 147 suicides involving drugs from 1983 to 1993, 142 came from adoption backgrounds."

-Brother Alex McDonald, Jesuit Priest and Youth Worker,
published in Melbourne, Australia, 6-30-93

In America, attempted suicides and suicides are more common among adolescent adoptees who live with adopters, than for adolescents who live with biological parents (Source: "Adoption as a Risk Factor for Attempted Suicide in Adolescence" by Gail Slap, MD; Elizabeth Goodman, MD; Bin Huang, MS - in "Pediatrics," the *Official Journal of Pediatrics*, Vol. 108, No. 2, 8-1-01, pp e30). Korean and other international adoptees are highly over-represented when it comes to suicide, and suicide attempts (Hjern et al, 2002). Swedish adoptees had problems showed a high level of psychiatric illness, addiction, criminality and suicide on a 5.0 ratio with the non-adopted group. Nationally, about 20% of students have considered suicide within the past 12 months. When a child gets into middle school, and especially high school, he is struggling with identity issues and wanting

to “belong.” These issues are compounded by uncertainties of the adopted.

Janice Tate said her adopted son, Jacob , “struggled with issues of acceptance and rejection” before he joined the military. Corporal Jacob A. Tate, 21, was killed in combat in Iraq, having never discovered his birth family. It is suspected that some adoptees put themselves in harm’s way from suicidal feelings, while others with unknown pre-adoption pasts join the military in hope of finding their purpose and place in the world. (Source: Adoptees’ War Memorial, <http://AmFOR.net/war>)

As previously cited, The Catholic News Agency reported (2-19-10): “The symposium by the Mexican Institute on Sexual Orientation (Renacer),reported that most children adopted by same-sex couples display ‘greater levels of stress’ and suffer from ‘suicidal tendencies and attempts.’” Some of the fostered and adopted kids who committed or attempted suicide as detailed in this book, are (alphabetically): Ashley BUNK, Joseph CANNON (serial killer), David CASSADY, Tiffany CLAIR, Melody DiLORENZO, Joel DOMINGUES, William FREUND (spree killer), Daniel HAUSER, Timothy JONES, Joseph KALINGER (serial killer), Charles LITTLE JR (killed adopters), Russell MANNEX, Evan RAMSEY (Alaska School Shooter), Andrea SIMPSON (age 9), Noah STONE, Joseph WESBECKER (spree killer), Aileen WUORNOS (serial killer). Following are just a few *celebrity* adoptees who committed suicide:

BERLE, Bill

Bill Berle, born in Rome, Italy in 1961, was adopted when he was 6 days old by famed comedian, **Milton Berle** to please his wife, Ruth, who was infertile. Shortly after Milton Berle's 3-28-02 death at age 93, Bill was hosting a discussion and signing of his book “My Father, Uncle Milty” which the local Barnes & Noble bookstore cleverly scheduled on the same day as the discussion and signing for my book, “The Ultimate Search Book.” Bill and I exchanged books and our conversation naturally turned to his adoption and my curiosity as to whether he had ever searched out his biological parents. He said he “*wasn’t interested* because the Berles were his parents and that he had a happy life” from the perspective of someone raised in Beverly Hills among celebrities, affluence, glitz and glamour. The truth was that his black market adoption left no paper trail and in Bill’s book he describes Milton as someone he hardly knew who was always on the road in show biz and never paid much attention to him...and that after an argument he had with Milton that ended with Milton shouting that he “wished they’d never adopted him,” Bill snapped and was about to commit suicide but was interrupted as he was reaching for the gun.

BRUCE, Lenny

The famed standup comic, Lenny Bruce, was born Leonard Alfred Schneider in Meneola, New York, and grew up in nearby Bellmore. His parents divorced when he was 5, and Lenny was then raised by various relatives. He joined the US Navy at the age of 17 in 1942 and saw active duty in Europe. In May 1945 he reported to his ship's medical officer that he was “experiencing homosexual urges.” This led to his Dishonorable Discharge in July 1945. He had not admitted to, nor been found guilty of, any breach of naval regulations and successfully applied to have his discharge changed to “Under Honorable Conditions by reason of unsuitability for the Naval service.” (Source: Wikipedia)

GABLE, Clark

His mother died when he was 7 months old. Despite his movie star status, he was not a happy man. He committed suicide after his movie star wife, Carol Lombard, died in a plane crash.

MONROE, Marilyn

Marilyn Monroe was born to a single mother, fostered from infancy til age 2, and, although she had contact with her mother, did not know who she was after being adopted by her mother's best friend. The adoption was annulled or ended by returning her to a series of 9 foster homes. She married at 16 to get out of foster care, abused pills and alcohol, was mistress to President Kennedy and his brother Robert, as well as to a Mafia figure. Her early death has been attributed to suicide, accidental overdose, or a murder conspiracy during the Kennedy years. (Source: her own book and Wikipedia.)

O'CONNOR, Hugh

Hugh was born in Rome, Italy, and adopted when he was 6 days old by actor **Carrol O'Connor** ("In the Heat of the Night," and "All In the Family") and his wife, Nancy. Hugh was named after Carroll O'Connor's brother who died in a motorcycle accident in 1961. When he was 16, Hugh was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma. He survived the cancer and two surgeries, but had been taking prescription drugs for the pain and marijuana for nausea and became addicted to harder drugs. Despite numerous stays at rehab clinics, he never conquered his addiction. On 3-28-95, Hugh called his father to tell him he was going to end his life; he said he believed he could not beat drugs nor face another drug rehab program. Carroll called the police who arrived at Hugh's Pacific Palisades home just as he shot himself in the head. Police later determined he had cocaine in his blood. (Source: Wikipedia)

OSMOND, Michael Brian

Michael was one of 5 children adopted by **Marie Osmond**. At age 18, he jumped to his death from his downtown Los Angeles apartment

Suicide by Mothers Due to Loss of a Child to Adoption

"The young woman with poor self esteem and low assertiveness might take decades or forever to drop her denial and collusion with the beliefs pedaled by the adoption agency."

-Geoff A. Rickarby, MB, BS, Psychiatrist

These mothers are often mistakenly confined to the category of mothers suffering from post-partum depression. But when put in perspective of so-called "voluntarily relinquishing mothers," we find the untold stories of suicides and attempted suicides were the result of coerced or forced adoptions.

JORDAN, Cindy

In "Fast Track Adoption Ends in Suicide," (PRWeb, 4-13-04), Laurie Frisch quotes from an email she received in 2004 from an adoption group leader: "Cindy [Jordan] was a member of my adoption group for a year and a half—we were supposed to meet next month. The people who adopted her daughter broke promises to have an open adoption and Cindy never recovered. She took her life yesterday." Cindy had read the book, "Fast Track Adoption" by Susan Burns, PhD, on how to get a baby quickly, and was devastated by its contents and how she had been left out and used. New York Surrogates Court Judge Leha Sears-Collins said "It would be cruel in a society devoted to the welfare of children to say that you cannot reclaim your given word and your flesh and blood all because you made a miscalculation or misstep."

MORRIS, Annabelle

In “Teenage Mother Found Hanged Days After Discovering Her Baby Had Been Adopted,” (*The Daily Mail*, 6-1-11), it was reported that, by all accounts, Annabelle Morris, 19, adored her son but could not cope with his being taken into foster care and then put up for adoption. Authorities had intervened while she was struggling to look after him; she was termed “ambivalent” about not accepting support offered, according to her social worker, John Corden, as this would involve putting boundaries on her lifestyle, as he termed it. But he said that he and his colleagues had been impressed by the “high quality of interaction” between the mother and child and that Annabelle had been “dignified and honest” with social workers. Annabelle was a 19-year old with a number of problems relating back her having been neglected in childhood. One woman said the psychological effects of neglect as a child in care herself were then used as “evidence” for the forced separation from her daughter. Sadly, this type of scenario is utilized every day in U.K. and U.S. family courts. Social Services uses the secrecy of the family courts to needlessly remove children from loving, capable parents for forced adoption or long term foster care, damaging the children psychologically and emotionally. Local authorities pay independent expert witnesses huge sums of money to write reports based on biased, inaccurate and grossly distorted information. Parents are often accused of being “uncooperative” based on a single informant’s view. Parents have no chance once children are removed, lawfully or unlawfully – they instantly become a target for forced adoption

Death from Withholding of Adoptees’ Family Medical Information

“The dead cannot cry out for justice.

It’s the duty of the living to do it for them.”

-Louis McMaster Bujold

Adoptees’ deaths at an early age can often be attributed to their lack of true family medical histories sealed in their adoption files. Many state laws and the Hague Convention now require agencies to disclose “reasonably available” records. But it can be unclear, especially in international adoptions, how diligent they are expected to be in getting such information. Access to medical information that could save the adoptee’s life has been of no concern to agencies and courts. Instead, the concern has been for agency liability with regard to disclosure from a “sealed” or “confidential” adoption file. The epitome of hypocrisy in adoption circles may be exemplified in the new website *Adoption Medical News* at <http://www.adoptionmedicalnews.com>. The site purports to *“share information from experts about the unique connection linking adoption and health.”* But this is by the same Bill Pierce of the National Council for Adoption (NCFA), the most vocal **opposition** to adoptees’ “right to know” their families and updated medical backgrounds.

The tort of “wrongful adoption” has been successfully litigated when suits were initiated by adopters who have collected large damage awards by claiming that agencies intentionally withheld known information about the adoptee’s medical condition, past physical or sexual abuse, mental health issues or pertinent family background. Rarely had a parent been represented in a suit based on an adoption agency’s fraudulent misrepresentation or refusal to disclose medical information. The Supreme Court had repeatedly refused certiorari to hear such issues by adoptees and parents. Passive “registries” do not result in transmission of information unless both parties are clairvoyant and know to register for exchange of information available as the agencies are prohibited from soliciting a waiver of confidentiality required of both adult adoptee and parent before either can obtain disclosure.

Typically, when disclosure of pre-adoption medical information is made, it is excerpted and summarized, not photocopied, due to agency paranoia that some bit of "identifying" information may be leaked in the process. The recipients of medical summaries, which usually have been "sanitized" at social worker discretion and interpretation, carry no guarantee that these translations by non-medical personnel are accurate nor that the interpreter understands the full implications of medical terms and opinions of portions withheld. At best, selective disclosure "at agency or attorney discretion" is in "agency's best interests," rather than mandatory full disclosure "in child's best interests," and is still the norm throughout much of the United States.

Social work theory and policies have fluctuated according to market demand for "adoptable children." The Introduction to Freundlich and Peterson's "Wrongful Adoption" alleges that "in response to litigation initiated by adoptive families, courts have recognized a duty to disclose known material information about a child's health and social background to prospective adoptive families." If courts and agencies have "recognized a duty," their actions, overall, have shown little evidence of it, despite an increase in litigious adopters, commensurate with an increase in fraudulent domestic, foreign, and Internet-assisted adoptions. Freundlich and Peterson ask "Should agencies automatically communicate any information provided to them after the adoption has been finalized?" Shouldn't the question be "Why aren't agencies automatically communicating medical updates *and conforming to standardized policies?*" Perhaps the answer is that there is no profit in burdening an already overburdened system with such "standards" when children can be adopted from around the globe with only a cursory physical exam.

Clinton Administration's "Adoption 2002" program was designed to "double the rate of adoptions in five years," even though social workers are already overburdened by high caseloads. Pressured to meet their "quota" of adoptions in order to obtain and retain federal funding for doing so, most state and private agencies are more concerned with the numbers than with "child's best interests." Freundlich and Peterson's "recommendations for practice" includes a provision for "disclaimers" stating that "the agency *can* disclose only *known* health and other background information" and that the child may have "undiagnosed" conditions and "the agency cannot, therefore, guarantee present or future health or development of any child." This is because there is no followup of the placement beyond finalization of the adoption. Social workers, adopters and adult adoptees are prohibited from making "unsolicited contacts" with biological family members for post-adoption medical information and updates *when needed*, including for life-saving procedures such as organ transplants requiring tissue matching with a blood relative or discovery of inheritable illnesses. Such practice is worse than purchasing a used car "as is" without warranty from a car dealer who must at least comply with state "lemon laws" and safety codes. Couldn't America do better for its children?

Called a "liar" and a "menace" by Green Ribbon Campaign adoption activists on-line, Dr. Laura Schlessinger (the *Dr. Laura* show, 10-18-00) told an adoptee on her program that adoptees "didn't need an updated family medical history when deciding to have children." She also advised a mother "not to tell" her son that his father was an anonymous sperm donor." She went on to allege and advise her audience "no one needs a family medical history because all the tests are now available."

Thomas C. Atwood, who was serving at President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Council For Adoption (NCFA), and who previously served on the board of Bethany Christian Services, an adoption agency, falsely stated (in NCFA's "Adoption Factbook," page 43) as follows: "Mandatory openness adds nothing to the adopted person's ability to obtain medical information... The increasing availability of genetic testing is making the issue of medical records

moot. One can obtain information about one's genetic predispositions from such tests than from medical histories of biological parents."

Doctors do not routinely test their patients for any of the more than 4,500 genetically transmissible diseases – which do not include all mutations and variations of disorders, syndromes, defects and traits or proclivities – unless the patient knows s/he has a "family history" of a specific disease, disorder, condition, defect and traits or proclivities. In other words, an adoptee would need to be clairvoyant to know for which to test. **More importantly, one must understand that by the time the adoptee is exhibiting symptoms of an undisclosed inheritable disease, it is too late to prevent it.** Also, the cost of testing can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars for each of the 35 most common DNA tests, depending on the size of the genes and the numbers of mutations tested and if a specific test is not available at a local lab, it cannot be sent to a distant lab for analysis. One of the most serious limitations is the difficulty in determining a positive result because some people who carry a disease-associated mutation never develop the disease. A limitation of all testing is the possibility of laboratory errors due to mis-identification, contamination of the chemicals, or other factors. Many in the medical field are concerned about the tests' potential for producing anxiety, and risks for discrimination and social engineering could outweigh the benefits of testing. For \$265, mail-order test results will vaguely indicate "high or low" probability with regard to only 25 of over 4,500 potentially genetically transmissible "conditions" related to Cancer, Cardiovascular, Immunological General Health and Aging.

As of now, physicians treat the symptoms of genetic disorders with drugs that can also produce serious to deadly side effects. However, scientists all over the world are trying to find ways of finding cures for genetic disorders. For this, the first requirement is to know each and every gene present in the human genome and the sequence of the nucleotide bases that code for the amino acids that make up proteins and enzymes. The Human Genome Project was started with the very same aim in 1990. Its goal was to identify and map all the **20,000 to 25,000 genes of the human genome** and to determine the sequence of base pairs which make up DNA. The bottom line is: Why should an adopted child or adult be deprived of basic knowledge that non-adopted citizens are permitted – the "right to know" whether there is or isn't a family history of a common or rare disease, or that red hair or twins "run in the family?" The answer is that the "price" of being adopted by strangers is that the adoptee's "best interests" take a back seat to others' perceived "best interests" in preventing direct contact for knowledge of such information. America *can do better* for its children.

In the same "Adoption Factbook" article in behalf of NCFA, Mr. Atwood also falsely stated that "many thousands of 'birth' parents were '*guaranteed confidentiality*'" -- ignoring the fact that confidentiality or privacy has never been a voluntary option in adoption but is *imposed by statute* and records are sealed from even the parties named in them, even in so-called "open" adoptions. It is unfortunate that Mr. Atwood earned his Masters in "Public Policy" instead of "Scientific Research" and that he derives his income from NCFA which creates a conflict of interest in that NCFA perpetuates the failed closed adoption system ahead of adoptees' best interests. When adoption files *do* contain such information, medical information is usually re-written as summaries at the interpretation and discretion of social workers who do not have a medical background, in accordance with today's state laws requiring mandatory disclosure of "non-identifying information" at the request of the adult adoptee – Unless the relinquishing parents have provided updates to the adoption file (which are not automatically communicated to the adoptive family), such information is 18 to 21 or more years old. In this golden age of genetic research, adoptees are dying who could be saved by

prevention or early treatment.

According to Peggy McKay, former Kansas Social Services Supervisor, "Nothing awful has happened in Kansas," where adult adoptees have always had access to their birth records. Nothing awful happened in Alaska, an "open records" state; nor in Traverse City, Michigan; nor in Oregon, Tennessee and Alabama - "open records" states where "open adoption" is practiced. Yet 44 states still withhold birth records from adult adoptees.

Chronology on the Fight for Access to Medical Information

1981 - *Newsweek* (10/81) reported the plight of James Grant George, an adult adoptee, when Kansas City, Missouri, Judge Gene Martin said "No" to his request to open his court file in order to discover his parents' identities. George had leukemia and needed a bone marrow transplant from a blood relative to save his life. The judge ruled "Although the circumstances were dire, they were not compelling enough to open his adoption file." George's comment to media: *"If I were a convicted murderer, the governor could give me a pardon. Obviously, the 'crime of illegitimacy' is not pardonable in the state of Missouri."*

1986 - *The New Haven Register* (CT. 4-12-86) in "Mom Hunts for the Son She Gave Up," this author asked Judge Glenn E. Knierim, Connecticut's probate court administrator, to give my son's adopters my updated medical information and my physician's letter regarding my inheritable cardiac disorder and also inheritable allergies to at least 10 cardiac medications. Knierim responded that, under state law, he had no authority to take such action. My son was then of legal age to receive such information directly, but Connecticut did not then, and does not now, permit unsolicited provision of medical updates or contact from parent to adoptee, nor from parent to adopters. Subsequently, I found my son by paying a search underground \$2,100, when he turned 18; he had begun searching for me but could not afford court fees to try to open his adoption file. I learned he had been deaf at birth, a diagnosis overlooked by our pediatrician and The Children's Center (Hamden, CT) in their eagerness to facilitate a relinquishment by any means, including deceit. His adopters learned of his deafness from their pediatrician before finalizing the adoption and he was cured with surgery. His adopter said they were afraid to tell The Children's Center, lest the agency render him "unadoptable."

1988 - Nancy L. Fisher, MD, MPH, Society of Human Genetics, Seattle, Washington, and AmFOR, began polling the states and determined that adoptees' background information, including medical, was not routinely collected. AmFOR published the data to support its "open records" lobby.

1989 - *The Desert Sun* (Palm Springs, CA. 5-4-89): Brian Wilkins said his adopters encouraged secrecy by cloaking family problems, and "Keeping secrets has been a way of life for me." When he informed his adopters he had AIDS and wanted to locate his mother before it was too late, his male adopter then declared he "had no son." That's when Brian Wilkins decided to become Hawk Ramsay. "Ramsay" is the name of his mother who gave him up for adoption when he was an infant and "Hawk" reflects his Cherokee and Choctaw roots as well as the nickname he earned while serving on the U. S. S. Kitty Hawk. "Hawk" found his mother who was supportive of her son until the end.

1990 - AmFOR's "open records" lobbying and its televised adoptee-parent reunions drew public awareness about adoption issues, as did *Carangelo v. O'Neill et al*, especially the problem of adoptees' lack of true and current family medical information. Mandatory collection of such information at the time of relinquishment, as well as mandatory disclosure of "non-identifying background information" was then made law in most states.

1996 - At age 21, Brian Bauman, born Kim Sung Duk in South Korea in 1974, who had been adopted at age 3 by Steve and Elaine Bauman of Minnesota, was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia, an insidious form of the disease. He was told he would die within 5 years if he didn't receive a bone-marrow transplant. To save his life, he needed to search for his family. But to many Koreans, adoption of any kind is considered shameful. Korean families who gave up children to meet the increasing demand by childless American adopters, were careful to hide the fact from neighbors, teachers and the children themselves. During its impoverished post-war period, Korea began sending thousands of children abroad for adoption and that human tide is considered a national disgrace. Brian's story was publicized in 1995 in Korea's major media. The newspaper, *Hankook Ilbo*, was flooded with letters from Korean parents who had surrendered children in the past. *The Korean Broadcasting System* conducted its own search with help from the eastern Child Welfare Society which had placed Brian, and found his mother, known only as "Mrs. Shin." Mother and son were secretly reunited but neither she nor his 33-year old sibling were a tissue match for bone marrow transplantation. An unrelated Korean donor was found as result of the publicity, and over the next few months thousands of Koreans volunteered to place their names on two donor transplant registries (Source: "Korea Saves a Son," *TIME International*, 7-15-96)

1996 - Terminal Illness Emergency Search (TIES) website describes their first case (12-96): An adoptee with AIDS named Grady wanted to find his mother before it was too late but the court and agency that held his mother's identity would not oblige. Deb Schwartz, then TIES Coordinator, rallied volunteers via Internet and in less than 24 hours, Grady was reunited with his mother by phone.

1997 - On Oregon's Department of Human Services web page captioned "Little Known Service United Families" (6-97), Christine Joachim reports: "The man's voice on the other end of the phone is weak. He's in his 40s and dying of a genetic disease but says his concern is not for himself. Adopted at birth, he's trying to locate a half-brother he's never met to deliver a lifesaving message: 'You may be genetically at risk for this fatal disease too, but it can be licked if it's detected early.'"

1998 - *Adoptee Birthfamily Connection* post (4-4-98) by New York adoptee, Patricia Coleman Ward: "My son has leukemia and it would be helpful to find my brother born in the 1950s, Bronx, New York. His birth name would be Coleman."

1998 - *NBC TV Extra* (8-14-98) aired the story of adult adoptee, Michelle Robertson's, life-and-death struggle to get the Monroe County, New York court to open her adoption file in order to discover her parents' identities. Roberts has Hodgkin's Disease and requires a bone marrow transplant from a biological relative to save her life. The court denied her request.

1998 - *The Albany Democrat-Herald* (AP, 7-30-98) featured the life-saving reunion of adoptee, Barbara Casali-Mingus, 31, a 1967 "gray market" adoptee. The encounter was amiable but her mother was dying of cancer. Her mother admonished her to be checked for the disease. "I told her I had been checked last year. She says that didn't matter, to get checked again anyway. I did and discovered I have cervical cancer. I had an operation and recovered. She saved my life."

1998 - *The Shreveport Times* (Louisiana, 9-8-98) reported a similar situation with a twist. Shreveport Juvenile Court Judge Gallagher said "No" to Leonard Hargrove Jobron, a 50-year old adoptee whose daughter had leukemia. Leonard's illnesses precluded him from being a suitable donor for his daughter and the Donor Bank had found no match in 2 years.

1998 - *The Wall Street Journal* (12-7-98), asks "Are Adoption Agencies Liable for Not Telling All?" Kristi and Blane Cesnik already had two adopted daughters with severe emotional problems when they set out to adopt more children. They say they made it clear that they couldn't handle

another disabled child. But two infant boys they adopted in 1990 and 1991 both turned out to have Cerebral Palsy and serious developmental disorders. Now the Cesniks are suing the New Beginnings Adoption and Counseling Agency in federal court in Columbus, Georgia. The St. Cloud Minnesota couple claims the agency led them to believe that both infants were healthy, even though they say it had medical records indicating otherwise."

1999 - On 7-17-99, the Delaware Reunion Registry website contained a story captioned "Dying To Know You" about Anna Bound, an adoptee, wife and mother. Her baby was sickly, his condition could not be diagnosed. Doctors needed Anna's medical history to treat him. Being an adoptee, she didn't have it. The adoption agency wanted \$800 for the information which she could not afford. A few months later, Anna died unexpectedly from an inherited disorder she didn't know she had. She left behind a grieving husband and child. Anna was 24 years old.

1999 - *CBS Evening News* (9-13-99) anchor Dan Rather reported that adoptee Curtis Endicott died of a lifelong undiagnosed lung ailment on 9-11-99 at age 51 while waiting for Oregon's successful Adoptee Rights Initiative (Measure 58) to take effect. Measure 58 (HB 3194) passed by a strong margin in the November 1998 election but was held up by a court injunction. Endicott had been an active campaigner in support of the measure and an active participant in the ensuing lawsuit in which he had been granted intervener status.

2000 - Post on website (1-25-00) for former Willows Maternity Home mothers and adoptees at <http://member.tripod.com/~bedgie/thewillows.html> - "Adoptee Deborah Baker O'Connor, born at Willows Maternity Home 4-17-47, lost her battle with leukemia, never having found her family."

2000 - *Adoptee Birthfamily Connection*, (6-24-00) an Internet website for searching adoptees and parents posted this message: "William Ferguson, born Baby Boy Stephens in Modesto, CA., 2-8-52, to Janet Stephens from Ceres, CA. is searching for a Live Liver Donor. He has already lost his son to leukemia in 1997 at age 10 for lack of a matching donor."

2000 - *The Boston Globe* (12-11-00), in "Second Chances: Adoption's Secret Terminally Ill Woman Seeking Biological Past" reported the double troubles of adoptee Susan Martin. Diagnosed with leukemia, Martin, 34, requested any documents to which she is entitled, from Boston's Department of Social Services. She hoped to use them to locate her blood relatives and made a second potentially life-altering decision—to also search for her own biological son given up for adoption almost 18 years prior. All these agencies would do is place Martin's information in a file until the other party should inquire.

2001 - *The Korean Herald* (5-23-01) reported in "Citizens Campaign for Bone Marrow Donation for Adoptee, Korean-American," that the Korean Organ Donor Program was campaigning to help a Korean adoptee living in the U.S. and suffering from leukemia

2001 - *D's Search Posts* (6-2-01), an Internet website for searching adoptees and parents posted: "Emergency Search: male adoptee, born 5-27-53, Kansas City, has leukemia."

2001 - *Ladies Home Journal* (12-01) article, "I am a Medical Miracle" (by Diane Costanzo, "Health Report," p. 76) detailed the plight of Melinda Kerner, a 40-year old adoptee and mother of 2 children, ages 5 and 9. She has leukemia and her doctor gave her about 5 years to live. Kerner then paid the adoption agency the non-refundable fee they require to do a "search" for her parents. The agency reported that her parents "declined to release their names to Kerner." Kerner is currently in remission thanks to a new experimental drug but her prognosis cannot be predicted. A bone marrow transplant would have been better. One can only speculate whether both of her parents could be so indifferent to their daughter's life-or-death request—or whether the adoption agency bungled the

contact. Kerner was not permitted to ask her parents directly or to know of any siblings or other kin..

2001 - Holt International's website (12-15-01) had a special page devoted to an adoptee's medically urgent search at <http://www.holtintl.org/brundage.shtml> - Tami Brundage, 27-year old Holt adoptee from Korea, was diagnosed with leukemia. Holt's file says she was "abandoned." When Tami was taken in by Holt, it was the practice of Holt-Korea to falsify birth names and declare their wards as "abandoned" even when the mother's names were known. The children's health information and ages were often falsified as well, to make them more appealing to American adopters. The now-adult adoptees have no "paper trail" leading to their parents and must rely on passive reunion registries.

2002 - Elaine Tomasini, an adoptee born 2-3-62 in Buffalo, New York on 5-20-01, asked AmFOR for search assistance to locate her biological family. Tomasini has leukemia. A bone marrow transplant from a relative could save her life, but their identities remain sealed in her adoption file.

2010 - "ADOPTIVE PARENTS SUE ADOPTION AGENCY FOR FAILURE TO FULLY DISCLOSE CHILD'S MEDICAL CONDITION IN INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION"
(by Pam Belluck, <http://lawofficeofamanappiah.blogspot.com>, 4-27-10) - Scores of complaints have been made in recent years against adoption agencies by people claiming they were inadequately informed or ill-prepared for problems their [adopted] children turned out to have. The case of Chip and Julie Harshaw of Virginia Beach, who sued Bethany Christian Services, is, in some ways, the reverse of the now-familiar story of a Tennessee [adoptive] mother who put her Russian-born [adopted] child on a plane home. The Harshaws say they are committed to raising their Russian [adopted] son even though they say they would not have adopted him [in 2004] had they known how severely impaired he was. The boy, now 8, is finally diagnosed as having Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, brain damage, and neuropsychiatric problems in the child whose IQ is 53. He was recently placed in an institution and is not expected to live independently, his doctors said.

The Role of Doctors

"First, do no harm."

-"Epidemics," Book 1, origin of physicians'

"Hippocratic Oath," 5th century Greece

In the past and even today, black market baby brokers can be doctors who can also legally "facilitate" adoptions. They may be motivated by money or by a sincere though misguided notion that they are acting in "child's best interests." For decades, there have been physicians who have lied to unwed mothers, telling them "the baby died," and then falsified death certificates and original birth certificates in order to provide laundered documents needed to legalize adoptions of stolen newborns in high demand. Georgia's estimated two hundred "Hicks' Babies," (named for the doctor who sold them to their adopters), and 5,000 babies stolen for adoption by Georgia Tann, then-Director of the Tennessee Children's Home Society, are just two examples of the hundreds of known mass child stealers who made their living on black market adoptions in the 1950s and '60s. Those babies and children are now adults seeking their families. With fees for legal adoptions in recent years ranging from \$20,000 to \$60,000, a child can also bring as much as \$80,000 to \$120,000 on the black market for a variety of illicit purposes. (Source: "The Baby Brokers," <http://AmFOR.net/BabyBrokers>)

But doctors can also be an adoptee's best advocate in an effort to lessen "deaths by adoption" from withholding of adoptees' and their biological families' medical histories. Dr. Boruch Elman wrote AmFOR: "I received correspondence from the editors of a prominent diagnostic guide for

doctors, and they are considering my recommendation that doctors should query patients as to any “adoption in the family.” I have problems with adoption because of the genetic dishonesty it entails. Downplaying importance of genetics is hindering the efforts of humanity to understand viral illnesses including AIDS (because viruses are little more than genetic particles).”

Americans For Open Records (AmFOR) is proposing to Presidential campaign hopeful, Congressman Ron Paul, MD, an obstetrician, and to the American Medical Association (AMA) that they should take up the issue of adoptees’ inability to access true and current family medical information requested on every doctor’s Patient Information form, by lobbying for a Uniform Federal law enabling physicians to access their patients’ adoption files, but without need of a court order and without the burden of being required to prove “good cause” which doctors don’t have the time to pursue and for which lawyers charge huge fees without guarantee of success. A doctor would only need the adult adoptee’s signed Release of Medical Information, or, in the case of a minor, the adopter’s signed Release “for continued care.” The adoptee, and/or his adopter can then be legally informed by the physician of any medical history disclosed to the physician as a confidential decision between doctor and patient, instead of having to mail a request to the court and agency for “non-identifying background information” for a hefty fee and/or attend a court hearing under the present system which allows social workers and judges to “practice medicine” when making a determination as to what an adult adoptee should or should not know about his and his family’s medical history.

Adopters Who Abuse and Kill

(The Reasons Are Different Than When Biological Parents Kill Their Children)

Adam Pertman, Executive Director of the Evan B. Donaldson Institute, a New York nonprofit devoted to “improving adoption policy,” had no legitimate basis for his statement that “Far more children die of abuse and neglect *in biological families than in adoptive families*” (*Chicago Times*, 12-21-04). This was probably wishful thinking by a lot of “experts” when deaths of Russian children at the hands of their American adopters officially totaled “only 12” from 1996 to 2004. But by 2011, at least 30 Russian children had reportedly been killed by their American adopters, arousing media attention (reports excerpted in this chapter), and resulting in Russia banning adoption of its children by Americans. But also 120 cases, believed to be the “tip of the iceberg” of American adopters who killed their adopted children in domestic adoptions, are revealed in this chapter.

About 65% of all child adoptions by non-Russian (foreign) adopters have been by Americans. That is one reason why media in both Russia and the U.S. took notice of an increasing number of Russian adoptees abused and killed by their American adopters. They attest to the fact that adopted children who had been physically and/or sexually abused and/or murdered by their adopters **are not rare** as some would like to believe. These cases also reveal that the *reasons* adopters have murdered their adopted children are *different* than in cases of biological parents who killed their own offspring.

It was reported in *Psychiatric Times* (1-26-09) that a random study by the University of Minnesota, led by Margaret A. Keyes, PhD, compared 540 adolescents born in Minnesota, who were not adopted, with a representative sample of adoptees consisting of 514 international adoptees and 178 domestic adoptees who had been placed by the largest adoption agencies in Minnesota. The finding was that international adoptees had fewer externalizing behavioral problems than domestic adoptees. And yet media headlines were telling us that international adoptees, particularly Russian adoptees, were being “returned to sender,” and even killed by their adopters who could not cope with

their children's violent behaviors.

The Minnesota researchers speculated that domestic adoptees may experience greater prenatal exposure to teratogenic substances or have a greater genetic risk for mental health problems than international adoptees. However the international adoptees were "significantly more anxious than non-adopted adolescents and had significantly more symptoms of major depression and Separation Anxiety Disorders."

Despite the study's findings, Keyes emphasized that "most of the children adopted as infants are well adjusted and psychologically healthy."

Although the study interpreters acknowledge that it has long been known that adoptees have more mental health issues than non-adopted children from behavioral assessments, they erroneously attribute this fact to adopters being more likely than biological parents to bring their children to therapists. But in reality, we find in the following media reports of adopters who killed their disturbed international and domestic adopted children a dramatic departure from the Minnesota assessment.

"Disrupted" or "failed" adoptions of domestic and foreign children have always been difficult to track because of policies that conceal the identity of the child after finalization of an adoption, and there is no reliable government figure as to even the number of adoptees. "Disruption" can mean that the child was turned back to the system, as data on foster kids evidence, or it can include adoptions that ended due to abuse or murder of the adoptee. We do know, from the multitude of studies, that adoption disruptions tend to increase commensurate with an increase in adoption. Statistically, "representative studies" of adoptees are usually not that "representative."

Florida is among the few states voluntarily tracking so-called "disrupted" and "dissolved" adoptions, which happens when adoptive families return children to foster care while in the process of, or after completing, an adoption. Florida had nearly 200 dissolved or disrupted adoptions in 2008-2009, a year when the state had 3,777 adoptions. In Oklahoma, one child advocate said half the 14 boys in the group home where she worked first had been adopted and then returned to the foster system. Legislators there pushed for new law in 2009, fearing the process had insufficient transparency. A Pennsylvania adoption program estimates about 60 of the 200 foster children it works with come from failed adoptions.

Antonia Forkin Edwardson, executive director of the Joint Council on International Children's Services, an umbrella group of adoption agencies, claimed "abusive cases amount to only a tiny minority of the thousands of adoptions that occur every year. The majority of International adoptions are positive. The families are happy." How would Ms. Edwardson know that, since there is no followup after finalization of the adoption? Bearing in mind that most child abuse cases are kept hidden from public scrutiny, especially those in which adoptees are the victims, how would anyone have known about these children's plight if they had not been publicized? One factual account of the percentages of failed international adoptions, the less expensive way to adopt, indicates "**50%-80% of all foreign adoptions are terminated.**" (Source: - "Foreign Adoption Sours; Risk Not Uncommon," *Saginaw News*, 2-24-91).

In researching failed adoptions based on the adoptees' outcomes, one finds that adoption promoters reference skewed statistics and poor studies such as the 1968 National Criminal Justice Reference Service (HCJRS) Danish study ("Mental Illness and Crime in Adopted Children and Adoptive Parents," by O. Bratfos, L. Eitinger, and T. Tau), which studied *only 250 adoptees* born between 1928 and 1939, and their adoptive families, *from adoption records*, which erroneously

concluded: "The incidence of mental illness in persons who have grown up in adoptive homes does not deviate significantly from that in the general population, nor is criminal behavior more prevalent among adoptees. There appears to be no correlation between mental disorders in adopted children and disorders in their adoptive parents. The reliability of the findings may be limited by the small size of the sample."

In "Abuse of Adoptees in Adoptive Home," a presentation given at an American Adoption Congress workshop attended by adoptees, natural parents and adopters, Elizabeth ("Liz") Payne, a social worker, mother and adoptee, reveals that she was abused in her adoptive home. "In recent stories about abuse that occurs in adoptive families, people seem to be startled..... Why should we be startled that there's abuse in adoptive families as well as other families?... I myself am an adoptee and a 'birth' mother and a social worker, and I was abused in my adoptive home. I'm still startled at various times... the general public often says 'Don't they screen those people? Don't these people have to go through these horrendous checks before they can adopt? " The assumption being that they are therefore psychologically better and less prone to any kinds of abusiveness."

First let's look at the reasons *biological* parents kill their offspring. According to the American Anthropological Association, more than 200 women kill their *biological* children in the United States each year. This book includes hundreds more cases compiled by AmFOR and Pound Pup Legacy (<http://PoundPupLegacy.org>) of adopters who killed their *adopted* children. "Homicide is one of the leading causes of death of children under age four, yet we continue to persist with the unrealistic view that this is 'rare' behavior," says Jill Korbin, expert on child abuse, who has studied mothers who killed their children.

Psychiatrist Susan Friedman at University Hospitals, Case Western, Cleveland, has identified 5 motives that might lead a mother to kill her biological child:

- 1) Maltreatment or chronic abuse;
- 2) Mental illness that includes thoughts that killing a child is a type of mercy killing;
- 3) The child is unwanted;
- 4) The mom is psychotic;
- 5) The "Medea Syndrome" – a parent kills the child as revenge against the partner

Friedman further explains: "Moms who kill their offspring may think they themselves need to be punished, or that the children must be eliminated to preserve a relationship. Geoffrey McKee, a forensic psychologist who has studied homicidal mothers, adds to the above list:

- 1) Detached moms who may suffer from postpartum depression or who fail to bond with their infants;
- 2) Abusive or neglectful moms who act out of rage and fail to meet their babies' needs.

The cases of *biological* mothers include young mothers who kill their newborns after concealing their pregnancies and delivering the baby alone. Mothers who neglect their children or fail to get them needed medical attention are the most common and most often involve young mothers raising several children alone. Physical abuse to a child most often occurs over time. Some mothers fail to protect their children from abusive husbands or boyfriends.

Postpartum mental illness, which can last indefinitely, can range in severity from depression to psychosis to personality disorder. Mothers who attempt or succeed at committing suicide have "taken the children with them" to "protect" them as Susan Smith claimed she intended when she let her car roll into a South Carolina lake with her two sons strapped to their car seats. Revenge during a divorce and custody dispute can also provoke maternal filicide, the formal name for such killings.

Michelle Oberman and Cheryl Meyer, co-authors of the book, "Mothers Who Kill Children,"

agree that mental illness accounts for the majority of mother-child killings—depression, postpartum depression, and other mental health afflictions, but noted that the teen who kills her newborn baby may be motivated differently than the mom who drove herself and her children into a river to drown. The authors also discuss common social factors such as isolation, a split with the children's father, and lack of emotional support. A study in *The Journal of the National Medical Association* (Vol. 4, No. 1, 2003) noted a high frequency of substance abuse and intellectual impairment among parents who kill their children.

Now let's look at the *reasons* that are *different* when *adopters* kill their *adopted* children.. Circumstances were said to have differed widely in the deaths of the first 12 (of 20) Russian adoptees whose adopters killed them, ranging from what prosecutors portrayed as “flashes of rage,” to abuse that spanned weeks.

According the reporter, Russell Working, in “*Adoptee Deaths Rare, Experts Say,*” (*Chicago Tribune* 5-21-04), Defense attorneys said “the adopters were stunned by the extent of the children’s medical needs and behavioral disorders while Prosecutors accused the Defense lawyers of trying to shift the blame to innocent victims who survived deprivation of Russian orphanages only to die in families that were supposed to care for them.

In some cases, the thing that pressures otherwise non-violent adopters may be their belief that they must appear to the world to be “perfect” parents, and so an adopter who cannot “fix” the child from an unknown pre-adoption past by punishing him for his behaviors, may resort to abuse or murder rather than seek help and thereby risk appearing as “imperfect” as any parent. Adoption is rife with “make believe” which any psychotherapist will agree is unhealthy for all concerned. (See also “*Pathological Parenting*” by Kerry Semon, Registered Nurse and adoptee: <http://poundpuplegacy.org/node/2940>)

The doctors and psychologists who treat foreign born adoptees say that some adopters are rushing into adoption unprepared for the problems that can accompany youngsters from Eastern European and other orphanages, ranging from fetal alcohol syndrome to emotional disorders. But also the abuse cases in international adoptions are too numerous to count. None of the news reports questioned the added burden to an already troubled child from being expected not only to adjust to calling foreign strangers “Mommy” and “Daddy,” but also to being taken to a foreign country.

When the supply of domestic White newborns exceeded demand in the United States, adopters turned to foreign countries whose children “looked White” and who were readily available at lower cost and without the “red tape” involved with procuring American children for adoption. Adopters could be confident that the child’s biological parents in Third World countries would not be knocking at their door demanding return of the child.

But in 1998, in São Paolo, Brazil, a movement of poor families demanded a revision of the legal procedures that led to their children being put up for national and international adoption. Examination of judicial records revealed that “irregular” adoptions were allowed by the legal authorities without obtaining the families’ consent and bypassing their rights to defend themselves against accusations that included child abuse and abandonment. One sector of the elite views poor children as potential threats to society and, at the same time, as a means of fulfilling the desires of prospective adopters, especially when the child is a “White” or light-skinned newborn. (Source: “*The Movement of the Mothers of the Courthouse Square: Legal Child Trafficking of Adoption and Poverty in Brazil*” by Andrea Cardarello, *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, Vol. 14, Issue 1, April 2009, pages 140-161).

Abuse and Deaths of Russian Adoptees Caused by American Adopters

These cases are separated because “the experts” say they know of no other country from which so many adopted children have been killed by their adopters (*Chicago Tribune* 5-21-04), but as many incidents have been reported from China (see “Abuse of Adoptees by Sending Country.”)

1996 - David Polreis, Jr: DOD 2-9-96. As reported in “Polreis Sentencing,” *ICAD Digest*, (9-22-97) “Renee Polreis is scheduled to be sentenced today in Colorado for the Second Degree Murder of her 2 year-old adopted son David. Sentencing guidelines suggest that she should receive a sentence of not less than 16 nor more than 48 years for the savage beating that one forensic expert said was one of the worse that she has seen in thousands of cases. Renee Polreis adopted her son, David, from Russia and based her controversial defense on the notion that David had Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) a controversial diagnosis. While the defense suggested that the two-year-old child beat himself to death,’ it seemed more plausible (in view of overwhelming evidence that he was beaten to death by an adult) that they were trying to convince the jury that the mother's actions were somehow justified.

The jury convicted her in about two hours and seemed to have no doubts that Renee Polreis killed her adopted son David, but did express sympathy with her difficult situation.”

1997 - Karen and Richard Thorne [Phoenix, Arizona] were found guilty of abusing 2 Russian children they adopted in Voronezh, Russia, on the plane ride on the way home from Moscow. The girls were returned to live with Karen and Richard Thorne of Phoenix. The Queens Family Court Judge ordered that the Thornes would be subject to unannounced visits by Arizona Child Welfare authorities and undergo psychological evaluation as a condition of regaining custody.: [7-3-97] (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

1998 - Logan Higginbotham: DOD 11-24-98. As reported in “Shelbourne Woman Charged With Causing Death of Her Adopted Daughter,” *Syracuse Online* (5-23-01), Laura Higginbotham, 33, was charged with involuntary manslaughter in the case of 3-year old Logan Higginbotham who died of massive head injuries.

1999 -2007 - Girl, 7 Years Old, to be adopted from Ukraine, and in care of Vladimir Karpov, was brought to the US by the Newark, Delaware man in 1999 after her foster family in the Ukraine agreed to the move. He abused her sexually for 6 years. In 2005 the girl's former Ukrainian foster family visited and the girl told about the abuse. Karpov, a Ukrainian native, fled and was eventually found in 2007 by Manteca, California, police. He is charged with 50 counts of First Degree Rape and one count of Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child. This was an informal adoption with no home study, on 7-7-07 (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2000 - Viktor Alexander Matthey (Viktor Sergievich Tulimov): DOD 10-31-00. As reported I (3-28-10) in “Adopted Child’s Death A Familiar Tragedy,” and “Parents of Adopted Boy Who Died Claim He Caused Own Death” by Elizabeth Evans, *The New York Dispatch* - levans@yorkdispatch.com, Robert and Brenda Matthey pled guilty to Child Endangerment and Manslaughter, served about 4 years in prison and were released in November 2008. Viktor was 7 when he died. Authorities said he was malnourished and had numerous injuries in various stages of healing. The adopters parents blamed the injuries on the boy, claiming they were self-inflicted.

2000 - “Samantha” - As reported in “The Perfect Child -48 Hours Looks At A Tragic Tale Of Adoption” (2-10-00, *CBSNews.com*--names are pseudonyms), Crystal and Jesse say Samantha, 9, one of 2 children they adopted, turned out to have deep emotional problems. and that the adoption

agency misled them about her condition. But the agency said it gave the couple all the information it had. Crystal and Jesse say they were running out of money to pay for Samantha's medical care when they tried to return her to the agency in Russia.

2001 - Luke Evans: (DOD 11-30-01). As reported in "Adoptee Deaths Are Rare, Experts Say," (by Russell Working, *Chicago Tribune* 5-21-04), "In some cases, the children lasted only a few months in their new country. Luke Evans, 16 months, died 6 months after he arrived in the United States. Luke was adopted from Sevo, Stavropol, Russia, through Small World Charities. His adopt[ive] mother, Natalie Fabian Evans of Lowell, Indiana, is accused of shaking him to death. She said he would not "attach" to his new family and this was causing a strain on her marriage. On 6-30-06, the *Chicago Times* reported that after 4 years of fighting the charges against her, the Lake County Criminal Court found her "Not Guilty" of Murder, Battery, Neglect of a Dependent Child. The fact that Luke died from being shaken to death was not challenged.

2001 - Jacob Lindorff: (DOD 12-14-01) As reported in "Adoptive Mother Charged in Death," (by Brian Arrington, *International Herald Tribune* 2-27-02 , <http://www.iht.com>). Police have charged the [female adopter] of the 5-year-old Victoria Avenue boy who died in her care Dec. 14 with Murder after medical examiners ruled the child died from a blow to the head. Heather Lindorff, 37, of Victoria Avenue was arrested and charged with First Degree Murder, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Aggravated Assault and Child Abuse. Her husband, 52-year-old James E. Lindorff, was also arrested and charged with Fourth Degree Child Abuse. The arrest comes after medical examiners ruled that 5-year-old Jacob Lindorff died after sustaining "blunt trauma to the head," according to county Prosecutor's Office spokesperson Dianna Reed-Rolando.

2002 - Zachary Higier: (DOD-8-15-02). As reported in "Mom Called 'Unconcerned' About Son," by Dennis Tatz, *The Patriot Ledger* (8-16-02) : "Quincy - When police arrived to arrest her, Natalia Higier appeared more concerned about her dog and returning to her job in a jewelry store than about her 2-year-old son, who lay dying at Children's Hospital, a prosecutor said. Higier, 47, pleaded innocent to Manslaughter and Assault charges in Quincy District Court, 5 hours after her adopted son, Zachary, died of massive internal head injuries. 'Doctors have said that the skull fractures were consistent with a fall from a multi-story building,' prosecutor Robert Nelson told the judge."

"Zachary was born in Russia on 5-24-00. A babysitter told police she had seen injuries on the baby previously, but the state Department of Social Services said the family had no record. Police were called to the couple's house on May 2 and 3, 1995. Natalia Higier took out a restraining order accusing her husband of slapping her and punching her, leaving bruises, but she dropped it after one day. Louis Higier also took out a restraining order against his wife in Norfolk Probate and Family Court. Doctors found injuries, including swelling, that they believe occurred several hours earlier than Higier told authorities. While police were driving her to the station, Natalia Higier said she was a good person and 'sometimes things just happen.'" Police said "The reaction is not what you would expect from a parent whose 2-year-old had been injured."

2002 - Yana and Anatoli Kolenda: (DOD: 10-20-02). As reported in "Adoptee Deaths Are Rare, Experts Say," by Russell Working, *Chicago Tribune* (in same article about Luke Evans, above, 5-21-04), Yana and Anatoli Kolenda, both 11, died nearly 5 years after their arrival in America from Russia- when their [male adopter], Richard Kolenda, 49, stabbed them and his wife to death in their home in Westfield, Massachusetts, then fatally shot himself.

2002 - Maria Bennett: (DOD 10-23-02). According to "Russian Child Murder Cases" by Carrie Craft, *About.com*, Maria Bennett, age 2, of Lancaster, Ohio, died from "Shaken Baby

Syndrome.” Susan Jane Bennett .[female adopter] said she had tripped while carrying Maria and had dropped her. Medical evidence proved otherwise. Susan Bennett pled “No Contest” to one count of Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to 3 years in prison. Maria was adopted 9 months before her death.

2003 - Jessica Albina Hagmann: DOD 8-11-03. As reported in “County Mother To Be Sentenced for Death of Child,” (by Daniel Drew, *Manassas Journal Ledger* 1-21-04), Jessica Albina Hagman was a Russian adoptee killed at age 2 years 7 months in Prince William County, Virginia. Her [female adopter] of 8 months, Patrice Lynn Hagmann, 35, entered pleas to charges of Felony Child Abuse and Involuntary Manslaughter and was sentenced to 5 years Probation for accidentally smothering the child, a victim of “Attachment Therapy.” Patrice Hagmann claimed that Jessica had violent tantrums of long duration and that she was only trying to control and “calm” Jessica during one of her tantrums with “holding therapy,” a method she learned from the book “Holding Time” (Martha Welch, MD), wrapping her arms and legs around the child – a particularly dangerous form of restraint. The Prosecution argued that a mere basket hold would not have killed Jessica and asked the court to sentence Hagmann to 14 years in prison. The autopsy report said Jessica weighed only 27 pounds at the time of death and that she had multiple bruises all over her body. The cause of death was determined to be “smothering and mechanical asphyxia due to compression against an adult.”

2003 - Liam Thompson: (DOD 10-16-03). As reported in “”Russian Girl Survives Awful First Adoption To Find Live in a New Home” (by Jeb Phillips, *The Columbus Dispatch*, 4-26-10): Irene Palmer, 10, survived her experience with her first [adopters], Gary and Army Thompson, but her adoptive brother, Liam, did not. These are the facts in the murder of 3-year-old Liam Thompson.

Gary and Amy Thompson of the Far West Side [Ohio] traveled to eastern Russia in April 2003 to adopt a little girl and a little boy. They already had 2 biological children – one together and one from Amy’s first marriage – and wanted to expand their family. By summer, the Thompsons were sick of the adopted kids, according to a diary kept by Amy. Even though they weren’t biological siblings, Amy wrote of them as a pair. Liam had a cleft palate that had been badly repaired in Russia. Amy wrote that she felt nothing but indifference toward the girl. She and her husband had considered getting rid of the adopted children “like dogs in a pound,” she wrote.

On October 11, 2003, Gary put Liam in a 140-degree bath and held him there while he struggled. Amy, a licensed practical nurse, was at work at a nursing home. The Thompsons never took Liam to a doctor or hospital for his severe burns. During the next 5 days, as the boy’s skin peeled off, Gary kept Liam on a mattress in the basement. He died on his 3rd birthday. Gary Thompson, 38, pleaded Guilty to Murder and was sentenced to 15 Years to Life in prison. Amy Thomson, 39, pleaded guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter and Endangering Children and was sentenced to 14 years. The older of Amy’s 2 biological children went to a foster home. The younger one went with relatives. But there was a little Russian girl in that household too, the one adopted with Liam. The girl’s name never became public in media. Investigators said she wasn’t abused but the Thompson’s had neglected her. She was small and weak. Columbus homicide detective, Patrick Dorn, who handled the case, remembered her as “abnormally withdrawn.” Her name – once Irina Alexandrova Pavlova, then Irene Thompson – became Irina Elizabeth Jean Palmer when she was 4. At age 10, she’s strong and healthy, having been re-adopted by Don and Nadine Palmer who had adopted one other girl and were foster parents to another girl. Irina also wants to know about her “tummy mommy” and what she looked like as a baby. The Palmers have no pictures of her when before she came to them and not much information about her family in Russia. Irina remembers

Liam. She remembers the basement he was kept in after he was burned. Irina also remembers Amy and Gary Thompson. She knows what they did.

2003 - Alex Pavlis (Alexi Vasilovich Geiko), age 6: (DOD 12-18-03) As reported in "Woman Gets 12 Years, Rebuke in Son's Death," by Dan Rozek, *Chicago Sun-Times* (1-25-04), her lawyers argued that Russian doctors and authorities hadn't fully disclosed Alex's medical problems to [Irma and Dino] Pavlis, Chaumber, Illinois. Any behavioral problems the child exhibited didn't explain or justify the punches, slaps and shoves Pavlis said she used to try to discipline the boy who died of severe brain injuries. She likely will be released from prison in less than 4 years. Before she was sentenced, Pavlis expressed hopes her adopted son's death would not stall or halt foreign adoptions of Russian children. On 5-21-04, the *Chicago Tribune*'s first report on this case stated: "Since 1996, [adopters] have been accused of killing at least 12 Russian children. Experts know of no other country from which so many children have died"

2003 - Girl, age 2. As reported in "Mother Charged in Adopted Girl's Death," *CPS WATCH* (3-8-03) - <http://www.cpswatch.com/news/oh.asp> "A Lancaster woman faces criminal charges related to the death of the 2-year old daughter she adopted from Russia. The girl allegedly died of shaken baby syndrome."

2003 - Masha Allen, aka Maria Ysenikova, was adopted from Russia at age 5, in 1998, by American millionaire Matthew Mancuso of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There at his estate, for the next 5 years, he raped the young girl almost every day and recorded the rapes on film which he distributed over Internet. Mancuso was apprehended in 2003, and in 2004 was found guilty of Raping An Underage Girl, Incest (a term usually reserved for sex within a biological relationship), and Unlawfully Confining A Child In Order To Degrade Her. He was sentenced to 35 years in prison.

2003 - Kelsey and Nathan Hyre, as reported in "Adoptive Mother Charged With Abuse; Bonnie Hyre Suspected Crime, Didn't Do Enough to Halt It, Prosecutors Say" by Phil Trexler, *Beacon Journal*, (5-15-02). Nathan Hyre and Bonnie Hyre were adopted from Russia by Gerald and Bonnie Hyre of Kenmore, Ohio, who had been unable to conceive a child of their own. Bonnie Hyre suspected that her husband had been abusing their adopted children while she was away and even took photos of the children's injuries and showed the photos to co-workers at Walgreens. But that was the extent of her efforts to help her adopted children. In April of 2005, Gerald Hyre, 52, was sentenced to 16 years in prison for the beating he inflicted on Kelsey which nearly severed her spine when he slammed her into a wall. The girl will never be able to walk and will need medical care the rest of her life. And a month later, Bonnie Hyre, 34, was arraigned on 2 counts each of Child Endangerment and Permitting Child Abuse. Nathan, age 3, was removed from the Hyre home and placed with his adoptive grandmother (Bonnie's mother). Kelsey, who was almost 3, was placed with a foster family in Mogodore, Ohio.

2005 – Dennis Merryman aka Denis Uritsky: (DOD 1-22-05) As reported in "Autopsy Finds Hartford Boy, Age 8, Died of Starvation," by Anica Butler and Josh Mitchell, 8-4-05, A poster of the Ten Commandments stands behind the mailbox outside the Hartford County (CT) home of Samuel and Donna Merryman, and a hand-painted sign on the front of the house reads Pray and Trust in God. The couple – both Sunday school teachers – are on home detention, freed from jail on \$50,000 property bonds after being charged with Manslaughter, First Degree Child Abuse Resulting in Death, and Reckless Endangerment.

2005 - Nina Hilt: (DOD 7-2-05). As reported in "Russian Girl Killed in U.S., Adopted Legally," *Associated Press* (AP, 7-11-05) from newsfromrussia.com/usa/2005/07/11/60568.html

Investigators began looking into the adoption of [2 year old] Nina Hilt ("Viktoria Bazhenova") after the girl died earlier this month in Virginia. Her [female adopter], Peggy Sue Hilt, 33, of Wake Forest, North Carolina, was arrested last week and charged with the girl's murder, reports the *AP*. The Interfax news agency reported that Russian prosecutors found the girl was adopted with no violations of federal regulations. Hilt's arrest came just weeks after Russian authorities stripped three U.S.-based adoption agencies of their accreditation, saying they failed to monitor the children's well-being in their adoptive families. About 20,000 children are adopted in the United States each year, with Russian children accounting for some 25% of their total number.

2005 – Isaac Jonathan Dykstra: (DOD 8-14-05). As reported by the *DesMoines Register*, in "Isaac Jonathan Dykstra, Another Dead Russian Adoptee," (10-4-08) and "Trial Delayed for Former Iowa City Man Charged in Infant Death," (8-2-08). Brian Dale Dykstra was charged with Second Degree Murder in the 2005 death of his adopted Russian son, Isaac Jonathan Dykstra, 21 months old.. Dykstra was released on \$15,000 bond and submitted a plea of Not Guilty. Dykstra lives in South Carolina where his wife, Dr. Lisa Dykstra, is an Assistant Professor of Spanish at Clemson University. She was not at home at the time of the alleged beating of their adopted son and has not been charged. Isaac was born 11-18-03 in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, and adopted from an orphanage there. An Iowa City Police Department Press Release said that on 8-13-05, officers were sent to Dykstra's home after receiving an abandoned 911 call from that address. On the call back, Dykstra had told the dispatcher that Isaac was having "a little seizure" and difficulty breathing from "what might be related to a head injury." Responding units found the baby on the living room floor, unconscious. Isaac was transported to University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics Emergency Treatment Center for what police described as massive brain swelling, severe bleeding inside the skull, and retinal swelling in both eyes. He also had severe bruising on his torso and legs. Doctors said the injuries happened earlier that day and were inconsistent with Brian Dykstra's explanations. Isaac underwent emergency surgery but never regained consciousness. He was declared brain dead 8-14-05. The injuries to Isaac were consistent with Shaken Baby Syndrome, not a fall on the floor as Dykstra claimed. Isaac reportedly had been living with the Dykstras 3 months.

2008 – Nikolai Emelyantsev: (DOD 3-7-08). As reported in "Mom Gets Prison for Killing Toddler," by Jamie Belnap, *Tooele Transcript Bulletin* (Utah, 10-14-08), A Tooele mom who admitted to killing her 14-month-old child was sentenced to 15 years in the Utah State Prison. Kimberly Emelyantsev, 34, made a 911 call on March 6 to report that her son Nikolai – a child with Down Syndrome who she had recently adopted from Russia – was experiencing breathing problems. Police officers noted discoloration and bruising to the child's face. The child was taken to Mountain West Medical Center, then transported to Primary Children's Medical Center where he later died. Emelyantsev originally told police the child had fallen off a chair in the family living room when she had left the room for a few minutes to change another child's diaper. She was arrested after physicians advised police that Nikolai had sustained injuries that were a result of blunt-force trauma to the head and could not have been caused by a fall as described by Emelyantsev who was originally charged with First Degree Murder but pled guilty to a lesser charge of Second Degree Felony Child Abuse-Homicide as part of a plea deal. At the plea hearing she told the Judge she dropped Nikolai twice - on a bag of diapers and again on a hard surface floor. However during her 60-day psychological evaluation completed before sentencing, Emelyantsev told interviewers that she had kicked the child twice, sliding him across the floor, and, later that day when frustrated with the needs of her other children boiled over, Emelyantsev picked up Nikolai and 'slammed' him onto the hard

surface floor twice – which fit better with the injuries sustained. Emelyantsev and her husband Fyodor both then relinquished their parental rights to their 4 remaining children. – a 10-year-old Down Syndrome daughter from Kimberly’s previous marriage, and their 2 biological children, ages 5 and 2, and a 4-year-old Down Syndrome son they also adopted from Russia last Christmas. Kimberly and her attorney blame what happened on the circumstances at the time and “a husband who would not participate in an extraordinary familial situation.” She was then sentenced to 1-to-15 years in prison, with credit for 214 days already served and a recommendation that she attend all available treatment. The [male adopter], Fyodor Emelyantsev, was charged with one count of Felony Child Abuse in the case of the 4-year old Russian adoptee.

2008 - Chase Harrison (aka Dmitri Yakolev): (DOD 7-8-08). As reported in “Russian Furor Over U.S. Adoptions Follows American’s Acquittal in Boy’s Death,” by Ellen Barry, (*New York Times*, 1-3-09), the boy, Chase Harrison, born Dmitri Yakovlev, died on July 8, a little more than 3 months after he arrived in the United States. Miles Harrison strapped the boy, 21 months old, into a car seat but forgot to drop him off at day care. Nine hours after Mr. Harrison parked his sport utility vehicle outside his office, a co-worker noticed the child’s body. The boy died of heat stroke.

2009 - Agayev Aleksey Gleb, 4, in RT News, (4-2-09): Agayev was adopted along with his sister, Polina. He was tortured and eventually murdered by his [female adopter], Gerushka. His beating injuries included head trauma, genital mutilation, burns, missing front teeth and a black eye. This was a domestic Russian adoption. [3-31-09]

2009 - Nathaniel Craver: (DOD 8-25-08). As reported in “Nathaniel Craver’s Death Prompts Look at Safeguards Within Pennsylvania County Inspection Systems,” by Laura Brenkle, *The Patriot News*, (3-6-10 and 4-2-10 update), in 7-year old Nathaniel Craver’s case, questions are being asked, from Harrisburg to Russia where Michael and Nanette Craver of Carroll Township traveled to adopt the boy and his twin sister. Since the 2003 adoption, the Cravers passed through hurdles intended to protect children, including repeated inspections by the adoption agency and a later investigation by York County Children and Youth. In spite of those checks, when Nathaniel died, after spending several days on life support, he had more than 80 injuries, court documents state. More than 20 were to his head. His brain was softened and the child was emaciated. While school officials could have provided a safety net, Pennsylvania is one of only 2 states that did not require school attendance until age 8. The Cravers opted to home school. Michael Craver, 45, and Nanette Craver, 54, were charged with Homicide, Conspiracy and Child Endangerment in Nathaniel’s death and were incarcerated in York County Prison.

Nathaniel’s death outraged Russian media. A Russian lawyer called for suspension of adoptions by U.S. families because the case fit the pattern of more than a dozen others since the 1990s. Russia had required status checks by the adoption agency for up to 3 years after the adoption was finalized. In 2006, after they were finished with the adoption agency checks, the Cravers were investigated by York County Children and Youth Services and the children were briefly removed from their custody. Court documents quote family members saying in the months before Nathaniel’s death that the boy’s eyes were swollen to slits, something his [adopters] dismissed as his tendency to pluck at his face. The child seemed terrified of making a mistake and clung to the last person outside the family who saw him alive, family members told investigators.

2010 - Artyom Savelyeve, 7, arrived alone at a Moscow airport with a typed letter asking the Russian government to annul his adoption on the grounds that the child was mentally unstable. He was adopted by an American couple 6 months prior. As reported in “Russia Eyes U.S. Adoption

Freeze After Boy Sent Back," by Conor Humphries, (*Reuters*, and *ABC News*, 4-9-10) Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said U.S. adoptions of Russian children would be halted until Russia and the U.S. sign a treaty setting out adoption terms.

2010 - Wani Skorobogatova: (DOD 2009) - As reported in "Skorobogatova Death -- Adoptive Parents Could Be Executed" by *The Lincoln Lawyer* (11-20-10). American [adopters] accused of killing Wani Skorobogatova could be sentenced to Death. A New York court rejected a Defense request to examine the case of the death of a 7-year old Russian boy by the boy's [adopters], Mr. and Mrs Keyversams, as "less serious." The boy was brought to the hospital in August 2009 with horrible injuries. Dozens of photos of the 7-year old's tortured body were attached to the case file after a similar case in 2000 when **the grandson of Vitya Tulimova was also killed by his [adopters]**, and the case of **Larissa Ageeva who was found guilty of torturing his adopted son**.

2010 - 3 Girls, adopted by Edelwina and Steven Leschinsky. Three girls, adopted from Stavropol Russia by Edelwina and Steven Leschinsky in 2005, received unusual and cruel punishment for years at the hands of their [adopters]. [1-12-10] (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2010 - Girl, 4, adopted by Theresa M. McNulty [Amber, Pennsylvania] from Russia The 4-year-old allegedly suffered bruises, welts, cuts and burns to her face and upper body from scalding hot bath water.[2-21-10] (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2010 - Xenia, 15, adopted from Russia by Mary and Michael Grismore and sexually abused by her male adopter. Xenia was originally adopted by Marta-Annette Blanford but 8 years later, without explanation, she was placed with Blanford's sister. A year later, Blanford's husband was arrested for sexual abuse. (Source: Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2011 - Boy, 7, adopted by Jessica Beagley, 36, of Anchorage, Alaska,, who was charged with Misdemeanor Child Abuse after she was seen forcing him to drink hot sauce and take cold showers as punishment for three infractions at school, as seen in a video on the Dr. Phil Show segment called "Mommy Confessions." She told viewers that her [adopted] son was "the biggest stress in my life." Beagley and her husband are active in the Mormon Church and have 4 biological children and adopted twins. The case has also drawn the attention of Russian officials who have been in contact with American officials on the case. (Source: "Russians Outraged Over 'Hot Sauce Mom'" (by Jessica Harper, *ABC News/AP*, 2-2-11)

Abuse of Intercountry Adoptees - by Sending Country

There are no official statistics on "failed international adoptions," which is why the public eye became focused on failed Russian adoptions. The "public eye" is now tracking cases of abused and murdered adoptees in other foreign adoptions. Kerry Semon, RN and Neils Hoogeveen have been collecting reported cases of adopted children abused by their adopters. They also tallied the cases according to the sending country (the country from which the child originated). To date. the countries and the number of cases per country on their website are as follows: Russian Federation (21); China (21); Republic of Korea/South Korea (12); Guatemala (9); India (6); Vietnam (5); Romania (4); Ethiopia (4); Columbia (4); El Salvador (4); Ukraine (4); Mexico (3); Brazil (2); Honduras (2); Peru (2); Dominican (2); Costa Rica (2); Bulgaria (2); Estonia (1); Nigeria (1); Austria (1); Bolivia (1); Israel (1); Chile (1); Bangladesh (1); Samoa (1); Kenya (1); Panama (1); Indonesia (1); Georgia (1); Kazakhstan (1); Marshall Islands (1); Latvia (1); Taiwan (1); Srilanka (1).

Adopters Who Abuse and Kill in Domestic Adoptions

America's first known adoptees were Mary Moore, 4, and her sister Ellen Moore, 8. They were scheduled for the long voyage from England aboard the Mayflower and among the first 102 people brought to America in a 66-day voyage. The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts., on December 26, 1620. Because Mary and Ellen Moore's wealthy parents, Samuel and Katherine Moore of Shropshire, England, went through a bitter separation and divorce, Samuel realized his children would be in social disgrace, but also wanted to punish his wife for her extramarital affair with Jacob Blakeway who Samuel found out was the actual biological father of the girls he believed were his. So Samuel paid to have her daughters sent away on the Mayflower. The abandoned, neglected girls died that winter despite being adopted into "respectable families among the Pilgrims." (Source: <http://members.aol.com/calebj/girls.html>.)

Murders of adopted children by their adopters is not a new phenomenon but is an increasing one. The concept of "adoption" was not legally formalized by statute until 1851 in Massachusetts. Four years later, the earliest known case of abuse and murder of an adopted child was reported by the *New York Times*, on September 28, 1854, in "Murder of an Adopted Child in New Orleans," describing the abuse and subsequent death of Christian Rohnor, a 2-year old boy adopted by a couple from New Orleans. Christian Rohnor was locked up in their attic, starved to the point of being completely emaciated and eventually beaten to death by his male adopter.

From 1968 to 1990, Dennis and Diane Nason adopted between 76 and 84 children, most having special needs, to form their "Celebration Family" or "Nason Nation." They formed their own school, "Great Expectations." Allegations involved physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and mental injury. The children were adopted from Vietnam, India, Korea, Mexico, El Salvador, Chile, Peru, Brazil, Columbia, Israel, and the United States. Although 3 small children, neglected, malnourished, died in their beds, and when other children grew up they claimed childhood sexual abuse and beatings, and being caged, the Nasons were only convicted of racketeering and forgery.

At least 30 *known* cases of Russian children at the hands of their American adopters (as documented in this book) caused Russia to halt intercountry adoptions, and are, experts say, "only the tip of the iceberg of cases" of adopters ill-equipped to deal with troubled children. As adoptions are promoted and "fast tracked," it should not surprise anyone that it has become easier for children to fall into the wrong hands.

1965 -- "A DEATH AT WHITE BEAR LAKE," by Barry Siegel (*Ballantine Books*, 2000) 11-28-00, documents the true story of an adopted child's abuse, murder, and cover-up, in 1965, that took over 20 years for justice to be done—a historical and sociological study of the plight of the abused adopted child in American society. The victim, 3-1/2 year old Dennis Jurgens, was reportedly found dead in his crib by his adopters, Harold and Lois Jurgens, who claimed he had fallen down the evening before. Rigor mortis had already set in when police arrived and the autopsy determined that the cause of death was due to peritonitis due to a rupture of his bowel. Although everyone who knew the family suspected the death was due to child abuse, the case fell through the cracks and was eventually forgotten, until the mother who had given him up for adoption walked into the police station in White Bear Lake, Minnesota in 1996, demanding justice for her son. Lois Jurgens and her husband somehow managed to adopt 6 children from different agencies in different states - all of whom ran away and were removed from their home due to abuse. The book also gives a compelling account of the trial and finally the conviction of Murder for Lois Jurgens, who, for 22 years, almost

got away with it.

An email to AmFOR about the Jurgens case from Pamela Norton Docken, 1-22-03, revealed: "As an adopted cousin of Dennis, I feel it is important the record shows that my parents DID try to intervene, but were unsuccessful due to circumstances. Social Services was not interested in protecting the children. The police department was run by Lois's brother, my uncle. Abuse was a common occurrence in my mother's family. Often things about my mother's family were covered up. According to the investigators in 1986, it was my uncle who stopped the investigation into Dennis's death. My parents, Richard and Donna Norton, moved forth and fought to get Robert removed from Lois's house -- and were -- at least temporarily -- successful. They also fought the placement of the four other children into the Jurgen's home. But that too fell on deaf ears. The social service system failed to protect Dennis. Even after Dennis was scalded, the system allowed his adoption to happen. The Catholic Church failed -- Father Riser knew the family well and did nothing to stop her from getting more children -- he actually wrote a letter of support. Neighbors failed. And yes -- most family members failed. While many family members denied knowing about the abuse, other's did not. My mother's family was a very secretive, powerful family who would go to no end to stop a person from talking. I look at both my mother and my father as two people who went against the family to fight for all the children that were placed with Lois.

I was just a child when Dennis -- who was not only a cousin but also a playmate of mine --had his life taken away. I saw firsthand the frustration my parents went through as they tried to find a way to protect Dennis and Robert, and the other children that Lois managed to get, no matter how dangerous it was to our own family. During this period of time, Lois broke into our home early in the morning and attempted to start a fire in our kitchen while we slept. My father caught her as she left. Lois's attempts to harm our family did not deter my parents from trying to do what they could to protect the children. My parents' efforts fell on deaf ears of social services and local authorities. My father retained an attorney to block the adoptions of the four children from Kentucky. Apparently Lois and Harold managed to get around that. There were people who loved Dennis and tried to save him and to save the other children. In loving memory of Dennis, Pamela Norton Docken."

1976 -- "MOMMIE DEAREST" by Christina Crawford (*Penguin-Putnam*, 1976, *Berkeley* 1986; and 20th Anniversary Edition, *Seven Springs* 1997). When released in 1978, Christina Crawford's "Mommie Dearest" made an indelible impression on America's cultural landscape: it enjoyed 42 weeks on the *New York Times* best-seller list, spawned a cult film classic (starring Faye Dunaway), based on the book, and placed the issue of [adoptive] family violence in the national spotlight and the book still stands as a catalyst for change. Christina Crawford is an internationally recognized, best-selling author and advocate for adoption reform, the rights of women and children, and a pioneer in making family violence an issue of national concern. While the original book places a spotlight on the physical and emotional abuse that famed actress Joan Crawford inflicted on her adopted children, in the 20th Anniversary edition of "Mommie Dearest," Christina Crawford adds a Preface "to reflect the whirlwind that has happened in my life since 'Mommie Dearest' was first published," and an Afterword on adoption reform.

1987 -- "NYC SETTLES LISA CHILD ABUSE SUIT." A 1999 followup report regarding the 1987 death of Lisa Steinberg, reporter Daniel Wise (10-1-99) informs us that (on 9-30-01) New York City agreed to pay \$985,000 to the estate of Lisa Steinberg, a 6-year old black market adoptee who was beaten to death by her adopter in 1987, to settle claims that city agencies failed to protect her from child abuse. Lisa was pummeled to death by Joel Steinberg, who at the time was a criminal

defense lawyer. Steinberg, who had custody of her for her entire life but never [legally] adopted her, was convicted of First Degree Manslaughter in 1989 for killing her.

Lisa's mother, Michele Launders, who originally demanded \$100-million in damages, had paid Steinberg \$500 in 1981 to find an adoptive home for Lisa, sued the City, as well as Mr. Steinberg and his abused live-in companion, Hedda Nussbaum, school officials, and Child Welfare workers, for failing to take action to protect Lisa after receiving clear warnings that she was in danger. Child Welfare workers and police officers had been to [Steinberg's] home and had seen evidence of abuse but failed to act on it. Steinberg and Nussbaum waited 12 hours after the lethal blows were struck before summoning aid from St. Vincent's Hospital where Lisa was taken and died 3 days later from severe brain injuries. Nussbaum, who testified against Steinberg at the murder trial, was allowed to settle the civil suit by agreeing to pay \$500 to a charity.

1988 - HEATHER ALLISON RIGGS, almost 5-years old, adopted from Colombia by Jack Francis Riggs and Beth Michelle Riggs [Roanoke, Virginia] died after being forced to ingest salt as a punishment for sneaking sugar. Riggs also had 4 biological sons aged 7 to 13. [5-16-88]. (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

1990 - "FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE," (by Joyce Egginston, *Jove Publications*) . She had 9 children and every single one of them died before they reached school age. Many suspected Marybeth Tinning of having killed the babies, but some thought it was just a genetic deformity in the family. That was, until the Tinning's two-year-old adopted son, Michael, died for no apparent reason. Tinning was sentenced to 20 years to life.

1992 -“HANNAH, NOAH, MOLLEY and JOSHUA CARROLL DEATHS SUSPICIOUS.” 4 children adopted by Kathleen and Timothy Carroll [Cedarville, Ohio] died under suspicious circumstances. The Carrolls say, however, that they're determined to demonstrate that the children would do best living with them. Despite being called a homicide, no one was ever charged in the case of Noah. [9-21-92] (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

1993 - 2 GIRLS ADOPTED BY GEORGE OGLE. Two girls adopted in the mid-1980's were sexually abused by their adopter, George Ogle, a known child molester, who had previously been convicted for the rape of two of his nieces. [1-1-93] (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

1998 - 2 GIRLS ADOPTED BY MICHAEL A. PAULIN AND HIS WIFE [Greenwood, South Carolina, 1-1-98]. 2 Marshall Island girls, 12 and 8, adopted by the Paulins were alleged sexually abused by Mr. Paulin. (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

1998 - “TWO ADOPTIONS END IN ‘RETURN TO SENDER’ - UNWANTED CHILDREN FROM HUNGARY TO AMERICA AND BACK” (by Peter S. Green, *International Herald Tribune*,(8-11-98) <http://www.iht.com> - “When they left the state children's home in 1996, 7-year-old Gabor and 8-year-old Karoly were looking forward to a bright future as the newly adopted sons of two American couples in the wealthy suburbs of Connecticut. In March, the boys, their names now officially Gabriel Petrosino and Jeremy Harper, and their language now English, found themselves back in Hungary, delivered with little ado to the doorstep of Budapest's main orphanage, each with two bags of clothing and toys, and a lifetime of emotional scars.

Their adopters had simply had enough. They said the boys were children from hell, violent and emotionally disturbed. Unwilling and unable to fit in, they were destroying the lives of their adoptive families. Adoptions are not meant to be dissolved like mistaken marriages, and under a United Nations treaty protecting children, they cannot be. But legal loopholes in both Hungary and the United States,

neither of which has signed the treaty, means that canceling the two boys' adoptions was no more difficult than an average divorce.

The boys are now back in foster care, but Hungarian officials say the case revealed the dark side of Hungary's adoption system, which does not properly prepare or screen prospective adopters and which they suspect is riddled with bribery, corruption and even baby- selling schemes. Two lawyers for the parents said that the parents spirited the boys back to Hungary and asked that their adoptions be annulled days before child welfare authorities in Connecticut were to remove one boy from his family. The lawyers said Gabor falsely accused his parents of abuse because he wanted to be sent back to Hungary. But Hungarian officials said that returning the two, like a pair of faulty video games, was a cruel shock, and that new homes should have been found for them in America. All that the parents said when they left the boys at the entrance to the Budapest children's home was "Bye," reported the adopters' Hungarian lawyer, Istvan Fekete. "Now, adoption seems to be a commercial transaction," said Maria Herczog, director of Hungary's National Institute of Family and Children. "Parents can choose children and bring them home, and if they don't like them they can bring them back." And that, Mrs. Herczog said, is devastating for the children. "They have to learn for the second or third time that they are not wanted," she said. "They learn they are not good enough for anyone, to be loved. And when they grow up, can you see what good fathers they will be?"

Hungarian authorities are waging a court battle against annulling Gabor and Karoly's adoptions, fearing a tide of unhappy foreign adopters will simply return their problematic adopted children. The adopters' American lawyer, Sheri Paige, said the boys were so emotionally damaged before they reached Connecticut that their adopters had to send them back or risk destroying their own families. Mrs. Paige said both boys suffer from "Attachment Disorder," the effect of spending infancy without the emotional attachment to a mother. " \

1999 - "PATRICIA BLACKMON ON DEATH ROW FOR BRUTAL MURDER OF DAUGHTER" by Charles Montaldo, About.com. On 5-29-99 Patricia Blaxkmon, 29, called 911 in Dothan, Alabama, because her 28-month daughter, Dominique, adopted 9 months prior, was not breathing. The medical examiner found bruises on the child's lower chest, abdomen and groin, a fractured leg, 2 broken bones and many other injuries, along with a shoe print on the child's chest that matched Blackmon's sandal. Blackmon was convicted of Capital Murder and sentenced to Death.

1999 - "PARENTS ARRESTED IN DEATH OF ADOPTED SON," by Jami and David Jones, *WSB-TV (12-29-99)*, Loganville, Georgia. " The Walton County Sheriff's Office has not said what exactly killed the child but they do say charges against Louis David Jones and Jami Lea Jones have been upgraded from Aggravated Mbattery and Child Cruelty to Murder. According to deputies, paramedics were called out to the Jones' Loganville home on Christmas Eve about the 6-year-old boy. The boy was rushed to a hospital, where he died. 'Apparently they saw something that just didn't look right to them,' Chief Deputy Bruce Wright said. After paramedics asked deputies to look into the case, Louis and Jami Jones were arrested. Based on the evidence that was obtained through a search warrant the night this occurred, interviews with the parents and information the doctors have given us, there is enough evidence to proceed with this charge, Wright said. DFCS workers were called in to care for the couple's other children."

1999 - "FLINT GIRL'S ADOPTIVE MOTHER CHARGED WITH MURDER" by Ben Schmitt, Staff Writer, *Detroit Free Press* (4-24-09). "Genessee County prosecutors charged the [female adopter] of a quadriplegic 9-year old girl with Second Degree Murder, and 5 other charges, alleging neglect and malnourishment caused the death of the girl who was found dead this week [in a garbage

bag] in a storage unit. Lorrie Thomas, 39, of Flint, is charged in connection with the death of her adopted daughter and niece, Shylae Thomas. Thomas is also charged with two counts of Welfare Fraud, Abuse, Tampering with Evidence, and a misdemeanor count of Removing a Dead Body without the permission of the medical examiner. An autopsy showed that Shylae suffered from malnutrition and weighed 33 pounds at the time of her death. Records indicate the girl had weighed 61 pounds. Thomas cashed a \$2,884 monthly adoption subsidy after Shylae had been dead for about 6 weeks. Jonette Thomas said her cousin, Lorrie "did the best she could with eight children."

1999 - "ARREST MADE IN ALEXIS GLOVER MURDER CASE" by Toni Clark Knight, *Black Spin News* (2-9-99), [Black Voices.com](http://BlackVoices.com). "Although arrested and released from police custody a little over a month ago, Glover's female adopter, who initially told authorities that the girl had run away, has been arrested again. After local police searched her property, she was charged with Felony Child Neglect and Filing a False Police Report. Further charges are 'likely.' The 13-year-old developmentally disabled girl disappeared (1-7-99) from the parking lot of the Manassas, Virginia, Central Community Library."

1999 - "TEEN KEPT IN BATHROOM, BEATEN" by Christine Armario, *AP* (2-18-99) also reported by *CBS News*, Spring Hill, Florida. For three years, neighbors in a quaint, middle-class community scarcely saw the lanky 16-year-old boy who lived with his adopter and her boyfriend. Now, they know why. According to authorities, the teen was brutally abused and held captive in his own home. Most recently, he'd been confined to a bathroom, locked from the outside and sealed with a piece of plywood over the window. By the time he escaped last week, the Florida boy had a broken forearm and scars, scabs and oozing wounds that investigators say mark years of abuse. Hernando County Sheriff Richard Nugent called it "barbaric." "This is almost like what John McCain went through in Vietnam when he was a prisoner of war," Nugent said.

Tai-Ling Gigliotti and her boyfriend, Anton Angelo, were arrested and charged with aggravated child abuse and false imprisonment last week. Gigliotti, 50, was released on a \$15,000 bond. Her attorney did not reply to messages seeking comment, and no one answered when a reporter visited her home. Angelo, 45, was released on a \$50,000 bond. Authorities are still piecing together the boy's history, but they believe Gigliotti is the boy's aunt, and that she brought him from Taiwan to the United States when he was a young child.

The teen, whose name was not released because he is an alleged victim of child abuse, told investigators his stepfather was Anthony Gigliotti, who was the Philadelphia Orchestra's principal clarinetist. The stepfather died at age 79 in 2001, before the abuse apparently began. "He acted very reserved when he was around her," Lynne Gigliotti said of the boy. "And when you would get him away from her, he acted like a little boy." About the time Anthony Gigliotti died, his wife and Angelo began living together. Neighbors said the family moved into their Spring Hill house, about an hour north of Tampa, approximately four years ago. Her nephew didn't seem to be around as much in recent years. Other children said he'd stopped going to school about a year ago.

According to an arrest affidavit, the abuse began at least three years ago, when the boy was forced to sleep in a hallway as punishment. Then in November 2007 daily confinement in a bathroom began. Nugent said the boy seemed to believe the abuse was his fault for minor problems like a messy room. He was also told he'd be deported if he escaped, Nugent said. "The pain had to be horrific," Nugent said. "I think at that point he just became absolutely fearful for his life." The boy, who weighs 111 pounds, managed to break the door frame and pull the door open, Nugent said. He put on some of Angelo's clothes and ran to a neighbor for help. Authorities took him to a hospital, where the full extent

of his injuries were uncovered. The state has placed the boy with a foster family.

1999 - "STEPMOTHER GOES ON TRIAL IN BTUTAL SLAYING OF GIRL, 4"

Miami Herald (10-13-99). The brutal beatings 4-year old Kendia Lockhart endured did not start the night she died, the night someone she trusted fractured her skull by slamming her against a closet door. Just the day before, Kendia's dad discovered his daughter wet and shaking in a rocking chair, with a lump on her head. Another day, Ken Wilkinson said he came home to find her tied to a bathroom towel rack, a pair of panties stuffed into her mouth. Tuesday, Kendia's stepmother, Roselene Wilkinson, went on trial, accused of killing Kendra just 3 months after the child arrived from Nassau for a visit with her father. Allegedly, Roselene threw Kendia so hard against a closet door that the knob made an impression in her head. Roselinr is expected to deny charges and pin the blame n her husband, Ken. "Kendia died because she was the other woman;s child," Assistant Attorney Trudy Novicki told jurors.

1999 - "MURDER IN KOREA" AP story (4-22-99) SeouL, South Korea. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class James W. Fuhrman, 36, of Quincy Illinois, was charged with Premeditated Murder and Obstruction of Justice in the Jan. 25 death of his wife, Choon-ja, 42, and their adopted son, Bobby. Police believe Fuhrman's wife and son were killed somewhere else and then dumped at the construction site, doused with flammable liquid and set on fire to conceal the crime.

2000 - "GRACE BOGEY KILLER CHARGED." Grace Bogey, who was born with Spina Bifida and was paralyzed from the waist down, died on 9-2-00. Autopsy results showed she died from head injuries resulting from abuse. Her [female adopter] Veronica Bogey, and grandfather Terry Bogey are charged [9-2-00, New Mexico]. (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2000 - "COURT DATE SET FOR ADOPTIVE MOTHER OF DEAD CHILD; BIRTH MOTHER TALKS TO 7-NEWS ABOUT HER DAUGHTER" *The Denver Channel* (2-5-01) by Wayne Harrison, details the young adoptee's death as follows: "Jeanne is charged with Criminally Negligent Child Abuse Resulting in Death, which carries a maximum sentence of 12 years. Her adopted daughter, Candace, died during a controversial "Re-birthing Therapy" in Evergreen, Colorado, last year. Candace, who was supposed to work her way out of a blanket to be "reborn" to her [female adopter] during a therapy session, died of asphyxiation a day later. Jeanne Newmaker had brought Candace to the clinic in Evergreen to treat her for "Attachment Disorder," a two week intensive program that cost \$70,000. Candace Newmaker was with her mother until she was adopted by Jeanne at age 5. In her first interview, Candace's mother, Angela Elmore, talked about her daughter: "What kept me going all these years she's been gone was the fact that she would find me and I would hold her again," Elmore said. "I will never see her again."

2001 - "CLAIM BOY KILLED HIMSELF 'UNREAL' COURT TOLD" by Phil Mills, *Brighton & Hove, Newsquest Media Group* (10-16-01). His [female adopter], Michelle McWilliam, found John in bed and called an ambulance. She and her husband Simon concocted a story that John self-abused, to cover up the abuse that one or both of them were inflicting.

2002 - "DEAD GIRL'S KIN SUE ADOPTION AGENCY" by Jennifer M. Fitznerberger, *The Fresno Bee* (3-15-02) , "Five siblings of a murdered child sued the agency that placed them in the home of Angela Thompson. The children suffered years of physical and emotional abuse because Family Connections Adoptions didn't properly supervise their placement in the Thompson home or investigate her background, according to a lawsuit filed in Tulare County Superior Court. Alison Foster, executive director of Family Connections, said her agency made a clerical error resulting in improper certification of Thompson, but was never told details of prior cases of abuse.

2002 - "TETHERED BOY'S MOM IS RELEASED" by Jack Kresnak, *Detroit Free Press*

(11-3-02). Is tying a half-naked disabled child to a plastic bucket with a dog collar and leash, then locking him in a basement room, considered criminal abuse in Michigan? Perhaps not. The boy and his biological brother--both adopted years ago by the woman, a former licensed foster parent, are in foster homes under supervision of the Wayne County Family Independence Agency.

2002 - "LORETTA REED, PETITIONER v. STATE OF FLORIDA, RESPONDENT," (1-22-02) Amended Supplemental Brief Of Petitioner; and Answer by Respondent Florida Supreme Court, Case No. SC01-1238...It was Petitioner [adopter, Loretta Reed's] defense at trial that Petitioner applied punishments as an attempt to manage this "special needs" child.

2002 - "OLDER BROTHER TESTIFIES IN BOSS TRIAL" (*The IowaChannel.com News*, 12-3-02) Donald Boss Jr., 38, is charged with First Degree Murder in the death of his adopted 10-year old son Timothy. Timothy was adopted in Michigan but the Boss's informed Michigan authorities that the child was living in Iowa in order to receive monthly subsidy checks. Timothy's older brother, Claxton Boss, said Timothy was tied to a chair in the basement of the family home. He watched through a hole in the basement wall while his [adopters] repeatedly struck the younger boy. Timothy spent months locked in a windowless basement, deprived of food and forced to wear diapers before his father tied him to a chair and beat him to death in a fit of rage. All of the Boss family's adopted boys, who are Black, were kept locked in the basement of the family's Iowa home.

2002 - "WOMAN CLEARED IN SLAYING OF ADOPTED DAUGHTER" *The Post Gazette* (6-8-02) http://www.postgazette.com/neigh_south/20020608burned.asp [Roberta Gillin, 50] who withdrew from a plea deal on Third Degree Murder charges last year was acquitted on all charges in the murder and burning of her mentally retarded, adopted daughter. James Gillin was sentenced to Life in prison, plus 14 years in 2001 for First Degree Murder. Judge Conrad Capuzzi refused to accept Roberta Gillin's plea after hearing gruesome testimony during her husband's trial. Helen Gillin, 25, the couple's adopted daughter, was stomped to death and her body was burned in a backyard fire pit in 1992. The Gillins were arrested and charged in 1999 after their biological daughter, Mary Joe Overly, told police that she witnessed the killing when she was 13. "She has to live with herself," Overly said. "My sister deserves to get her justice and she didn't." Prosecutors said Roberta Gillin made her adopted daughter drink a mixture of bleach and heart medication after finding out her husband was having sex with Helen. The couple dumped the body into a fire pit in the back yard. The body was doused with gasoline and set on fire. But Gillin denied forcing her daughter to drink the poison mixture. When Gillin was asked why she did not go to the police when she learned her daughter was being abused, she said she was handling the situation through prayer.

2003 - "N.J. STARVING BOYS CASE PROMPTS FIRINGS" by John P. McAlpin, *Associated Press* (10-27-03). Trenton, New Jersey - The body of a 7-year-old boy found in a box in a Newark basement nearly a year ago prompted a shake-up at New Jersey's child welfare agency. The agency reviewed all open cases, hired 366 more employees and received \$30-million in emergency aid. Despite those changes, four adopted boys -- one of them 19 -- were found earlier this month malnourished and weighing less than 50 pounds each. Their [adopters, Raymond and Vanessa Jackson] were charged last week with starving them, and on Monday, nine child welfare employees were fired and the state announced another review of recently compiled safety assessments of children in state care. Social workers had visited the boys' house in Collingswood as many as 38 times in two years, state officials said. Some of those visits had been ordered of all children in state care after the Newark death last January. Authorities said the boys were locked out of the kitchen and fed a diet of uncooked pancake batter, peanut butter and jelly and cereal. The boys told investigators they also gnawed on

wallboard and insulation. They were found after a neighbor discovered Jackson rummaging through trash for food.

2003 - "EDWARD AND LINDA BRYANT: DID THEY KILL THEIR ADOPTED KIDS IN 2003?" by Pete Kotz in "Bad Moms, Homicide," *TrueCrimeReport.com* (3-14-11). Austin and Edward are the adoptive children of Edward Bryant and Linda Bryant of Texas. Both children were adopted by the Bryants in El Paso County in 2000. Officials say the Bryants had 9 adopted children in all. No missing persons report has ever been filed with the sheriff's office or surrounding law enforcement agencies for these two children, even though the Bryants continued to collect \$1,700 a month from the Department of Human Services for the boys.

Altogether, authorities say the Bryants pocketed almost \$175,000 for the boys' care while they told family members differing stories of the boys' whereabouts. According to court documents in the case there are allegations that Austin [last seen in 2003] was physically abused by Edward and Linda Bryant. The documents say that one witness reported that the Bryants used a "taser" on the boy and sometimes rolled him up tightly in a blanket so he could not move and looked like a mummy. There were also reports of welts on the boy that were apparently caused by electrical shocks. According to the same documents, James Bryant was a step-brother who lived in the house with Austin. He reportedly told investigators that Austin was sometimes taken out to the garage and left there for two or three days at a time, and that he would sometimes be locked in a large brown trunk. He says the boy was often denied food and would sometimes eat out of the garbage can because he was hungry."

2003 - "TWO CHARGED WITH ABUSING ADOPTED KIDS" by Lise Fisher, *Gainesville Sun* (4-11-03) Two Gainesville women, including one who has been adopting abused and neglected children for about 20 years, are accused of abusing many of those children - beating them with pipes and forcing them to fight with each other at their home, police said.

Nellie Jasper Johnson, 60, was at the Alachua County jail Thursday where she was being held in lieu of a \$1 million bond on 38 charges including aggravated child abuse, child neglect and tampering with a witness, victim or informant.

Also charged is her adopted daughter, Colony Latrisa Johnson, 29, who was at the jail in lieu of a \$500,000 bond. She faces prosecution on six counts of child abuse and four counts of aggravated child abuse. Police forwarded the names of 19 possible victims to prosecutors, Gainesville Police Detective Patti Nixon said. They were ages 7 to 17 when the alleged abuse occurred, she said. Nixon said this is one of the worst cases of child abuse she has seen. All of the victims were adopted through a Broward County agency called Shepherd's Care Ministries, police and an official with the Florida Department of Children and Families said. The group is licensed by DCF to recruit adults to adopt children and to make adoptive placements, local DCF spokesman Tom Barnes said. The group, Barnes said, would have been responsible for conducting a home study prior to the children being adopted by Nellie Johnson. The last adoption occurred in about 1996, Barnes said. The adopted children came from South Florida, including Palm Beach and Broward counties. Nixon said there may have been more victims. "There are more children out there who are grown and we haven't been able to reach," she said."

2003 - "MAN IN MIDST OF DIVORCE KILLS FAMILY" from Wire Service Reports, in *Salina Journal* (1-28-03) Horner, West Virginia: "A man in the middle of a divorce shot two of his children and a foster child to death in the woods and killed himself... Gayle Sams estranged wife and their 14-year-old daughter escaped unharmed and ran to a neighbor's house to call 911, Two 4-year olds and a 17-year old boy were killed when Sams who was living elsewhere went to the family home. The sheriff said the family was adopting one of the 4 year olds."

2003 - "SLAIN BOY'S BIOLOGICAL RELATIVES QUESTION ADOPTION PROCESS" by Grace Hobson, and Joe Lambe, Staff Writer, *The Kansas City Star* (1-1-03) "Patricia Jones could not have known a fleeting visit with her 2-year-old grandson, Brian Clark, would be her last. This week a social services official confirmed that Brian Edgar, the 9-year-old boy who died of asphyxiation after being gagged, was her biological grandson. How, they wonder, could Kansas social services officials allow Brian to be adopted by people who later would be charged in his death? Brian was a happy, well-adjusted baby, Patricia Jones said. His only medical problem was sleep apnea, for which he used a sleep monitor, she said. Shadden said she did not know why Brian was not placed with anyone in his biological family. Authorities say Brian and two siblings were routinely bound at bedtime and that evidence related to his death was taken to another house and destroyed. Neil and Christy Edgar, pastors of God's Creation Outreach Ministries alleged God told her to tie up her children as a discipline method. The Edgars, along with the baby sitter, Chasity Boyd, 19, were charged with First Degree Murder. The Edgars were also charged with abusing their 16- and 12-year-old sons and 9-year-old daughter. The Edgars adopted all four. The surviving children are now in protective custody. In "KANSAS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY IN ADOPTED SON'S DEATH" (*Associated Press*, 9-19-03), it was reported that Christy Edgar pleaded Guilty to Murder and Child Abuse.

2003 - "FOSTER MOTHER [ADOPTER] CHARGED IN DEATH" by Jack Kresnak, Staff Writer *Detroit Free Press* (3-22-03) " Detroit foster mother who had adopted a girl and was set to adopt two boys from Pontiac was charged Friday with First Degree Felony Murder in the beating death of one of the boys. The foster mother, Lynda Carol Baker, was named in a murder warrant issued late Friday by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. She is charged in the death of Joshua Causey, 4, who had been placed in Baker's care in August."

2003 - "ACCIDENT OR MURDER???" by Lisa Patterson, *Daily World*, (1-12-03) Tap, tap, tap. A little finger poked Nathan Mohler's shoulder. "I think you're my brother," said a blue - eyed little boy with shiny blonde hair. For most of their lives the Grays Harbor boys had been separated from each other while being shuffled through the foster care system. Andy Mohler, the youngest, was adopted not long after he tapped his big brother's shoulder, and the chance meeting that summer afternoon at a 4-H camp in Mason County would be their last. Andy Mohler, later renamed Shawn Lawrence by his [adopters], died while on a fishing trip with his new dad and a young friend on 10-9-99 - about a year after his adoption. At first the 10 -year old's death was ruled accidental. It was determined that he slipped, hit his head, perhaps on some rocks, and drowned in the remote Brown Creek Campground area north of Shelton. Weeks later, police learned the [adopters] took out \$650,000 in life insurance policies on their new son.

When Andy was adopted, the ties with his biological mother weren't the only ones severed; his brother lost his right to contact Andy, too. Mohler doesn't think that was right. Tears turned to anger when he found out his brother had been dead for at least a week, and that the autopsy and cremation had already come and gone. "I understand that it was a closed adoption and everything, but his biological mom and siblings should have been contacted," Mohler said. "Andy had an abrasion in the back of his head, like he fell and hit his head," Mohler said. "But there wasn't any debris in the cut. It makes me think that he didn't fall first. That someone hit him." He's afraid the longer the case goes on, the more chance there is that it will be forgotten - that he'll never know what really happened to his little brother. That's why he decided to talk to the media, including *NBC's "Dateline,"* believing that his speaking out will help keep the investigation alive. The TV segment is expected to be aired nationwide sometime soon. On the fishing trip, detectives said, the [male adopter] separated the two boys and later

asked the friend to help him look for Andy. The [female adopter] attempted to cash out one of the life insurance policies five days after the death.

2003 - "MOTHER ON TRIAL IN DAUGHTER'S DEATH" by Melody McDonald, *Star Telegram* (7-28-03) Fort Worth, - Tiffany Clair was conceived of rape, adopted at birth, had attempted suicide and shot up drugs together with her adopter, when she overdosed and died at age 15. Her adopter, Debra Gatlin Clair, was on trial for manslaughter in the 3-3-01 death of her adopted daughter.

2003 - "GUILTY VERDICTS IN ABUSE CASE" by John Hall, *North County Times*, (5-17-03) Riverside. After several days of what they described as "heated" deliberations, a Riverside County jury found Eileen Marie Merchant guilty on all counts and Michael Cody Gramaje guilty on all but one count in their highly publicized child-abuse trial. The two-week trial of Merchant and Gramaje centered on the near-fatal injuries inflicted upon Kara Sheppard, who was 7 months old when the abuse was discovered in March 2001. Kara and her slightly older sister, Sarah, were left by their mother in the care of Gramaje's wife, Terri, who previously pleaded guilty to a potential life sentence for torturing and abusing Kara. Merchant lived in a mobile home on the same Wildomar property as the Gramajes. Once she was taken to a hospital on 3-11-01, doctors found Kara had a potentially deadly disease that had taken over her left thigh, broken bones, a broken pelvis, bleeding between her brain and skull in two different areas, bleeding behind her eyes, open sores on her mouth and nose, seeping bed sores and a rectal tear. Kara was legally adopted by a couple who have asked to not be identified. They were in the courtroom when verdicts were read Friday.

2003 - "IT WASN'T DISCIPLINE. IT WAS TORTURE" by Geoffrey Fattah, *Deseret Morning News* (8-7-03)- <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,510045231,00.html> Provo. "It wasn't discipline. It was torture." That's what a psychologist said about the actions of a Springville couple [Jennette and Richard Killpack] accused of forcing so much water down their adopted daughter's [Cassandra's] throat that she died. As further reported in "NO MURDER UPGRADE IN WATER-DRINKING CASE" by Ashley Broughton, *Salt Lake City Tribune*, (7-18-03) Provo.. Roy Killpack, 35, and Jennette Killpack, 27, initially were charged with Abuse Homicide, a Second Degree felony, and Child Abuse, a Third Degree felony, in the 6-9-02 death of their adopted daughter Cassandra. Doctors claim the girl died from water intoxication, in which enough water is ingested to lower a person's sodium and electrolyte levels to a point that causes seizures and brain swelling. A medical examiner has estimated that Cassandra drank at least 2.5 liters of water. The Killpacks have said the water drinking was a form of therapy recommended by the Cascade Center for Family Growth in Orem, but the Center has denied recommending any forced water-drinking.

2003 - "MAN HELD, SUSPECTED OF ABUSING HIS KIDS" by Jack Kresnak, *Detroit Free Press* (8-27-03). A Northville man who pleaded guilty earlier this year to sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl living in his mother's foster home was in custody after 2 foster children he had adopted made sexual abuse allegations against him. Scott Francis, 41, who is on the state's list of sex offenders, was undergoing psychiatric evaluation after a lengthy standoff with Northville police in his Yerkes Street home. He was being held without bond awaiting trial.

2003 - "JUDGE THROWS OUT SEVERAL COUNTS IN CUSTODY /MURDER CASE" by Jim Paul, *The Associated Press* (8-23-03) Decatur -- A Macon County judge said evidence does not support prosecutors' allegations that a woman who adopted her sister-in-law's son took part in the woman's murder in 1996. Mary Slover adopted the boy in April 1999, but the state took the boy from her three years later, claiming she knew of the murder and had engineered the adoption to keep Kolten away from his [birth] mother's family. Judge Scott B. Diamond found there might be enough evidence

to support allegations that Mary Slover helped conceal the murder of Karyn Hearn Slover, who was shot to death. Her dismembered body was found in Lake Shelbyville. If Diamond rules against her, Kolten will become a ward of the state and faces another adoption, perhaps by his natural mother's parents. Kolten, now 10, has been in foster care since 2002 while lawyers argued over whether Mary Slover abused and neglected the boy and should lose her parental rights. Her brother and parents, Michael Slover Jr., Michael Slover Sr. and Jeanette Slover are serving 60-year prison sentences for the murder.

2003 - "GIRL, LESS THAN 17 YEARS OLD, ADOPTED BY WANDA AND BOBBIE HOLMES" Roxanna, Illinois (8-1-03). She was sexually abused by her 72 year old [male adopter] with permission of her [female adopter].(Courtesy of Kerry Semon,RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2003 - "RULING TO ALLOW MOTHER WHO KILLED GIRL, 2, TO BE FREE SOON" *The Seattle Times* (6-18-03) When Noreen Erlandson was sentenced to 40 years in prison in 1992 for the brutal murder of her adopted daughter, the judge hoped to send a strong message against child abuse. Erlandson was given an exceptional Second Degree Murder sentence. Under 1992 sentencing guidelines, the maximum sentence for Manslaughter is 10 years in prison. Kayla Erlandson, who was adopted from South Korea, died at Harborview Medical Center in April 1991. When she was found unconscious in her mother's arms, the toddler had 65 injuries, including bruises, brain swelling, a lacerated liver, a neck bite and a deep scald on her arm.

2004 - "COUPLE KILLED CHILD WITH SALT COURT SAID" (by James Sturcke, *Independent Online* 11-20-04) and **"COUPLE KILLED ADOPTED SON WITH SALT, DECIDING HE WAS TOO NAUGHTY"** by Dominic Kennedy, *UK News, and Times Online* (1-14-05) . Ian and Angela Gay killed the 3-year-old boy they were hoping to adopt, by poisoning him with salt, a court was told yesterday. After being given a girl to foster, the Gays were allowed to adopt a family — Christian, his two-year-old brother Nathan, and Chlöe, 5 months. The children were placed with the Gays at their home in Bromsgrove on 11-1-02. Ian and Angela Gay, from Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, were accused of feeding Christian Blewitt up to four teaspoons of salt "because he was naughty" after he failed to meet their expectations. Gay believed his wife wanted to send the children back and their rows led them to sleep in separate beds. Angela Gay was upset when Christian butted, kicked and bit her. Ian Gay held him in front of him and told him to apologize but he refused. The next day Christian smeared gravy over his face, knocked the plate over and stood on his chair, laughing. Gay carried him upstairs where his wife said she found him unconscious. The boy died 4 days later. The judge said the couple had decided to punish Christian by making him eat salt and this was not done "by the sort of inadequate and unintelligent people who sadly often are sitting where you are but intelligent people who had made a deliberate choice in cold blood."

2004 - "COUPLE KILL THEMSELVES AFTER BABY'S SHAKING DEATH" - (AP/Deseret News, 4-21-04) - Southgate, Michigan. A couple caring for two young children they hoped to adopt committed suicide after the 6-month old boy, Tyler Vanpopering, was shaken to death, police said. Carissa Columbus, 25, and Leonard Columbus, 35, disappeared after Tyler died. Police broke into their home and found them in the garage, dead of carbon monoxide poisoning.

2004 - "PAIR WHO CAGED SONS GET LONGER JAIL TERMS" by Tracey Tyler, Legal Affairs Reporter *The Toronto Star* (11-5-04) Nine months in jail is a "demonstrably unfit" sentence for a Blackstock couple who beat and caged their adopted sons, crimes that were "shocking to the conscience of the community" and "cry out for a significant penitentiary sentence," the Ontario Court of Appeal has ruled. "The facts as found by the trial judge unequivocally establish the horrendous abuse of two young boys by their parents for more than a decade," Justice Eleanore Cronk wrote on

behalf of the court, which set aside the widely criticized sentences.

2004 - “ADOPTIVE MOTHER SAYS BROTHER-IN-LAW TO BLAME FOR KIDS ABANDONED” *The Associated Press* (8-20-04) Houston, Texas. The lawyer for the [female adopter] of 7 children found malnourished and sick in a Nigerian orphanage is defending the woman's actions, blaming a brother-in-law for abandoning them while she was in Iraq. Mercury Liggins faces a custody hearing on August 26. Harris County Child Protective Services officials have referred to police new abuse complaints from the children, who claim that she struck them with switches and a cane and had repeatedly threatened to take them to Africa if they ever told law officers about the earlier abuse reports.

2004 - “GUSTAVO ADOLPHO HUNT DEATH.” The boy, 7-months old, adopted from Guatemala by Steven D. Showcatally and Gail Hunt [St. Paul, Minnesota] was dropped to the floor by his [male adopter] and died three hours later. Gustavo was adopted 4 months earlier. His [adoptive] father is serving 12.5 years. The adopters attempted to complete another pending adoption in India shortly after Gustavo's death. [3-19-04] (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2005 - “GIRL TESTIFIES ABOUT ABUSE BY MOTHER” by David Conti, *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* Haley Liberman buried her head in the side of a prosecutor who led her into a courtroom. The 9-year-old girl with long brown hair and pudgy cheeks didn't want to look at her [female adopter], Debra Liberman, who sat at the defendant's table. Officer Connie Diulus found Haley naked, wet and shivering in the closet. Haley's testimony came on the first day of her mother's attempted homicide trial before Common Pleas Judge Donna Jo McDaniel at the Allegheny County Courthouse, downtown. Liberman, 52, of Carrick, also is charged with Aggravated Assault, Arson, Child Endangerment and Unlawful Restraint. Haley's brother, Noah, who was 4 at the time of the February 2004 attack, was not hurt. Both children now live in Virginia with their [male adopter] Liberman's ex-husband, Daniel Liberman. After more time in the freezing February air, Liberman brought her daughter back inside and to the basement. "She put me in the coal cellar. She took a furnace filter and lit it on fire. And she closed the door," Haley said. "It was still burning when I pushed the door open." And Liberman was still there. Haley said her mother poured cat litter over her head, and then three bottles of bleach. "It went down from the top of my back all the way to my knees," Haley said. "It hurt." Liberman then beat the child with a chain dog choker and forced her outside again -- this time naked -- to "wipe the blood off with the snow," Haley said. Then, after running hot and cold water on the girl in the shower, Liberman locked her in the closet. Neighbor Beth McCann testified that she called 911 about 7:30 a.m. after hearing Haley through a shared wall. "She was coughing and crying and saying, 'Please stop,' " McCann said. When at last mother and daughter made eye contact yesterday, both buried their faces in their hands and cried.

2005 - “CAGES BUILT FOR [ADOPTED] CHILDREN RAISE ALARM ,” by Josh Getlin, *Los Angeles Times*, p. A-12 (9-15-05) Wakeman, Ohio. Nine of the kids were forced to sleep in wooden cages and the Gravelles didn't think anything was wrong, officials said. The 11 kids, all adopted, were whisked out of the house on St. John Road and placed temporarily in four foster homes. They are special needs children, with problems including fetal alcohol syndrome, HIV, autism and Down Syndrome. "We're still trying to figure out where all the kids came from," [said Huron County Prosecutor Russell Leffler]. But he issued a news statement, saying that the Gravelles, with the approval of a social worker, had constructed "enclosures" around their beds, because the children demonstrated "extreme behavioral problems" and that "traditional methods of behavior control were unsuccessful." When investigators searched the house, they found few toys lying about. The children's

wooden cages had no bedding, only mats, and some reeked of urine. A key issue is where the children came from, and how a home with such apparent conditions could have been ignored by child-welfare officials for so many years. None of the children were adopted in Huron County; all came from adoption authorities in other states, officials said. Although no figures have been released, a 2001 divorce proceeding between Michael and Sharen Gravelle, ultimately dropped, indicated that she was receiving an estimated \$4,265 per month in adoption subsidies and Social Security benefits for 7 children. The couple adopted 4 additional kids in subsequent years. Sharen Gravelle alleged in the court documents that her husband had displayed "extreme cruelty and gross neglect of duty." He denied this and said their relationship had "deteriorated."

2005 - "QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER TEENS KEPT IN CAGE CAN RECOVER" by Chris Tye, *USA Today* (3-9-05). He was 17, but slept in a padlocked crib. Police say abuse came at the hands of his [adopters]. Ten years ago, Wilson Sullivan and his wife Brenda adopted a 7-year-old boy. Records show the 17-year old regularly wore a diaper and showed signs of starvation, weighing only 49 lbs at 41/2 feet, his growth stunted from stress-- and er communicates by grunting.

2005 - "3 GIRLS ADOPTED BY GARY PATRICK McCOY." Garden City, Michigan. Three girls adopted from foster care by Gary Patrick McCoy were sexually abused by him. McCoy had adopted 7 children. McCoy received 3 sentences between of 17 to 35 years and is incarcerated at Ernest C. Brooks Correctional Facility. McCoy had once received the "Foster Parent of the Year" award. [4-4-05] (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2005 - "DAVISON GIRL, 5, TO BE ADOPTED, ABUSED." A girl, 5 years old, to be adopted by Ernest Richard Davison and Cynthia Joan Davison [Beachwood, New Jersey] had been bound at her wrists and ankles for a considerable time and was suffering from malnourishment. She has Down Syndrome. There were 3 other special needs adopted and foster children in the home [1-1-05] (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2005 - "5 GIRLS ADOPTED, BEATEN." Girls, adopted by Jessica Banks [Moreno Valley, California]. Five girls adopted by Jessica Banks were beaten daily, fed spoiled food and hidden in a garage. Banks, a pastor of the Word of Life Apostolic Church, was sentenced to Life in prison.[5-9-05] (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2005 - "HALEIGH POUTRE ADOPTED, BEATEN." Haleigh Poutre, was hospitalized with severe brain injuries after she was allegedly beaten into a coma by Jason Strickland and Holli Strickland [Westfield, Massachusetts], her step father and maternal aunt respectively, who had legally adopted her. Defying all odds, the brain-damaged girl who was days away from a state order to remove her from life support in 2006, started communicating about the horrific abuse that nearly killed her. [9-11-05] (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2006 - "3 GIRLS TO BE ADOPTED, VICTIMS OF FORCED LABOR." Three girls in care of Mercedes Farquharson allegedly were kept at a North Carolina property and prevented from going to school or even making friends. It's alleged that the girls were forced to clean up after dozens of animals including dogs, sheep and chickens, and that they were forced to perform hard physical labor in harsh conditions. It's also alleged that one of the girls was as young as 7 when the forced labor began. The youngest girl was adopted, the other two girls were taken from their real mother in Southall, West London in the 1990s as she was having problems at the time with a difficult marriage [2-13-06] (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2006 - "RICKY'S ADOPTIVE PARENTS BOTH SENTENCED" by Liz Copeland, freelance writer-reporter, *Associated Press, from Yahoo* (11-29-06) . At the long-awaited trials of Tim

and Lisa Holland, Summit Township, Michigan, who adopted 7-year old Ricky Gann in 2003, Tim Holland pled guilty to Second Degree Murder and was sentenced to 30-60 years in prison in exchange for testifying against his wife who was found guilty of First Degree Murder and Child Abuse and sentenced to Life in Prison Without Possibility of Parole. According to testimony, Lisa Holland hit Ricky in the head with a tack hammer. Neither she nor her husband sought help for Ricky while he suffered for days and finally died of his injuries. Instead, they hid his body and informed authorities that he'd been kidnapped. Michigan parents and adopters have spoken out against each other in multiple forums.

2007 - “ADOPTIVE MOM ACCUSED OF ABUSING, STARVING [ADOPTIVE and] FOSTER KIDS” (*Associated Press*, 7-30-07) Port Lucie, Florida. Nine teenagers and young adults were often handcuffed, tethered together with plastic ties and allowed to soil themselves, investigators say. They had scars on their wrists. Some had burns. None appeared to have more than a fourth-grade education, not even the adults in their 20s. All were starving. In all, 9 teenagers and young adults were held like prisoners in Judith Leekin's home in what appeared to be a decades-long scheme to line her pockets with the government payments she received for adopting and raising them, police say. From the outside, Leekin's home appeared to be as ordinary as the others in this well-kept working-class neighborhood on the outskirts of this Atlantic coast town, 120 miles north of Miami. But its pink and white stucco exterior hid the horrors inside, authorities say. The identities of the young people have not been established nor how long Leekin had them. But authorities believe she adopted all of them in New York City under at least five aliases over two decades. They range in age from 15 to 27. One is blind and mumbles. One can barely walk or stand. One can't read. But authorities said they do not know if the handicaps are a result of the alleged abuse. The case came to light on July 4, some 200 miles across the state in St. Petersburg, when police received a call from a grocery store that a teenager was there wandering aimlessly. The 18-year-old woman, who said she has been with Leekin for 13 years, said Leekin drove her there and abandoned her after telling her they were going to an amusement park. Police and child welfare workers went to Leekin's home, but found nothing awry. Just one child was with her in the house, and Leekin told investigators the 18-year-old ran away a year ago. An 18-year old, named Shane Graham, with Down's Syndrome, and who needed round the clock care, was missing. But police soon returned, and this time they found all the children who had apparently been hiding on Leekin's orders. Leekin, 62, was arrested and jailed on 11 charges, including aggravated elder and child abuse. She declined to be interviewed. Her attorney had no comment. According to authorities, she was unemployed and lived off the monthly stipends provided by child welfare authorities in New York. She owned at least two homes and several cars. The adopted children said they had never seen a doctor or a dentist and had not been allowed to attend school or even leave the house. The 18-year-old told police Leekin threatened to cut her head off if she told anyone what was happening, authorities said. Was there any kind of emotional attachment? Yes, it was fear, If Leekin did adopt them in New York City, she could have been making as much as \$180,000 a year.

. 2007 - “ADOPTIVE PARENT KILLS K.A.D DAUGHTER.” Bae Gang Shik Case No. K83-3518 at *Transracial Korean Adoptee Nexus* (12-16-07) <http://www.kadnexus.wordpress>.Rebecca Kyrie, 28, was arrested in Hamilton County, Indiana, on charges of killing Chung Hei-min, a one-year old girl who she and her husband, David Kyrie, adopted from South Korea about 6 months prior. The girl was killed in a fit of rage by her [female adopter]. Upon her arrival in the U.S., Hei Min Chung was called “Chaeli” by the Kyrie family. The child suffered fatal brain injuries, allegedly from being violently shaken by Kyrie whose 5-year old son told investigators that his mother told him not to say

what happened to the girl. The news came after a Dutch diplomat in Hong Kong drew public fire for allegedly abandoning a 7-year old South Korean girl who he and his wife adopted as an infant. Chung was adopted by the Kyries through Bethany Christian Services.

2007 - "LITTLE GIRL DIES DUE TO ABUSE AND NEGLECT - CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES FAILS AGAIN." *WOAI News*, (5-27-07) as reported by *LiveLeak* at http://liveleak.com/view?i=51b_1188318213. An 8-year old girl adopted by Rubin and Bettie Ramirez was starved, her arms and legs tied with tape, and was beaten with a cane to the point that her brain and skull began bleeding. Her 10-year old sister and 6-year old brother were in the same home. CPS had been contacted numerous times. "It's one of the worst cases of child abuse seen in a long time says Gonzales County investigators. Investigators say the girl's [adopters] severely abused her. The girl's 'birth' mother, Teresa Camarillo, spoke out about the arrest: "They hurt and killed my baby and they hurt my other ones," said Camarillo, who can't stop thinking about how her 8-year old daughter Crystal died. They tortured her.' The child was emaciated and in very poor condition, said Sheriff Glen Sachtelben. Investigators say other children in the Ramirez home were also abused. *News 4 WOAI* investigated the Ramirez's for abuse and neglect back in 2004.

2007 - "SEXUAL ABUSE OF 3 GIRLS ADOPTED BY PATRICIA HARRIS." *Dunville, Kentucky*, (8-17-07). Patricia Harris, 54, pleaded guilty to Second Degree Sodomy and First-Degree Sexual Abuse of her 3 children ages 5, 6, and 8 who she adopted in April 2006 after serving as their foster parent. (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2007 - "JOHN BRYAN COMMITS SUICIDE AMID CLAIMS THAT HE SEXUALLY ABUSED HIS 2 ADOPTED DAUGHTERS," (9-5-07). The same day he resigned amid a criminal investigation into whether he sexually abused 2 of his adopted daughters and a nanny, St Petersburg, Florida City Councilman, John Bryan, committed suicide. John and Alice Bryan were separated and considering divorce when he killed himself. There had been rumors for 20 years of sexual indiscretions and pedophilia. (Courtesy of Kerry Semons, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2007 - "4 ADOPTED GIRLS SEXUALLY ABUSED BY ADOPTIVE FATHER." *Porter, Oklahoma*, (4-7-07). Eugene Richard Putnam admitted he sexually molested the 4 girls who he and his wife, Dyanne Putnam, had adopted. Putnam also beat 3 of his adopted children with a plastic or rubber device. He also faces four counts of Child Abuse, one count of Child Neglect and one count of Committing a Lewd Act with a Child. Putnam's charges were filed in March 2007, following a multi-jurisdictional investigation of the girls' allegations of molestation and abuse. Mrs Putnam was charged with abuse and neglect. (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2008 - "MARIA BARRAGAN SUCCEEDS IN GETTING ADOPTIVE PARENTS JAILED." *Times Online*, (4-5-08), National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons; desaparecidos.org; nuncamas.org. In a landmark decision, a court in Buenos Aires, Argentina, sentenced a former military officer, and the [adopters] of one of the country's many babies "stolen" during the dictatorship, to prison for concealing the child's identity and falsifying adoption documents. Maria Eugenia Sampallo Barragan, 30, had brought charges against the three after discovering her true identity 7 years ago. Ms Sampallo was one of hundreds of children who were snatched from their parents or born in captivity during the country's dictatorship of 1976-83, but she was the first to face her [adopters] in court. Osvaldo Rivas, 65, and Marla Cristina Gómez Pinto, 60, her [adopters], were sentenced to 8 and 7 years in prison respectively. Enrique Berthier, a former army captain who handed Ms Sampallo over to the couple when she was a baby, received 10 years. "These are not my parents," Ms Sampallo said at a press conference. "They are my kidnappers. There is no emotional bond that

binds me to them. These are my parents," she said, picking up photos of her biological parents. Argentina's military regime arrested Leonardo Sampallo and Mirta Barragan, suspected leftist dissidents, in December 1977. Soon after Ms. Sampallo was born, her parents died in prison and the infant was given to Captain Berthier to pass on to another family, who hid her real identity. Ms Sampallo learned about her past from the human rights group Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo. They have found 88 people like Ms Sampallo, children of their own sons and daughters who "disappeared."

Argentine military imprisoned tens of thousands of people suspected of being subversives and killed as many as 30,000. The junta also decided to "rehabilitate" its enemies' children by placing them with families that supported the dictatorship. Many of the children were given to the families of men who may have participated in the torture and deaths of their parents. "My hope is that each conviction acts as a step toward building the truth," said Victoria Donda, an MP and activist who was taken from her biological parents at birth and learned of her real identity in 2003. Doug Ward, Grover Beach, California, comments: "What is not stated is that Maria's [adopters] mistreated and abused her throughout her childhood. Her [female adopter] made it clear that she was not her natural daughter and would repeatedly insult her and threaten her with abandonment, saying she didn't deserve what they had done for her, she was good for nothing."

2008 - "GIRLS ADOPTED AND RAPED," (10-1-08). Girls adopted by John Henry Thomas and Carol Ann Thomas [West Manchester Township, Pennsylvania. John Henry Thomas was accused of raping one of the older girls and physically abusing the others beginning in 2003. His wife, Carol Ann, was charged with Failing to Protect the children from her husband. Carol Thomas pleaded No Contest to charges she failed to protect the children from her husband. (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2008 - "2 ADOPTED GIRLS SEXUALLY ABUSED BY ADOPTIVE FATHER" Las Vegas, Nevada, (6-17-08). The Rodenas had 7 children, 2 of whom were adopted. Juan Rodenas and his wife adopted 2 girls under 14 who were sexually abused by their [male adopter] who filmed the assault. Mr. Rodenas' computer also included photos of abuse of a 7-year-old girl believed to be a relative in Guatemala. (Courtesy of Kerry Semons, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2008 - "CALISTA SPRINGER'S ADOPTIVE MOTHER ENTERS PLEA IN FIRE DEATH" by Kathy Jessup, *Kalamazoo Gazette* (8-26-08). Centerville, Michigan. The [female adopter] of a 16-year-old girl who died in a house fire while chained to her bed has pleaded No Contest to Child Abuse/Neglect charges. Marsha Springer's plea in St. Joseph County Family Court is separate from potential criminal charges that could stem from the February 27th fire that killed Calista Springer. The plea, entered before Family Court Judge Thomas Shumaker, resulted in the two younger children of Marsha and Anthony Springer becoming temporary wards of the court. It erased the need for a trial, which had been scheduled to determine whether the court should have jurisdiction over Calista's sisters.

Shumaker ruled there was sufficient evidence to conclude that the Springers' home is an unfit place for the children to live in after reviewing a transcript of testimony from a Michigan State Police trooper present at the fire in downtown Centreville and a photograph of Calista before she was removed from her bed. "At the time of the fire, Calista was in the care of the mother, who is legally blind," says the amended court petition regarding the removal of the couple's other minor children. "Calista was chained to her bed and unable to escape the fire or to be rescued by fire and police personnel." Anthony Springer characterized Calista as a "special needs" child prone to wandering off during the night. He

said the bed restraint had been used for a short period of time because an alarm that had been used to monitor the girl was broken. Under Michigan child-welfare law, a court finding of abuse/neglect of one child in a home is sufficient to conclude that other children are at risk, according to Douglas Fisher, St. Joseph County prosecutor. Children can be removed from the family home even if only one parent is found responsible for "neglect and cruelty." The cause of the fire officially remains "undetermined," but reports suggest it may have been connected to an overheated vacuum that Marsha Springer was using just before the fire erupted.

2008 - "CHILDREN'S REMAINS FOUND IN HOME FREEZER," from FOXNews.com and MyFOXDC.com, (1-29-08) Lusby, Maryland. Child-sized human remains uncovered in a basement freezer were those of 2 girls and have been there for months, their [female adopter] told investigators. Authorities said they believe she is responsible for their deaths. Sheriff's deputies were investigating an abuse complaint regarding a third surviving child when they discovered the remains encased in ice. The mother told investigators that they had been in her southern Maryland home's freezer for at least 7 months, and police said they are considering the case a homicide. Deputies made the gruesome find in Lusby, about 50 miles southeast of Washington, D.C. They were at the home with a search warrant to investigate what happened to a runaway 7-year-old girl who was found wandering the neighborhood, injured and hungry in a blood- and feces-soaked nightshirt.

The girl's adopter, 43-year-old Renee Bowman, has been arrested. She is charged with First Degree Child Abuse in the beating of the 7-year-old. Bowman was a foster mother to all three before adopting them in the District of Columbia, officials said at a news conference. The girl had open sores and lesions on her buttocks and lower thighs, marks on her neck made by a cord, rope or other item and bruises on her hands and lips, police said. Bowman adopted the oldest girl in July 2001, D.C. officials said. Three years later, she adopted another girl and her 7-year-old sister. She is not biologically related to them.

2008 - "GIRLS ADOPTED FROM CHINA STABBED BY ADOPTIVE MOTHER", (8-21-08) Hannah Rose Wen Rong Sieferman and Linnea Kai Sieferman, both 11-years old, adopted from China were stabbed by their [female adopter], Sylvia Sieferman [Roseville, Minnesota]. Hannah was adopted in 1999 (at years of age) in Nanning; Linnea in 2003 (at 6 yrs). She was hospitalized 2 months prior because of her fears she would hurt herself or the girls. Sylvia Sieferman, pled guilty to 2 counts of attempted murder. (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2009 - "FATHER KILLED [ADOPTED] KIDS, HIMSELF" by Phil Manzano, *The Oregonian*, (6-1-09). Police identified the children as Tyler Gumm, 7, and his sister, Kylie Gumm, 6, of Hillsboro. "It appears that James Gumm shot both kids with a handgun, then shot himself," said Hillsboro Police spokesman Lt. Michael Rouches. "The hard ones are the ones involving children; it is an awful, terrible scene." Lt. Henry Reimann of Hillsboro Police said James Gumm had emotional problems, adding that "some mental health issues were starting to emerge." But Rouches said he had no idea why Gumm, who did not have a criminal record, killed his 2 adopted children. Oregon court records show Gumm and his wife filed for divorce twice, in 1992 and again in December 2007. The mother of the boy's biological father said via e-mail that both children had the same mother but different fathers. Rouches said Gumm and his ex-wife had a custody agreement, and Gumm shot the children during his time with them. There is no record of intervention by the Department of Human Services for abuse or neglect of the children. The [female adopter], who lives in Hillsboro, asked, through the police, for privacy.

2009 - "SEARCH STARTS FOR KANSAS BOY NOW MISSING 10 YEARS" by

Roxana Hegeman, *Associated Press/AP*, and Cliff Judy, *KWCH-12 Eyewitness News*, (1-5-09 to 7-30-10) El Dorado, Kansas. The Kansas parents who failed to report their 11-year-old adopted son missing for nearly a decade were "people of interest" as authorities searched for him nationwide, a sheriff said. Investigators learned Adam Herrman (Irvin Groeninger III) was missing and are focused on finding him, Butler County Sheriff Craig Murphy said. Adam was 11 when he disappeared in 1999 from a mobile home park in Towanda where he lived. Doug and Valerie Herrman adopted Adam at 2-1/2 years old, and he had been in foster care before that.

Valerie Herrman allegedly mentally and physically abused the boy, pinching, hair-pulling, spanking with a wooden spoon or belt, refusing to feed him, and making him sleep in the bathtub without a pillow or blankets. *CPS had investigated several times.*

KWCH Update: The couple were later charged with accepting more than \$50,000 in State Welfare Adoption payments from 1999 to 2005, after the boy had already disappeared. Prosecutors believe Adam was killed and they continue to look into possible homicide charges.

2009 - "ADOPTED GIRLS SEXUALLY ABUSED" (1-27-09). Three Girls living at Hope Haven Children's Home [Virginia Beach, Virginia] were sexually abused by Stephen L. McPherson and Melina Ann McPherson, while working as house parent supervisors. The couple later adopted the girls. (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2009 - "MURDERED ADOPTED CHILD MELODY VASQUEZ" *WOAI News 4*, San Antonio, (4-15-09) Melody, age 3, was killed by a massive blow to her head. The girl's [2 male adopters], Norberto Valesquez, 44, and his partner, Matthew Aranda, 43, were arrested and charged with Murder in the midst of an ongoing battle between her biological family and the agencies in charge of protecting her. Her biological aunt, Petra Jimenez, who had visitation rights but was told by Child Protective Services she couldn't adopt little Melody, said she knew something was wrong: "I'd seen the bruises myself and felt something was being covered up."

2009 - "MOULTON ADOPTED A GIRL SPECIFICALLY TO USE HER FOR CHILD PORN, COULD GET 20 YEARS" by Jim Forsyth), and "**BOERNE MAN GUILTY IN CHILD PORN CASE**" by Guillermo Contrera, "*My San Antonio News*," and *WOAI News* and *KQXT-FM Radio* San Antonio, Texas, (10-6-09.) A federal court took just an hour to convict Boerne businessman Steven Moulton, on Child Pornography charges, agreeing with prosecutors that Moulton, 57, adopted a girl from China specifically to use her to make kiddie porn, the same girl who he was convicted of raping and sexually abusing 3 years prior.

Moulton was already on probation for Indecency with a Child and has been on the Sex Offender Registry since 2006. Lawmen found child porn images, involving several children, on 2 computers in his home. Some of the images were of the 12-year old girl he adopted. Most of the media reports did not mention the adoptive status of the child nor that Mouton had a wife who was also indicted.

2010 - "ADOPTIVE PARENTS KILLED ONE CHILD, INJURED ANOTHER," *KHSL TV*, (-7-10) - Police are investigating an unthinkable crime in Paradise - the death of a 7-year old child and the beating of her 11-year old sister. Prosecutors said that Kevin and Elizabeth Schatz adopted 3 children from Liberia and used quarter-inch plastic tubing to beat their 7-year old adopted daughter to death.

The parents pointed to a book written by a Tennessee Evangelist, Michael Pearl, that recommended use of the tubing for "religious whippings" which had been inflicted on the 7-year old for several hours. The 11-year old adopted child was critically beaten "for being a liar and a bad influence on the 7-year old." Police arrested their [adopters] for Murder and Abuse. Seven other

children were removed from the home. Officers say 6 of the 9 kids were the biological children of Kevin and Elaine Schatz; the 3 others, including the deceased and the 22-year old, were adopted. The 3 adopted children and the Schatz's 6 biological children were being home schooled.

2010 - “ADOPTED AND FOSTER CHILDREN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED BY FATHER.” (6-11-10). Girls, adopted and fostered by Joe David Lujan, 59, and his wife, were charged with Sexual Assault on his 15 year old recently adopted daughter as well as 3 and 7 year old former foster daughters. He was sentenced to 40 years to Life. His wife was not charged. (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2010 - “SEXUAL ABUSE BY ADOPTIVE FATHER OF ETHIOPIAN GIRLS.” Girls adopted by Lon and DeAnna Kennard, Hebard City, Utah, (3-22-10). Two girls from Ethiopia, adopted by Lon and DeAnna Kennard in the early 1990's were allegedly sexually abused by their [male adopter]. The Kennards were founders of the charity, Village of Hope, an adoption facilitator. When the abuse began, Lon Kennard was Bishop of the LDS Church. (Courtesy of Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2010 - “WOMAN CONVICTED OF KILLING ADOPTED SON,” *KTBS.com*, (12-23-10) Marshall, Texas. - Cynthia Hudson of Queen City pled Guilty of Murder of her 13-year old adopted son, Samuel, who she beat to death with an array of household items including a broom handle, a mop handle, a rake, a baseball bat and a computer cord to inflict “punishment” on him. She received a Life sentence.

2010 - “DEAD OKLAHOMA CITY BOY’S ADOPTIVE MOTHER AGREES TO SERVE LIFE IN PRISON” by Nolan Clay, *The Oklahoman*, (11-20-10) - Alibra R. Nichols, 33, of Oklahoma City, pleaded Guilty to Child Neglect, Enabling Child Abuse, and Enabling Child Neglect, the same charges filed against her live-in boyfriend, Donald Ray Miller, 36. She admitted she struck the boy and failed to provide him proper food and medical care. She will serve Life in prison as result of a plea agreement Larandon Nichols, 3, died July 11 at an Oklahoma City apartment. An autopsy determined the boy suffered a bacterial infection due to extensive skin injuries. He weighed only 18 pounds. Prosecutors could not charge the [female adopter] with First Degree Murder due to the unusual circumstances of the death.

2010 - ‘MOTHER FACING MURDER CHARGE IN ADOPTED 3-YEAR OLD’S DEATH” by Joe Millman, *Colorado Springs Gazette* at *Gazette.com*, (4-2-10). Michelle Dossdall, 39, of Peyton, Colorado, was arrested for allegedly causing the head injury that killed Tristan Dossdall who she adopted when he was 1 year old, the son of a drug-addicted mother, and that he required physical therapy. Michelle Dossdall claimed the boy fell on the wet bathroom floor after a bath. She also said she'd been ‘gruff’ with him for refusing to do his physical therapy exercises and that he'd often “go limp” and fall backwards. Dossdall’s 5-year old son was removed from her home and, when questioned by a case worker, said his mother was present when Tristan passed out.

2010 - “BOY LEFT BEHIND WITH BODY OF DEAD SISTER; FAMILY FLEES” by Ray Sanchez, *ABC News.US*, (7-20-10) - and “**UPDATE: LONG TERM ABUSE POSSIBLE”** *KGET.com*, 7-20-10). Alberto and Carla Torres Garcia, both 26, were in process of adopting Alberto’s sister’s 2 children, a 3-year old boy, and Serenity Julia Gandara, age 4. The toddler’s paternal grandmother, Renee Maese, said other family members wanted to adopt the children, but CPS would not consider anyone but Alberto and Cara despite that the maternal grandmother had warned a CPS social worker about abuse in the Garcia household. In July 2010, arrest warrants were issued for the Garcias who may have fled to Mexico after abandoning the 4-year old boy with the dead body

of his 3-year old sister, Serenity, in a Bakersfield motel.

2010 - “LAWYERS FOR DOCTOR ACCUSED OF KILLING DAUGHTER SPEAK OUT”

by Mark Bellinger, *NewsChannel5.com*, (7-13-10). A Wilson County pediatrician accused of killing her adopted daughter is still able to practice medicine in the state of Tennessee. That's because there's no automatic review of a medical license when a doctor faces criminal charges. A Wilson County grand jury indicted Dr. Deborah Mark and charged her with 1 count of First Degree Murder, 1 count of Perpetration of Aggravated Child Abuse, 1 count of Aggravated Child Abuse, and 4 counts of Child Abuse. Her husband, Steven, faces an 8 count indictment.

2011 - “POLICE SAY GIRL ‘SCREAMED AND CRIED UNTIL SHE WAS DEAD”

Miami Herald, (3-8-11) - Trapped in a bathtub, his hands and feet bound, 10-year old Victor Barahoma could only listen through a wall as his [adopters] beat his sister to death. Nubia, his twin sister, was struck repeatedly by their [adopters], Jorge and Carmen Barahona,” Miami Dade detectives reported in an arrest warrant which also stated that the fatal injuries occurred “on or about 2-11-11, or one day after a therapist called a Department of Children and Families abuse hotline to say the twins were bound hand and foot all day, released only to eat.”

Nubia's body was found in the flatbed of Jorge Brahona's pest control truck, drenched in toxic chemicals. Her twin was found hours earlier in the pickup's cab, burned by caustic chemicals, convulsing but still alive. He is recovering at a “therapeutic foster home” after being released from Jackson Memorial Hospital's burn unit. The torment of Nubia's final hours may have been only the ending to what police describe as a year-long reign of terror in which both Nubia and Victor were beaten, tortured and “caged.” The abuse left Victor permanently disfigured as one of the beatings apparently ripped open a surgical scar from the repair of a cleft palate, police said.

Transcripts of 2007 and 2008 dependency hearings detail that the Barahonas, then foster parents, were trying to adopt Nubia and Victor. At the time, a principal and a teacher detailed how Nubia appeared to be extremely scared of Carmen Barahona. Despite the educators' concern, the adoption was finalized. Prosecutors could seek the Death Penalty for the Barahonas.

2011 - “WATERFORD MOTHER KILLS HERSELF, NEARLY KILLS HER FOUR [ADOPTED] CHILDREN”

by Carol Hopkins, *Daily Tribune*, (3-2-11). “Shanda Yenglin, a cancer survivor who worked as an EMT and was studying to become a nurse, was found dead in her Waterford garage from a carbon monoxide poisoning suicide. She had adopted 4 children, 2 boys, 11 and 12, and 2 girls, 13 and 14, but lost custody of them amid allegations of neglect. The girls were given a new foster home and the boys were taken to Children's Village. Yenglin continued to see the children on weekends on unsupervised visits. She had been fighting to regain custody.

It appeared Yenglin had attempted to kill all of the children with carbon monoxide at the same time, by leaving her minivan running in the garage, after putting sleeping pills in their milkshakes. But the 13-year old awoke and found her [female adopter] on the pavement inside the garage. The 10-year old was found unresponsive in the back of the van. The 11-year old boy was also unresponsive when found in the back bedroom. The 13-year old then ran into the house to alert the sleeping 14-year old girl who had not followed their [female adopter] into the garage. Although all 4 children suffered carbon monoxide poisoning with the 2 boys showing life-threatening symptoms, only the boys were hospitalized and all were recuperating.

Yenglin's children had “special needs,” including learning disabilities and problems with aggression. One was born to a crack-addicted mother. Yenglin had seemed overwhelmed by the children and had trouble controlling them. Police had been to the house on a couple of occasions.

2011 - “KENTUCKY TEEN KILLS ADOPTED SISTER” (AP, and *Times Free Press*, 2-20-11 and 2-28-11) - It is not only adopters who have killed adoptees. On 2-4-11, Garrett Dye, 17, beat to death his 9-year old adoptive sister, Amy, who was also his biological cousin. He then dumped her body in a field 100 yards behind their home when she was reported missing.

When the murder occurred, Garret and Amy were outside shoveling gravel “as punishment.” When Garrett was being arrested and handcuffed, he fought with police. He later admitted beating Amy to death with a jack handle and told police where they could find it. Garrett also hid his bloody clothes. He was awaiting trial for Murder at the Warren County Juvenile Detention Center, but under Kentucky law, a juvenile can be tried as an adult if he is at least 14 and is charged with a capital offense. A case number associated with Garrett’s indictment indicates he was charged in 4 prior cases.

Home studies are required on prospective adopters but not other adoptive family members, at this writing it is not known why 9-year old Amy had to be taken from her home and adopted into a family with a boy who had a criminal record

2011 - JAMES ADOPTED CHILDREN GIVE HARROWING ACCOUNT OF ABUSE”

(by Jason Lamb, *KTUU/Channel 2 News*) - Anya James was arrested on 10 counts of kidnapping and 6 counts of First Degree Assault for subjecting 6 adopted children to physical and emotional abuse spanning 10 years, including confining the children in small rooms armed with door and window alarms to notify James if the children tried to escape and forcing them to use kitty litter buckets as toilets.

2011 - HANA GRACE-ROSE WILLIAMS (DOD 5-12-11) A 13-year old girl adopted from Ethiopia by Larry and Cari Williams, was found dead of hypothermia and was 30 pounds lighter than when she arrived from Ethiopia. (Source: Kerry Semon, RN, <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>)

2011 - “FIVE CHILDREN ADOPTED BY JEFFREY AND REBECCA TREBILCOCK STARVED” (by Barbara and Greg Garrison, *The Daily News*, West Longview, Washington, 5-19-11; and *KPTV News*). A boy, 13, and 4 girls between ages 10 and 12, adopted from Haiti by Jeffrey and Rebecca Trebilcock were systematically starved and beaten if they “stole” food. The children reported that they ate dog and goat food and dandelion leaves. An alarm system was installed to prevent the adopted children from entering the kitchen. The Trebilcock’s 3 biological children who also live at the residence were fully nourished.

2011 - “FORMER PEDIATRICIAN GETS LIFE IN DEATH OF ADOPTEE,” AP, (12-3-11). “A former Nashville area pediatrician has been sentenced to Life in prison after being convicted of killing her newly adopted 4-year old daughter. Deborah Wen-Yee Mark, 40, received an automatic Life sentence for First Degree Murder and has also been convicted of 4 counts of Aggravated Child Abuse and Child Abuse. An autopsy showed she died from brain trauma, but had an extensive history of abuse, from 13 broken bones to scarring, from previous incidents of abuse. Deborah Mark told investigators that, frustrated by the child’s behavior, she had hit Kairissa with sticks, shaken her, pinched and twisted her nipples and thighs, and finally flung her into her bedroom wall. The Marks adopted Kairissa from China in Spring of 2010 and she was dead by Jukt 2, 2010.”

AUTHOR’s NOTE:

Andrew Burd, 4 (Overton, Texas); **Carmina Salcido, 3** (Missouri); **Dominic H. (Andrew) Diehl, 13** (Virginia); **Faith Raeanne Robinson, 4** (Rhode Island), are among too many foreign and domestic adopted children killed at the hands of their American adopters to list here. Known cases continue to be posted at <http://PoundPupLegacy.org>. The fate of children taken out of the United States for adoption abroad is not known.

Attachment and Re-birthing Deaths

Between 1989 and 2009, there were at least 32 known cases of child deaths from “Attachment Therapy” and “Re-birthing.” According to Linda Rosa, RN: “Attachment Therapy is the worst quackery in our nation today. To our most vulnerable children - adoptive, foster and minority children “Attachment (Holding) Therapy” and “Therapeutic Parenting” means nothing less than a childhood of relentless torture. How is inflicting fear, pain, humiliation, bizarre notions of reality, threats, forced intimacy, and isolation from friends and family - how is all this expected to lead a child to trust, love, and be happy? We do know it has led to death.”

“Attachment Therapy” and “Re-birthing” sessions are deadly assaults on children advanced by professionals as a cure for “Attachment Disorder,” commonly diagnosed when the adopters simply don’t like their adopted children, or when adopted children don’t like their adopters. In the “re-birthing” procedure, the child is wrapped in a blanket theoretically representing the “birth canal” and forced to try to overcome the weight of one or more adults pressing against him/her to try to make his/her way out of the blanket under their own power. In this crude and dangerous attempt to transform the “chosen child” into one “as born to” the adopter as a “forever family,” children have ended up “forever dead” from suffocation and being literally crushed to death.

The 32 known cases of adoptees abused, injured, or killed as result of “Attachment Therapy” and “Re-Birthing,” (including 8 Russian children adopted by Americans), are as follows:

1989 - Jeannie Warren, 19, sued her therapist (Texas). The “Therapeutic” sessions began when she was 15 and her [female adopter] committed her to a psychiatric institution. She endured 25 sessions for 14 months. When Jeannie figured out that her therapist wanted her to say that she was angry at her ‘birth’ mother, and finally said it despite it was not the case, the sessions stopped.

1990 - Andrea Swenson, 9; Suicide (Oklahoma). When the Swenson’s insurance ran out that had been covering Andrea’s \$3500/week therapy, the Attachment Center pressured her adopters to *allow the Center to adopt Andrea* and thereby get new insurance coverage. When told of the scheme, Andrea committed suicide.

Early 1990s - Bobby Vernon, Jr, 7; Severely injured (Texas). When he fell into a coma during “Holding Therapy,” his adopters claimed that their adopted and foster children were victims of “Satanic Ritual Abuse” before the adopters committed suicide. A book followed: “The Boy Who Was Raised As a Dog,” by Bruce D. Perry, MD, PhD, and Maia Szalavitz (*Basic Books*, 2006).

1994 - S.M. Abbott, 5 - Rescued, Minnesota. This was first a stepparent adoption and then a third-party custody action by the maternal grandmother.

1995 - Lucas Ciambrone, 7, Murdered (Florida). Lucas was murdered by his [female adopter]. His [male adopter] was accused of doing nothing to protect Lucas. The “Attachment Therapy” community entered the case alleging it was an early example of the problems of adopters of “attachment disordered” kids - usually adoptees like Lucas. “

Attachment Therapy proponent, Foster Cline, testified for the defense in both trials as to Lucas’ alleged violent behaviors being consistent with “attachment disorders,” while his teachers reported no violent behaviors at school and there is no violence, cruelty or even aggressiveness associated with Reactive Attachment Disorder. RAD children are either withdrawn or indiscriminately affectionate. The Ciambrones are serving Life sentences.

1995 - Krystal Ann Tibbetts, 3, Killed (Utah). She was killed by her [male adopter], a trained nurse, who was performing “Attachment Therapy” by laying across the 35 pound toddler while pushing

his fist into her stomach for 15 minutes as “compression therapy,” causing her to vomit and stop breathing. She died the next day in the hospital as result of the suffocation and blunt force trauma. In prior sessions, Krystal would scream, lose bowel and bladder control and even vomit.

1996 - David Alexander Polreis, 2 - Russian Adoptee, Killed (Colorado). Detailing is under “Reported Abuse and Deaths of Russian Adoptees by American Adopters” captioned “1996 David Polreis.”

1998 - Roberta Evers, 6, Killed (Colorado). The child died choking on her own vomit while tied to her bed.

2000 - Candace Elizabeth Newmaker, 10 - Killed (Colorado). Details under “Adopters Who Abuse and Kill in Domestic Adoptions” in this chapter, captioned “2000 - “Court Date Set For Adoptive Mother of Dead Child; Birth Mother Talks To 7-News About Her Daughter.”

2000 - Viktor Alexander Matthey (Viktor Sergievich Tulimov), 7 - Russian Adoptee, Killed (New Jersey). Details under “Reported Abuse and Deaths of Russian Adoptees by American Adopters” captioned “2000 - Viktor Matthey.”

2001 - Logan Lynn Marr, 5 - Killed (Maine). Foster kid awaiting adoption after his mother’s parental rights were relinquished.

2001 - Dallas, 5 - Rescued (Colorado).

2002 - Hansen Adoptees, 4 and 5 - Russian Adoptees, Rescued (Utah). Their adopters starved these 2 (of 3) Russian children they had adopted.

2002 - Cassandra Killpack, 4 - Killed (Utah). Details under “Reported Abuse and Deaths of Russian Adoptees by American Adopters” captioned “2002 - It Wasn’t Discipline, It Was Torture”

2003 - Jessica Hagmann, 2 - Russian Adoptee, Killed (Virginia). “Reported Abuse and Deaths of Russian Adoptees by American Adopters” captioned “2003 - Jessica Hagmann.”

2003 - Jackson Brothers, Bruce-19, Keith, Tyrone-10, Michael - Rescue (New Jersey). Adopted by a Black couple along with 6 other Black children, the 4 brothers were almost starved to death. There were elements of Attachment Therapy.

2004 - Christopher Forder, 8 - Killed (Washington). Adopted at age 4 as one of 8 children – 3 biological children and 4 adopted by a missionary couple in Seabeck, Washington, the [male adopter] fled to avoid prosecution and left the surviving children in an African orphanage in Liberia. The [female adopter] pled guilty to Second Degree Murder and was sentenced to 27 years in prison. An adult child was charged with raping another child. The children were flown back to the United States and placed in foster care.

2005 - Dennis Merryman aka Denis Uritsky, 8 - Killed (Maryland). Details under “Reported Abuse and Deaths of Russian Adoptees by American Adopters” captioned “2005 - Dennis Merryman.”

2005 - Sasha Bignell, 11 - Russian Adoptee adopted at 7, along with Girl, 4 (Minnesota). When his adopters failed to get the adoption annulled, they brought him to a psychiatric hospital in Russia and returned to the U.S. without him. Authorities returned him to Minnesota where he lives in a Children’s Services home and is denied visitation with his sister who remains with their adopters.

2005 - Nina Hilt, 2 - Russian Adoptee, Killed (Virginia). Details under “Reported Abuse and Deaths of Russian Adoptees by American Adopters” captioned “2002 - Nina Hilt.”

2005 - Gravelle Siblings, 1 to 14 - Rescued (Ohio). While their adopters collected \$99,000/year in adoption subsidies and state aid, the adopted children were kept in cages. The adopters claimed they were following advice of “parenting expert,” Nancy Thomas and “Attachment Therapist,”

Gregory Kick, and had tried “Holding Therapy” for years.

2005 - Latham Adoptees, 5, 8, 9, 10 - Hispanic Adoptees, Rescued (Georgia). Their adopters claimed that mental health professionals recommended imprisoning the children in their rooms for alleged Reactive Attachment Disorder.

2006 - Vasquez Children, 6, 9, 12, 13 - Rescued (California). Their adopters locked them in cupboards and claimed all 4 had Reactive Attachment Disorder after reading “When Love Is Not Enough” by Nancy Thomas, a proponent of Attachment Therapy. The 13-year old had been used for pornographic photos marketed on Internet.

2006 - Katia Seidel, adopted at age 8 - Russian Adoptee, Rescued as young adult (Texas). When Katia, who was autistic, epileptic and developmentally delayed was diagnosed with “Attachment Disorder,” For which she was treated at Texas Christian University Institution of Child Development, her adopter tried with “Holding Therapy” and Amino Acid Therapy to stimulate the brain.. The state took guardianship. A book detailing the abuse is titled “Starving Katia,” by Jeff Prince.

2006 - Angie Arndt, 7, Killed (Wisconsin). Angie died after 30 days at Rice Lake Day Treatment Center from a 250 pound man placing his weight on the back of the 56 pound child while she was restrained.

2007 - Hepple Children, Girl-13, Boy-10 - Escaped and Rescued, New Mexico. This was a stepmother adoption. Her adopter claimed the children had Reactive Attachment Disorder to justify often tying them up and starving them for a week at a time.

2007 - Kathryn Amon, 9 - Russian Adoptee adopted at age 2, Rescued (North Carolina). Adopted along with a boy, 3, their [female adopter] swaddled Kathryn in a blanket for “Holding Therapy” and sent her to Thompson Child and Family Focus Treatment Center that specializes in treating Attachment Disorder, then to a psychiatric facility and relinquished her parental rights. Kathryn was then placed in DSS custody.

2008 - Ashlee Bunch, 15 , adopted at age 4, Suicide (Washington). Adopted by a divorced man who remarried and sent Ashlee to McGraw Residential Center with multiple diagnoses of Attachment Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome effects, Attention Deficit Disorder, and Defiant Disorder, and where she attempted suicide 8 times. While at a suicide prevention center in Seattle, Ashlee hanged herself with a shoelace, on 1-28-08.

2008 - Rhoten Girl, 13 - Rescued (Missouri). The unnamed girl, adopted from a Panamanian orphanage at age 3 by Kathy and Steve Rhoten, was removed from their Edwardsville, Missouri home and placed in foster care when authorities determined the girl was being abused. A grand jury indicted each adopter with 2 counts of Criminal Restraint. The adopters claimed the girl has “Reactive Attachment Disorder,” describing her as “disobedient, rageful, and destructive” and that because she engaged in self-abusive behaviors, they restrained her with zip ties. (*St. Louis Dispatch*, 3-30-08).

2009 - Alexis (“Lexie”) Glover, 13 (Virginia). Black adoptee diagnosed autistic but her adopter, Alfreeda Gregg-Glover, a Black woman, insisted it was Reactive Attachment Disorder and was later sentenced to 51 years (25 years suspended) for the girl’s Murder by hyperthermia and drowning.

2009 - Corbin Adoptees, 7, 8, 10, 12 - Russian Adoptees, Rescued (Wisconsin). Found locked in their rooms with piles of their feces. The [male adopter] claimed his wife had mental issues.

2009 - Nathaniel Craver, 7, Russian Adoptee, Killed (Pennsylvania). Details under “Reported Abuse and Deaths of Russian Adoptees by American Adopters” captioned “2009 - Nathaniel Craver.”

10. DONOR OFFSPRING ADOPTION

In "When Dad Is A Donor" (*Newsweek*, 8-13-01, p. 46), the article's authors, David Noonan and Karen Springen, erroneously believe that some children who are the product of donor insemination today know more about their anonymous biological fathers, "illustrating just how much things have changed" and that these children have a chance of meeting their donor fathers someday. *Has it changed?* Confidentiality laws and fertility clinic and physician unwillingness to disclose identifying information has *not* changed. So AmFOR initiated the first totally free worldwide Donor Offspring/Donor Parent Search and Registry website at <http://AmFOR.net/DonorOffspring.html>. At this writing there are close to 2,000 registrants and the first "matches" have been facilitated.

Historically, medical students could earn a few dollars by regularly donating their sperm to sperm banks for the purpose of donor insemination in instances where the husband is infertile. Donor insemination has become an increasingly popular option among thousands of single women without male partners who want to have babies before their child bearing years end, as well as among thousands of Lesbian couples choosing the procedure. Generally, the non-biologically related partner *adopts* the resulting child who is then co-parented by both women. A San Francisco Donor Offspring lawsuit (*AP*, 8-24-00) resulted in the following ruling: **"Anonymous sperm donors don't have unlimited right to privacy."**

An 11-year old Santa Barbara girl, Brittany Johnson, a donor offspring with a kidney disorder, won the right to information from a California Cryobank about her donor father. Her attorney was Walter Koontz and the attorney for the Cryobank/donor father was Gary Bostwick.

Some sperm banks intentionally mixed sperm of two or more donors so that no one would know who fathered the resulting children, not even the sperm bank. According to an adoption social worker in Riverside, County, California, many of the resulting children residing in close proximity to each other, not knowing they are siblings, have had sex and even married before learning the truth of their biological relatedness. Like adoption laws, reproductive laws vary from state to state. Louisiana prohibits the sale of human ovum, fertilized human ovum, or human embryos. Indiana criminalizes the sale of human eggs or embryos but allows egg donors to be paid up to \$3,000 for "recovery time" and expense for lost work and travel time. Virginia excludes "ovum and other self reproducing body fluids" from its statute criminalizing the sale of "body parts" but allows expense reimbursements.

When the idea of Donor Insemination as an answer to infertility caught on and spread in the years following World War II, and later Egg Donation was perfected, embarrassed couples rarely told anyone where their babies came from—including the children themselves. Many sperm banks and the doctors who performed the procedures advised parents to keep it secret, just as adopters had once been advised. The presumption was that infertile men couldn't handle openness about Donor Insemination. But since the shift of social theory and the powerful influence of single women in their 40s for whom the stigma of male infertility is a non-issue, there is also a growing tendency among Donor children and past Donors to attempt to unravel the mystery.

CBS-60 Minutes (7-22-00) explored the ethics of today's infertility solutions by interviewing now-adult "designer babies"—Donor Offspring whose Donors had been selected for their I.Q. and talents. They said the pressure of their parents' expectations that they would become like their anonymous fathers who they could not meet caused them to suppress any such inclinations instead. What we're getting, instead of reproduction, is production – making babies as '*consumer products*' according to the customer's shopping list of genetic traits. Just one sperm bank in California reports

production of 30,000 babies per year.

Today, even a cursory survey of so-called child acquisition in the United States reveals a broad landscape of baby demand and the multitude of ways in which the hunger for babies is satisfied. The menu of legal and illegal options by which infertile couples, single, feminist and lesbian women can satisfy their cravings for children is expensive. But the dynamics of the marketplace simply satisfy adult needs for whatever children represent in their lives – such as creating or saving a marriage, or merely keeping up with celebrity adopters such as Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt. Often it is both.

CORDAY, Bill

Bill was 37 when, after the death of the man he now refers to as his "social father," his mother told him he had a Donor father. Corday, now 56, began to search for his biological father and has become a well-known advocate for the rights of Donor Offspring.

SYLLA, John

John Sylla, 42, a Los Angeles lawyer *who donated sperm 35 times nearly two decades ago* when he was a student at the University of Chicago, would like to know any children he may have fathered.

CHIPPS, Chris

Chris Chipps, a mother of children created by Donor Insemination, volunteers to watch for spam on AmFOR's online Donor Offspring/Donor Parent Registry and monitors new posts in hope of finding her child's Donor "match" based on the anonymous Donor's case number.

HOLLANDER, Sue

Sue Hollander, mother of a son conceived by Donor insemination, heads the "Alliance for Donor Insemination Families," based in Englewood, Colorado. Hollander advises, "It can be a very natural and loving kind of process if the parents are at peace with how they've made their family. If they're not, that gets transferred to the child."

11. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: ATTORNEYS, ACLU, ADOPTEES

*"Adopted people are not allowed ancestry
because it might upset somebody."*

—Sandra K. Musser, mother and open adoption records activist

Despite their dedication to upholding the Bill of Rights, lawyers, particularly those organized, present a conflict of interest for adoptees seeking to access their own information.

Class actions challenging sealed adoption records have reached the United States Supreme Court. They were: ALMA Society v. Mellon (601 F2d 1225.2d Cir., 1979); Yesterday's Children v. Kennedy (569 F. 2d, 1977); and Carangelo, Schafrick et al v. O'Neill, State of Connecticut, The Children's Center et al (Docketed as No. 99-6838, 1993 and denied certiorari 1-10-94).

The general consensus among attorneys has been that the politically Supreme Court is "not ready" to decide the constitutionality of these laws, much less the constitutionality of adoption itself. To declare adoption unconstitutional could possibly nullify the past 8 decades of adoptions in America.

**National Academy of Adoption Attorneys (NAAA), and
National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL)**

"What do a sperm cell and an attorney have in common?

They both have a million-to-one chance of becoming a human being."

-Author Unknown

Today, adoption attorneys may be engaged in a wide range of adoption related matters, including closed and open adoptions, domestic and intercountry adoptions, gay/lesbian adoptions, surrogate/donor offspring adoptions and even embryo adoptions. They usually represent the party who pays -- typically the adopter -- and so may present a conflict of interest to the adoptee.

The National Academy of Adoption Attorneys (NAAA) has consistently lobbied *against* "open records" legislation. To untangle the complex web of attorney "conflict of interest" in the adoption arena, one must first be aware that almost any practicing civil law attorney may derive income from facilitating adoptions, or may represent an adoption agency, its insurers, or other adoption-related interests.

Even "jailhouse lawyers" such as Everett Osborne, who wrote AmFOR from Airway Heights Correctional Facility, in Washington state, can and do facilitate adoptions for prison staff through their paralegal work. In most states, a lawyer may represent both the relinquishing parents and the adopters (who pay the attorney's fees for such dual representation) despite that the competing interests of the parties presents a conflict of interest. **The American Bar Association agrees that, in this case, such dual representation is a "conflict of interest,"** in American Bar Association formal Opinion #87-1533, 2-14-87. Yet the decades-old practice of dual representation persists today.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) is a body of 300 lawyers, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, which does not necessarily strive for "fair" laws, just laws that are the "uniform" from state to state. Like the Supreme Court, their politics influence decision making nationwide.

Liberal views briefly prevailed when the original 1982 Draft Model Adoption Act proposed the policy that "*adoption is intended to serve the adoptee* and, when irreconcilable conflicts arise, the *adoptee's rights should prevail*"--that the adult adoptee is capable of deciding what is in his own welfare, including whether inspecting his own birth certificate is in his best interests, and that the adoptee's "right to know" should prevail over the presumed interest of the parent in remaining anonymous. Yet in 1992, a conservative NCCUSL produced a Uniform Adoption Act which **removes** more rights of natural parents and adoptees, and bestows rights to adopters, by recommending sealing of adoptees' true birth records "for 99 years" and making "unauthorized family searches" and contact with one's own biological relatives "a felony crime."

At least one lawyer went out of his way to support adoptees' "right to know. Attorney Frank Ledbetter, Esq. of Missouri wrote: "As an attorney I view the current laws in this country regarding adoption as *reprehensible* for the most part. **Everyone should have the right to know who his or her biological parents are.** No one should be subjected to being taken away from one's biological parent due to the biological parent being in a stressful situation when a child is born and pressured by social workers to give up all parental rights to the child. Nor should any child be subjected to being given to an infertile couple who most likely see adoptees as little more than commodities available to meet the adopters' desires. Adoption law reform is long overdue."

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

ACLU's "open records" policy once cited by ACLU's Southwest Florida chapter, now defunct, has become a "disappearing act." The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and its ACLU Foundation, are funded by donations. It has more than 300,000 members with 53 affiliates and 200 chapters, which makes it the nation's foremost advocate of individual rights, including "fundamental rights," by working through the courts, in the legislatures, and via public education. It would seem adoptees present a compelling case for their "right to know" their own origins as an *equal protection right," but that has not been the case, and the following demonstrates how ACLU not only does not support adoptees' "right to know," but also opposes it:

4-2-87 - ACLU's Southwest Florida Chapter at Fort Meyers issued a written policy statement (on 4-21-87) which "openly agreed with and accepted the ACLU-Oakland County, Michigan affiliate's policy that the falsification and sealing of adoption birth records is discriminate and therefore unconstitutional." Southwest Florida ACLU 's then-Director, Nancy Stone Farley, asked that their "open records policy" be recommended to the national ACLU. To adoption reformers, this seemed a good beginning. But the Fort Meyers Chapter and all known support for open adoption records *mysteriously dissolved*.

8-8-88 - James A. Long, then-Executive Director, ACLU, Miami, Florida, wrote that he was referring AmFOR's request for lobby assistance to their legislative chairperson, Mrs. Budd Bell, with regard to "restoring the Constitutional right of adopted children and adults to medical information." But this ACLU chapter decided not to address the sealed records controversy.

1989 - Patricia Erickson, (ACLU Foundation of Southern California at Los Angeles) responded to AmFOR's several requests for ACLU assistance regarding several adoptee and parent cases. ACLU's form letters stated ACLU had "*no one is available*" to address their legal questions and need for representation.

1990 - AmFOR filed its own federal court challenge to Connecticut's sealed adoption statutes. It had been over a decade since class actions by adoptee groups on the "sealed records" issue were attempted but denied certiorari in the U.S. Supreme Court. They were: *ALMA Society v. Mellon*, 601 F2d 1225,2d Cir. 1979; *Yesterday's Children v. Kennedy*, 569 F. 2d, 1977. As anticipated, Martha Stone, then-Director, Connecticut Civil Liberties Union (CCLU), declined to assist our efforts due to "conflict of interest."

8-24-90 - Lise Hamlin, ACLU Children's Rights Project, New York City, wrote: "The Children's Rights Project is group of lawyers who specialize in foster care litigation and class action suits to reform government child welfare. *We do not venture into adoption reform.*"

7-7-92 - Louis Rhodes, then-Executive Director, Arizona Civil Liberties Union, wrote in reply to an Arizona adoptee who questioned *why* his "right to know" his roots is treated with separate laws than those that apply to Native Americans who are adopted and have the right to know their tribe of origin, as follows: "The courts and legislatures must try to balance the rights of adoptees and the privacy rights of the parents. Privacy rights of parents are very important to state legislatures, although this trend appears to be changing. Our government has laws that treat the rights of American Indians *differently or separately*. These laws have traditionally had the effect of restricting rights of American Indians when compared to others' rights. Due to the status of being treated differently by our government and our laws, it may appear that American Indians have more rights than you concerning this particular issue of adoption. They do not have greater rights, only *different rights.*" Evidently Mr.

Rhodes does not attribute the same meaning as does this writer to the "equal protection" right guaranteed to all citizens by our federal Constitution.

9-25-98 - AmFOR wrote attorney Taylor Flynn, ACLU of Southern California, requesting that ACLU establish a policy on opening adoption records as an equal protection issue. Flynn never responded. At the time, ACLU *opposed* Oregon's "Measure 58" which today permits Oregon's adult adoptees to access their original birth certificates. The bill, which was temporarily blocked by Attorney Warren Davis, an adopter, and 6 anonymous alleged natural mothers, was passed in Oregon by more than 50% of the vote on 11-3-98 thanks to private funding of \$100,000 from adoptee Helen Hill.

7-4-11 - (Independence Day) - This writer received ACLU's "rights" survey in the mail, to which this writer responded to ACLU's Executive Director, Anthony Romero, a Latino gay man: "AmFOR finds survey statement # 3 to be *offensive* to literally half the United States population that has an adoption in the immediate family – '(True or False): I believe that attempts to limit the **rights of people to marry and/or adopt children** based upon their sexual orientation not only hurts families but violates the most fundamental precepts of American freedom and must be resisted.' While I understand ACLU's intent was to emphasize basic rights of individuals regardless of sexual orientation, with which we generally agree, the statement includes an artificial "**right to adopt.**" I requested Mr. Romero's acknowledgment and comments. USPS Confirmation of Delivery tracking indicated my letter was delivered 7-9-11. There has been no response.

National Right To Life (NRTL) and Adoptees

"Adoption aborts the mother."

-Author unknown

The National Right To Life (NRTL) bumper sticker, "Adoption Not Abortion," sounds reasonable. But NRTL lacks resources or willingness to help parents wishing to *keep* their babies, so they have become an "adoption agency" by promoting secret adoption as if adoption is the *only* alternative to abortion. In Doe v. Bolton, the second abortion test case after Roe v. Wade to hit the Supreme Court (from Georgia), Sandra Cano told AmFOR that while media and the NRTL alleged she was denied an abortion, she in fact did not want an abortion and was pressured to adopt out her daughter instead. In a survey by Americans For Open Records (AmFOR) 1,000 mothers who had lost children to adoption revealed they would subsequently opt to either keep or abort, rather than again suffer the lifelong pain of surrendering another child to an unknown fate through secret adoption. (See also "More Deception About Access, Abortion and Adoption" at <http://Adoption.com>). Some mis-use abortion as a form of birth control. Because many adoptions today are a response to infertility, AmFOR added a free book to its website titled "Infertility Cures—Instead of Adoption" at <http://AmFOR.net/infertility.html> .

Sex is not the only cause of pregnancy. A girl or woman may want to have a child to have someone to love and to be loved in return. So the politicized issue of teen pregnancy is not adequately addressed by simply offering birth control, abortion or adoption, when what is needed is a family. Closed adoption supporters cite the need for adoption "to prevent dumpster babies." California's 2010 Resident Income Tax "Form 540" asked taxpayers to donate to California's "Safely Surrendered Baby Fund." Implemented since 2001, "baby dumping" became legal in California, Texas and Florida, in designated "safe places" (hospitals, fire stations etc). In California, within 72 hours of the birth, a mother can "surrender" her baby anonymously or in person; if in person, the baby's ID bracelet provides a match for the mother's to theoretically *reclaim* the baby "within 14 days." It is not known how many

of about 500 such “surrenders” resulted in reunification of mother and child, as such laws keep outcomes “confidential” and also fuel the adoption industry. In “Together Again: Mom, 17, Gets Back Infant She Abandoned on Church Steps” (*The Examiner*, 8-8-89), Nina Breem, a teenager, *did not know she was pregnant until delivery* in her parents’ bathtub. Panicked, she left the baby on a church doorstep. She got her baby back. There have been similar cases but young mothers rarely get their babies back. In “Woman Pleads Guilty To Baby’s Prom Death,” (*The Desert Sun*, Palm Springs, 8-21-98, A-5) reported: on a Freehold, New Jersey case: 21-year-old Melissa Drexler, dubbed the “Prom Mom” by media, revealed she did not know she was pregnant; she said that the baby was stillborn. In 2011, TLC Network’s TV series called “I Didn’t Know I Was Pregnant” documents that **such cases are not rare**.

What about drug addicted mothers? There are alternatives to *permanently* separating the drug addicted mother and her child through imprisonment and adoption. In “ABC Club Helps Mothers-To-Be Fight Addiction” (*The Desert Sun*, Palm Springs, 9-10-90), Kelley Russell reports: “Born addicted to the drugs abused during her pregnancy, Rebecca lost her baby to CPS right after birth. Losing her baby prompted the 24-year old to quit her amphetamine habit and stay in a recovery home. Ten months later, she got her baby back. In 2011, the 30-year old ABC Club is still one of only two recovery homes in Riverside County, California, to also offer a program for pregnant addicts. The Club plans to add nurseries so the women can stay a short period after their deliveries, to help handle the extra stress of becoming a new mom *and* getting clean.” Such facilities need to be available nationwide.

Insurance Companies and Adoptees

Since 1990, insurance companies have been writing “Adoption Cancellation Insurance” policies that cover adopters for certain “eligible” expenses they have paid if the biological parents change their minds, and more recently cover foreign adoptions. Such plans typically require that the prospective adopter buy a policy very shortly after making an adoption plan commitment. But any financial assistance that the adopter or attorney provides to a the biological mother is, by law, considered a “charitable contribution,” although *not* tax-deductible.

Insurance Code now mandates that all insurance companies offer and provide dependent benefits to any child being adopted by the policy subscriber and dependent coverage can be effective immediately upon birth of a newborn, *despite not being born to the adopter-subscriber*.

Increasing numbers of corporations now offer “adoption benefits” to their employees. Corporations such as Apple Computer, Inc., Coca-Cola, Gannett, IBM, Time Warner, Disney, Wendy’s International, and others provide their employees with time off for adoption, financial assistance to adopt, some up to \$5,000.00, to defray the cost of adoption.

The Federal Family Leave Act now includes benefits for adoptive families. Military members on active duty also may now receive reimbursement for up to \$2,000 of adoption fees through licensed adoption agencies. Adoptees needing health insurance have presented a problem for both the insurers and the adoptee. Republican Senator Slade Gorton’s “Fairness For Adopted Children’s Act” prohibited insurance companies from writing or executing insurance policies “based solely on whether a child is adopted.” This was intended to prevent discrimination against adoptees categorized as “high insurance risks” due to lack of pre-adoption medical histories and because adoptees are known to be over-represented in psychiatric care. At the time, Lloyd’s of London was writing insurance policies to insure adopters against loss if the mother revokes her consent and keeps her child. There is no insurance against loss of one’s child due to a coerced relinquishment.

12. AMERICA'S DIRTY LITTLE SECRET: ADOPTEES' OUTCOMES

*"As you get older, things that happened to you
30 years ago seem more real today."
-Richard Dreyfus, in the movie *The Crew**

The “**chosen child**” and the “bad seed” myths share a common feature. They explain negative adoptee outcomes in terms that tend to deny adoptees’ personal autonomy. Both have become part of the cultural vocabulary for defining the experience of being adopted. The concept of someone being “born bad” has been perpetuated by the adoption industry in an effort to deflect blame away from the adoption and onto alleged “bad genes” or “bad birthparents” to explain adoptees’ “bad behavior.” First a novel, and then a Broadway play and movie, remade for TV in 1984, the 1956 horror-suspense classic, “The Bad Seed,” portrays a mother (played by Nancy Kelly) who is slowly coming to the realization that her 8-year old daughter Rhoda (played by Patty McCormack) is responsible for a string of murders. But it’s Rhoda’s mother who is a “late discovery adoptee” when she learns her own mother was an infamous serial killer. Apparently the “bad seed” skipped a generation. Still, the misperception endured.

As late as the 1980s, researchers did not consider childhood trauma “relevant.” Children were believed to be “naturally resilient” (“The Boy Who Was Raised As A Dog,” Perry and Szalavitz, 2006) James Wilson, Professor of Public Policy at Pepperdine University wrote: “Various scholars have found in studies of twins and of adopted children that some people are at greater risk for habitual offending than others. There is, of course, no “crime gene,” and we have only a weak sense of what combination of genetic factors facilitates crime. The TV series, “*Criminal Minds*” a dramatization about FBI profilers who track down serial killers, frequently depict the “Unsub” (unidentified subject) as having been adopted. **How could this be? Adoptees are "chosen children"—or so the story goes.** Absent a physiological cause for frontal lobe brain damage, nor physical or sexual abuse in childhood, adult adoptees with sociopathic behavior are also being profiled in terms of having suffered intolerable *emotional abuse*. Adoption is fraught with "family secrets" and alarming surprises. Adoptees may have contradictory self images—one bad or evil based on fantasy about unknown parents, and one grandiose as result of adopters repeatedly reinforcing the "**chosen child**" story. It is generally known that children who have experienced early childhood separation from one or both parents due to parental divorce, death, or for other reasons are placed in foster care, will have a difficult time for several reasons. One reason is that they lose connectedness with "someone like them" in personality and appearance; they lose role models; they lose security. They also experience a sense of rejection and abandonment, of being unwanted and unloved, no matter how loving and supportive their substitute caretakers or adopters. Children even believe they are somehow to blame for their situation, that they are “bad seeds.”

Adoption, how it is handled in the adoptive family, and how it impacts the adoptee, is rarely addressed at adoptees’ criminal trials. After being institutionalized most of their lives, some habitual criminals have decided to turn their lives around because this writer helped them reconnect with the families they never knew, and got answers to "Who am I?" "Where did I come from?" and "Why was I given up for adoption?" Genetics don’t tell the whole story; it only shows inherited personality traits and possibly a predisposition to antisocial behavior. The incarcerated adoptees who provided their stories to this writer help us discover what "tips the balance" – why some adoptees turn to crime and what makes their crimes unique to their class. They show us how lives touched by adoption are more likely to be ruined by loss of a known history and contact with biological relatives and realities.

Adoptees' Outcomes Mired in Politics

On NBC's *Dateline* (9-28-98), and on "Which Ones Are Yours?" (by Jacquelyn Mitchard, *Ladies Home Journal*, 12-98, p.5), the absurdity of the adoption industry's brainwashing was documented in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, when Scott Albrecht (a federal agent), his adopters Bob and Rosemary Albrecht, then-Governor Tommy Thompson (who was later HHS Secretary), and Juvenile Court Judge David Konkol, **decided that an adoptee is a "blood relative."**

Scott Albrecht is a single male adoptee who Judge Konkol barred from adopting two-year old Abby Mole. Abby's mother, who was Scott Albrecht's sister Suzy Mole, (also an adoptee), had died of cancer. Her husband, Steve Mole, died in a car accident. At first, the court, relying on the fact that an adoptee cannot be a "blood relative" for priority in adopting under state law, favored adoption by the baby's godparents, Garth and Michele Jorgenson, a married couple, who were not related to the child but who had been friends of Abby's deceased parents. In Mitchard's report of the Abby Mole case, adopters from all over wrote letters to the editor and reportedly phoned their legislators, undoubtedly prompted by the National Council For Adoption (NCFA) lobby of adoption agencies who gain media attention by interceding whenever controversy over adoption issues emerges. **Scott Albrecht got the Wisconsin Children's Code changed to read: "blood relatives, including by adoption, with full rights and responsibilities"** – an interesting perversion of "rights" – and Judge Konkol's decision was later reversed. It is an extension of the "as born to" legal lie on all adoptees' "amended" (falsified) birth certificates which name the adopters as the "parents" at the time of birth, rather than as adopters at the time of adoption. All lies tend to lead to more lies. Incredibly enough, there was no mention in all the talk on *Dateline* of "adoptive rights," that this adoptee and his deceased sister, as well as the child about to be adopted, do not have the "right to know" who their true "blood relatives" really are. They do not know whether the cancer which killed Suzy Mole, the child's biological mother, could have been detected earlier and cured had she known there was cancer in her family's medical history, or any other inherited medical problems that could impact their surviving child, Abby Mole.

Adoptee Behaviors Speak Louder than Words

In "No One Goes Crazy Alone," Paul Wachtel explains that family therapists believe no man is an island, so human miseries must be understood in terms of how intertwined human destinies are. Our very definitions of "homelessness," "mental illness," and "child welfare" dictate and constrain the solutions we seek.

Decades ago, Jean Paton asked "Do you have to be truant, steal cars, get into juvenile detention homes, or drop out of school in order for people to realize that you need to have someone tell you about your origins?" The answer is still "Yes."

Behaviorism aims to externally control all behavior without taking into account or looking for the root of the behavior. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the field of Psychology began to be of interest to many people. Ivan Pavlov, John B. Watson, and B. F. Skinner were among the first "Behaviorists," although Behaviorism has been practiced through the centuries, and it's been observed that behavior can be controlled through rewards and punishments. "Behaviorism is the view that behavior should be explained by observable experiences, not by mental processes" (Santrock, 2008). Behaviorism is very black-and-white as it focuses solely on what is seen and totally ignores what is unseen. For example, Behaviorists believe that to get a toddler to stop throwing temper tantrums negative reinforcement or punishment such as spanking must be used to stop the child from having a

fit. On the other hand, if one wants a toddler to keep picking up his/her toys, then according to a Behaviorist, positive reinforcement or reward must be administered to the child such as praise or candy. E. L. Thorndike was another one of the early Behaviorists and he summed up this idea into what is known as The Law of Effect. Behaviorists, in general, do not take into account children's emotions, ages, developmental stages or abilities, or anything else going on within the child or family when it comes to behavior. "For the Behaviorist, these thoughts, feelings, and motives are not appropriate subject matter for a science of behavior because they cannot be directly observed" (Santrock, 2008, p. 227). To ignore the fact of a child's adoptive status when diagnosing and treating his behaviors is to ignore the "elephant in the room."

None of the parties to an adoption go through it unscathed—especially adoptees. Voluminous studies and case histories in this book support that adoptees are over-represented in psychotherapy, psychiatric hospitals, and prisons, regardless of the age at which they had been surrendered to strangers.

David M. Brodzinsky, PhD (Professor Emeritus, Clinical Psychology, Rutgers University; Research and Project Director, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute) conducted one of the nation's largest studies of adopted children at Rutgers, which recognized that **adoption itself is a psychological burden to the adoptee** and that their problems and symptoms often fall into the "Adopted Child Syndrome" pattern. Adoptees seem to have trouble trusting others and forming close relationships. Often they feel they don't belong, or are unloved and unwanted. With excessive fear of abandonment, they are constantly "testing limits" and seeking approval, affection, and acceptance. They experience a severe identity crisis in adolescence around whether they feel they are a full member of the adoptive family or just being loyal to their "rescuers." Finding their biological parents, or being found by them, can stress all parties, no matter the depth of, or lack of, a resulting relationship. Where adopters have a "shape up or ship out" mentality, adolescent adoptees are more likely to act out. Even though professionals agree that adoptees should have access to their origins, politics thwart good sense.

Neither is adoptive status included in prison files. It would not look good for the adoption industry if too many adoptees were criminals, but that is, in fact, the case—not because they are "bad seeds," but because a closed and inflexible system has caused their behaviors. Each year incarcerated adoptees' requests for help in finding their kin flood the more than 2,000 private adoptee search groups in the United States and AmFOR's mailbox. Studies have continued to be amassed on the injury done to all parties by the statutory secrecy imposed on all adoptions. One of the most significant is the ongoing Bouchard studies, of over 700 pairs of twins separated at birth by adoption. It provides living evidence in the "nature vs. nurture" debate that the genetic pull is greater than environmental influences. Adoptees are over-represented in the nation's psychiatric and penal facilities. They've been telling us why, but no one has been listening.

The realities of adoption are described in "Appendices to Statistics on the Effects of Adoption," (a paper for credit at Georgetown University) by an adoptee, Ginni D. Snodgrass, who found her father in prison and developed a relationship with him. The complete Appendices can be found on her website at: <http://www.ansrs.com/statistics.htm>. Ginni writes: "Many adult adoptees do not realize that their difficulties, at least in part, stem from having been adopted. **All adoptees have effects of their adoption experience. The degree of the effects and symptomatic behaviors vary a great deal.** There are vulnerabilities shared by all adoptees. In those most vulnerable, a distinct pattern of behaviors can be seen. Some labeled this Adopted Child Syndrome (David Kirschner, PhD). Here are the facts:

- o 60% to 85% of teens at Coldwater Canyon's Center for Personal Development (former acute-care psychiatric hospital/school in California) were adopted—30 to 40 times the norm. (Dr. Lee Bloom, former Unit Director, Coldwater Canyon Hospital);

- o 25% to 35% of the young people in residential treatment centers are adoptees. This is 17 times the norm. (Lifton, BIRCO, Pannor, Lawrence).

- o Adopted children are disproportionately represented with learning disabilities and organic brain syndrome. (Schecter, "Genetic Behaviors").

- o Adoptees are more likely to have difficulties with drug and alcohol abuse, as well as eating disorders, attention deficit disorder, infertility, untimely pregnancies and suicide (Young, Bohman, Mitchell, Ostroff, Ansfield, Lifton, Schecter).

- o Adoptees are more likely to choose alternate lifestyles. (Ansfield/ Lifton)

- o Alarmingly high numbers of adoptees are sent to disciplinary schools or are locked out of their adoptive homes. (Anderson, Carlson).

- o Adoption is a psychological burden to the adoptee, relative to the separation of the child from the mother. And it's not just adoptees who fail to escape emotional scarring from adoption, according to psychotherapists Annette Baran, Reuben Pannor, and Arthur D. Sorosky, MD, who identify parent and adopter grief from their respective losses. ("The Adoption Triangle: The Effects of Sealed Records on Adoptees, Birthparents and Adoptive Parents," Baran, Pannor and Sorosky).

Adoptees are not the only individuals adversely affected by adoption. Kaiser-Permanente Health Care conducted a study in 1979 of mothers who surrendered babies; 40% reported depression which was then considered the most common "emotional disorder" whereas "major depression" is now considered a serious mental illness; 60% reported medical, sexual and physical problems.

And for adopters, adoption is often marketed as a treatment or cure for infertility, leaving adopters with unfulfilled expectations and unresolved grief from loss of the children they couldn't have. Because adoptees in whose "best interests" their parents were persuaded to relinquish them, and in whose "best interests" they were given to strangers who assumed permanent custody through adoption, the primary focus needs to be on acknowledging the injury to the adoptee with the goal of prevention. In the 1990s, David Kirschner, PhD, is quoted in the press as citing HMOs' tendency for limiting treatment of very young adoptees mis-diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD). Dexedrine, Cylert and the most widely prescribed Ritalin and Mellaryl, are routinely administered to youngsters who are "acting out" in response to their inability to "attach" to their adopters. They miss their families and the feeling of connectedness. Drugs cannot cure such pain.

Why would HMOs approve central nervous system stimulants (CNS) over psychotherapy—drugs that are believed to have played a role in adoptee Jeremy Strohmeyer's rape-murder of seven-year old Sherrice Iverson in a Nevada casino restroom? According to Kirschner, the for-profit managed care corporations are opting for the less expensive drug therapy over psychotherapy. The drug industry is certainly not complaining and has also rebutted claims that drugs prescribed to children for disorders such as "hyperactivity" or depression, are likely to cause fatal heart attacks as in seven unexplained deaths recorded in the late 1990s in children taking such drugs.

In 1998, Bennett Leventhal, a child psychiatrist at the University of Chicago, estimated that "6 to 10 of all children have ADHD but only 2 of the 6 were being treated for it." He further claimed that fears about overuse of drugs like Ritalin "are unfounded" (*Arabia Living* at *Arabia.com*, 11-10-98). The number of prescriptions for stimulants such as Ritalin and Dexedrine to treat ADHD, particularly in young children, has jumped dramatically during the past 10 years. Over-and under-identification is a problem. There's no way to make an adequate medical or psychological assessment in a seven-minute visit, so what we have is a situation where teachers complain and physicians write a prescription. It takes the kind of time and effort that most physicians don't have and most insurers won't pay for." (Daniel Kessler, MD, Director, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, St. Joseph's Hospital and

Medical Center, Phoenix, Arizona, in *American Medical News*, 11-20-00).

Novartis, the company that manufactures Ritalin, the American Psychiatric Association, and a patient advocacy group called CHADD-(Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder), were sued by several hundred parents charging that these groups conspired to over-promote diagnosis of ADHD to boost drug sales.

As detailed in this book's section on "Adopted Killers," in many cases of adoptees who have killed, they had been legally prescribed drugs or had taken street drugs prior their crime. DEA has classified Ritalin in the same category as Morphine, Opium, and Cocaine. Littleton, Colorado was the most notorious for doling out Ritalin to kids, particularly in wealthy suburbs as well as in public supported foster care. The long term effects are still being debated in the wake of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton. Adoptees in the following chapters who became addicted to street drugs and those who killed were prescribed Ritalin (Methylphenidate), Mellaril (Thioridazine), and other mood altering drugs which led to their addictions and helped trigger violence against themselves and others.

Many adoptees have reported being sexually abused by an adoptive family member. In two five-year studies by Carl Anderson, Ph.D. and colleagues at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts, the researchers found that repeated sexual abuse effects blood flow and function of a key brain region related to substance abuse, the cerebellar veris, which coordinates emotional behavior, and dopamine, a neurotransmitter involved in addiction. The two studies analyzed 32 subjects, ages 18 to 22, and 537 college students who frequently abused drugs. Physical and emotional abuse are similarly linked to addiction. It is not difficult to understand why an adopted person would seek the anesthetizing, mind altering and other physiological effects from drugs. Substance abuse is said to be common among adoptees. The use of alcohol, LSD, methadrine, marijuana, and other drugs is often another means of showing displacement or anger — at society, parents, but most of all, self-anger ("The Adopted Child," Joseph G. Amsfield, M.D.).

Drugs have also been blamed in the deaths of adopted children of Hollywood stars James Bronson, Carol O'Connor and others but media fails to consider whether they were troubled by their adoptive status as the root cause. Not all traumatized children become suicidal or violent, and there are no simple answers to explain why some adoptees kill. But often the side effects of prescribed drugs are overlooked. In his book "Reclaiming Our Children: A Healing Solution for a Nation In Crisis" (Perseus, 2000) Peter R. Breggin, MD, a private practitioner in Bethesda, Maryland, presents strong evidence that psychiatric drugs commonly *cause* psychoses and aggression in children, and that they probably contributed to individual cases of school violence. In his best selling "Talking Back to Prozac" and "Talking Back to Ritalin" he makes specific recommendations for improving family and school life based on sound psychological and ethical principles.

But what if the family is a *shadow family*—a prohibition to the child under the unsound psychology and unethical practice perpetuated by closed adoption? What if the child does not accept his adopters as "family?" No drug treatment or "attachment therapy" can change that, only compound the problem.

Attachment and Re-Birthing Therapies are "Out"

While behaviorists were ignoring the root cause of certain behaviors of adopted children who they were treating with "Attachment Therapy," the American Psychological Association, through its Section on Child Maltreatment and its Division on Child, Youth and Family Services (DCYFS)

endorsed a 14-page report from the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, which condemned Attachment Therapy as practiced widely in U.S. It not only urged substantial changes in the attachment-based diagnosis, assessment, treatment and parenting approach which “purport to help children described as attachment disordered,” with recommendations that reflect criticism of the overuse of the “Reactive Attachment Disorder” (RAD) diagnosis by providers and the failure to rule out other more commonly encountered conditions, but also it called upon child welfare professionals not to tolerate parenting behaviors that “pretend to be therapeutic but are actually abusive.” Examples cited include “withholding food, water, or toilet access as punishment; exerting exaggerated levels of control over a child; restraining children as treatment; or intentionally provoking out-of-control emotional distress.

Deaths from Re-birthing Therapy eventually resulted in its discontinuance. The “suspects” included therapists and centers such as Foster Clinic, Arthur Becker-Weidman, Nancy Thomas, Daniel Hughes, Gregory Keck, Keith Reber, Deborah Hague, Ronald Frederici, the Cascade Center, and Colorado’s Institute for Attachment and Child Development (IACD) previously called Attachment Center at Evergreen, or ACE (Source: *AT News*, 1-12-06, archived issue of Advocates for Children in Therapy which “opposes abusive and unvalidated psychotherapy,” in the Task Force’s “Child Maltreatment Journal,” 2-06).

Adopted Child Syndrome - “In,” Then “Out,” Now “In”

“Dissociative Disorder” and its underlying “Adopted Child Syndrome,” studied by David Kirschner, PhD, in 1978, reveal the complexities of adoptees’ dual identities and secret pasts. While Dr. Berry Brazelton referred to ACS as “malarkey” in the press, and the psychiatric community would not accept the Adopted Child Syndrome theory, the Syndrome was successfully used as a defense in the 1988 case of Patrick DeGelleke, 14, tried as an adult for the murder. Kirschner identified the syndrome as contributing to Patrick’s psychotic rage when he killed his adopters and set fire to their home. The *New York Times* account of the crime explained that DeGelleke’s shocking act was, to him, the only way to remove what he perceived to be the barrier preventing him from finding his natural parents: his adopters.

Kirschner was careful to quantify Adopted Child Syndrome, stating it “does not apply to the vast majority of adopted children who turn out as normal as anyone else,” and he naively guesstimated that “only 10-15% of adoptees” display problems.” Kirschner later wrote “I believe that **most adoptees** have the same emotional vulnerabilities that are seen in dramatic form in the Adopted Child Syndrome, and that **all adoptees are at risk.**” Later, he is careful to qualify that by claiming **only a “subset” of “a spectrum” of adoptees** have Adopted Child Syndrome behaviors, but he does not define the spectrum in which the subset occurs. This writer believes it means **“the entire spectrum of adoptees,”** with extremes of acquiescence at one end of the spectrum, and of rebellion at the other end of the spectrum, in response to adoption’s impositions.

As mentioned earlier, psychologist and adoptee, Betty Jean Lifton, referred to the same adoptee behaviors as *“Adoption disease ...which can lie dormant most of one’s life... But it can stir malignancy in some adoptees all their lives.”*

Psychiatrist David Cooke said “Adopted Child Syndrome is “simply a new name for a phenomenon that has been observed since the 1950s.” Indeed, in 1953, a young social worker, Jean Paton, herself an adoptee, published her studies—the first studies linking adoptee behaviors with their adoptions. In 1992, Attorney Donald Humphrey, himself an adoptee, called attention to the syndrome

as a factor in cases where children murdered their adopters, in his talk, "Violence in Adoption" (9-23-92 conference of the American Adoption Congress)

Today, John Hemming, Member of British Parliament, is using AmFOR's web page on "Adopted Child Syndrome: It's History and Relevance Today" (<http://AmFOR.net/ACS>) to make the point that it's the child who is most damaged by the corrupt child protection system in the U.K. as well.

Studies by pediatric physician and child psychiatrist, T Berry Brazelton, reveal that, "72 hours after birth, a baby can hear, can possibly vaguely see, and has formed 'attachment' behaviors learned in the womb from its mother's natural body rhythms." In "Fathers Can Recognize Newborns By Touch" (*Los Angeles Times*, 6-20-93), it was reported "61% of blindfolded fathers recognized their newborns just by stroking the backs of their hands; the mothers had similar results stroking their babies' cheeks."

Kirschner's "Adopted Child Syndrome" identifies 8 behaviors" common to varying degrees in adoptees he studied. The 8 Adopted Child Syndrome" behaviors are:

1. conflict with authority, (example: truancy);
2. preoccupation with excessive fantasy;
3. pathological lying;
4. stealing;
5. running away;
6. learning difficulties (underachievement, over achievement);
7. lack of impulse control, including sexual acting out, (ranging from promiscuity to prosecutable sexual offenses);
8. setting fires

An example of how pro-adoption politics can pressure a well respected authority to use "politically correct" adoption language can be found in a message to Kirschner that was posted to the news group, alt.adoption on 11-27-00 by Steve White, self-described adopter and "doctor" at University of Chicago Medical Department: "As someone else noted, you might consider a *different name* for your findings, in that the present name, "Adopted Child Syndrome" or "ACS," permits some to misrepresent your work with relative ease." Kirschner had devoted a good portion of his career to analyzing adoptees. His "Adopted Child Syndrome" (ACS) theory that he advanced for at least 22 years even found acceptance in court as a legal defense that saved adoptee Patrick DeGelleke from the Death Penalty. Kirschner responded to White: "Thank you, and I have been considering a *different terminology*." Adopted Child Syndrome seemed, at least temporarily, "Out." Seven years after that moment of political waffling on "a new name for ACS," and AmFOR's controversial 1990 website, and 5 years after the 2002 edition of "Chosen Children, Kirschner's "The Connection Between Adoption and Murder" was published on 9-17-07. Adopted Child Syndrome was again "In."

Choosing A Therapist According to Evidence Based Practice

*"And the day came when the risk to remain closed in a bud
became more painful than the risk it took to blossom."*

-Anais Nin

The adopted child has been the most psychoanalyzed child. The Bibliography at the back of this book includes a "Chronological List of Psychopathology Studies" from 1941 forward. Adopters and therapists who abused and killed adopted children while attempting to "fix" them, as in the case of David Polreis, Nathaniel Craver and Newmaker, demonized and blamed these children for their own deaths. According to "Advocates For Children In Therapy" (ChildrenInTherapy.org/) when a troubled

child *does* need counseling and treatment, “the therapist would best be on the staff of a university or hospital-sponsored clinic, rather than in private practice, and be able to describe what reflective supervision the child would receive. The therapist should be a “family therapist” or if the therapist is treating the child alone, he should guide the parents to get supportive counseling. And, of course, the therapist should be licensed and have no history of professional disciplinary action.” But if the child is adopted, also inquire as to the therapist’s experience and leanings with regard to the unique experience and problems of adopted children. **For these children, the therapist should have a clear concept of the adoptive status as being “abnormal,” not the child.**

Joe Soll, LCSW, DAPA, himself a Bessie Bernard black market adoptee who can never find his parents, is such a therapist with 30 years experience specializing in “adoption related issues.”

Instead of “therapies” that attempt to “re-program” the adopted child, Nancy Verrier advises adopters to “understand the difficulty in growing up without seeing oneself reflected anywhere, telling the child about adoption ‘before she knows what it means,’ answering questions honestly, and don’t speak for anyone else (i.e., the mother); Never say ‘You should feel *grateful*.’ Adopters should be grateful. Child would never choose this. Learn to understand child’s anger as a cover for pain: Empathize with the pain, never threaten abandonment, no matter how provocative the child becomes; allow the child to be himself rather than imposing your expectations.”

13. ADOPTEES, ABUSE, ADDICTION and MENTAL ILLNESS

“Twenty percent of adolescents in drug rehabilitation and in residential substance abuse treatment programs are adopted.”

-National Adoption Center (NAC), Philadelphia, PA

In “Psychiatric Illness,” Mary Bohman researched adults adopted as infants. Her 1979 study of 2,323 adoptees revealed an over-representation of alcohol, drug abuse and personality disorders in both male and female adoptees and a high risk of suicide. It bears repeating **“There is no formula for making a stranger’s child live up to their adopter’s expectations. To a child, the burden of such expectations translates as abuse.”** Researchers have linked physical, sexual and emotional child abuse with addiction. “Almost all children who enter an out of home placement, away from their birth parents—struggle with being able to trust adults, usually have poor social skills, and often feel as if they are the only child who does not live with their birth parents.” (Source: Center for Adoption Support and Education - CASE).

According to recovering addicts and counselors involved in the famed Delancey Street model drug rehab program, “Drug abuse is usually a side effect of a much deeper behavior flaw or reaction that must be pin-pointed and addressed before reaching a healthy, maintainable level of recovery.” Another successful drug and alcohol treatment program, Passages Malibu, is based on the philosophy that drug and alcohol dependency is *not* a “disease.” Treatment focuses on the 4 causes of addiction:

- (1) chemical imbalance,
- (2) events of the past you have not resolved,
- (3) current conditions you can’t cope with,
- (4) things you believe that aren’t true.

These 4 conditions describe circumstances under which many adoptees try to cope. Addiction can also be the long term side effect of drugs such as Ritalin, routinely prescribed to manage fostered and adopted children’s behaviors, as previously discussed and as the following adoptees have experienced.

CHIZUM, Max

Max was born a “Christmas baby” on 12-25-66 in South Bend, Indiana, to a single mom when the “unwed mother” in America was still considered a “disgrace” and her child was still an “illegitimate” or “bastard.” When Max’s parents first met in South Bend, his father had been separated from his wife and their one child. He left South Bend before he knew that she was pregnant. Max had to be on a respirator at first as his birth was premature. He was then placed with foster parents named “Hoy” and his adoption was finalized in St. Joseph County, Indiana, in 1957. During his childhood, Max was sexually abused by his male adopter. When he attained legal age in Indiana, Max was still prohibited by law from knowing who his natural parents were, but he was able to learn from the St. Joseph Probate Court’s “non-identifying information” that his grandparents were both killed in an auto accident and that his mother completed completed night school after Max was born. She had training as a commercial artist having done work for the US Navy, also had training as an X-ray apprentice draftsman and went to live with an aunt in Peru, Indiana. His father was said to be a truck driver. His now-deceased male adopter once told him he saw a letter in a “Dear Abby” or “Ann Landers” newspaper advice column from a woman “seeking information about a child born on Christmas 1956 in South Bend—Want you back—Mistake.” Max was convicted for dealing 3.5 grams of Metamphetamine and sentenced to 40 years with earliest release date in 2019. He detoxed “cold turkey” while in prison. Max was married and has five children and two grandchildren. He wrote: “The emotional side of this, of being alone and disconnected, and not fitting in, is only one side of the coin. The other side is that my children and their children should have access to their and their family’s medical history and true background information.” (Source: Max Chizum’s letters to AmFOR)

DiLORENZO, Melody

At age 24, Melody was in critical condition from multiple stab wounds allegedly inflicted by an assailant as result of a drug deal gone bad. (“Desert Hot Springs Woman Stabbed,” by Stephanie McKinnon, Staff Writer, *The Desert Sun*, 8-7-93). But Sheila Grove, Melody’s adopter, said Melody’s wounds were self-inflicted – one of several suicide attempts of the past three years (see “Why I’m Anti-Adoption” by Sheila Grove, under “Adopters Against Adoption”). From her hospital bed, Melody told me she wanted to find her natural mother. By pulling some strings, mother and daughter were reunited within 24 hours and began a long healing process. (Source: Medody DiLorenzo and Sheila Grove)

DYER, Michael Daniel

Michael was born 8-30-66 in Monticello, Indiana, under the name Michael Daniel Woggerman, and was adopted by Donald Wayne and Joyce Marie Dyer in 1971 through the Tehama County Superior Court in Red Bluff, California. Michael shared that his adopters, who he referred to as “old school Christians,” no longer want a relationship with him due to his past behaviors and incarceration, and have always claimed they “know nothing” about his natural family. The Social Services record showed that although he had been taken from his parents for neglect, the situation was that his biological parents had divorced, his mother had to go on welfare, and his two sisters were also adopted out. He was raised in Oregon and had many unanswered questions about his pre-adoption past. Although a 1971 physician’s record indicates Michael had been severely beaten in infancy, it is unknown whether, if true, the abuse occurred while he was in foster care or whether he had an abusive parent, as the same record indicates “no negligence” and having received appropriate medical care and immunizations. In 1971, when his adopters returned to court, his father also appeared in court and indicated that he wanted to have Michael and Michael’s siblings returned to him. But the court or agency opined that,

despite that his father “made a gesture of financial support for him,” his father “showed little if any affection” toward him and his siblings, calling the father’s attitude “sterile” as an excuse for refusing to stop the adoptions. Michael described himself as always having been obsessively disciplined in his personal hygiene, dress and housekeeping, and wondered if that might be inherited. He said that, in adulthood, he felt trapped in a self-made prison from an insatiable need for sex (but committed no sex crimes and believes in treating women with the utmost respect), money (he did steal and was convicted of Petty Theft with Priors), and drugs. Because, in childhood, he was diagnosed as having Attention Deficit Disorder, it is likely that he was treated with prescription drugs such as Ritalin, which has led many adoptees use of street drugs. In 2010 Michael contacted AmFOR in hope of finding his natural family. Because Michael knows his birth name is “Woggerman,” he sent a simple letter to all Woggermans listed in Oregon but none responded, perhaps because of his prison address. (Source: Michael Dyer’s letters to AmFOR)

ERSKINE, Robert (aka Chevalier)

“Rob” was born 6-5-67 under his birth name, Robert Lee Fields, at Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa, California, to Beth Sabin and Floyd Fields. Rob is of German, Scottish, Irish and Native American descent. At age 1-1/2, his parents relinquished him for adoption, but it was not until he was 6 that he was adopted in Santa Rosa (Sonoma County), California, by Dale and Sharon Erskine. He shared that he was unhappy with his adoptive family, dropped out of high school in 10th grade and suffered severe head trauma from an auto accident in 2008. Rob first wrote to AmFOR from a Montana prison in 2001 in hope of finding his mother and was not heard from again until 2009 when he was incarcerated at Oregon State Hospital in Salem, Oregon, where he has access to prescription drug treatment. (Source” Robert Erskine’s letters to AmFOR)

JOBS, Steve

Historically, pro-adoption writers have made any successful adoptee a “poster child for adoption.” When Steve Jobs, co-founder and CEO of Apple Computer, died at age 56 on 10-5-11, Greg Gutfeld put such a spin on his 10-6-11 article for *FOXNewsInsider.com* titled “What if Steve Jobs’s Birth Mother Had Chosen an Option Other Than Adoption?” Gutfeld wrote that her father [Jobs’ grandfather] “didn’t want his daughter marrying a Syrian, so her baby was put up for adoption by a working class couple who encouraged his interest in technology.” And that Steve’s mother was a “hero” for giving him up for adoption “instead of choosing a more finite option.” Gutfeld pondered, “Imagine what a hole there would be in this world if she went the other way.” Here’s what Gutfeld left out of his snapshot of this adoptee’s alleged idyllic adopted life - and why Jobs is more appropriately a poster child for Adopted Child Syndrome.

Steven Paul Jobs was born 2-24-55 to Joanne Simpson and Abdulfattah “John” Jandali, two unmarried University of Wisconsin graduate students who gave him up for adoption. His mother worked as a speech therapist and his Syrian father was a political science professor. Shortly after being placed for adoption, his biological parents married and had another child, Mona Simpson, who became a well known novelist. Earlier in his life, Jobs was quoted as saying that he had felt “an unresolved pain over being adopted,” and “always had a feeling of abandonment,” yet, in denial of those feelings, he said on tape to his authorized biographer, Walter Isaacson, that being told by his adopters that he was “special” because he had been “chosen” made him “feel positive about himself”...so positive that he dropped out of college and out of life as an under-achieving hippie, traveled to India to seek enlightenment, and to The Primal Therapy Center in Eugene, Oregon, for a radical form of

psychotherapy, and used various mind-altering drugs, including LSD.

Still obsessed with finding his origins, he finally hired a private investigator to locate his mother. To varying degrees, most adoptees endure perilous journeys en-route to their pasts. It was not until Steve was 27 that he was able to uncover information about his biological parents, met his mother and sister. But although he once shook his father's hand at the restaurant his father owned and where the man bragged that Steve Jobs had eaten there, he never revealed that he was his son and forbid his sister from doing so, alleging it was because he'd "heard something he didn't like about him." Was Jobs, described as normally confrontational, so resentful of his father for letting his mother to give him up for adoption that he could not confront him, or did he derive satisfaction from keeping himself secret from the man, as his father had been kept secret from him? Before that, at age 23, he fathered a daughter, Lisa, with his girlfriend, Chrisann Brennan, but denied paternity alleging he was sterile to avoid child support until the court intervened. Is it any coincidence that, until he found his biological parents and had his lifelong questions answered that he then initiated a relationship with his daughter when she was 7, and it was not until 1991 that he married Laurene Powell, a Stanford MBA student and eventually had 3 children with her? It would appear that, while Steve Jobs exhibited his creative intelligence, inherited from his biological parents, and, along with his work addiction, it helped him succeed as an entrepreneur in a highly competitive technical field, it was not until he solved the mystery of his pre-adoption existence that he matured socially though described by his employees as "cold," a "control freak" who parked in handicap spaces and refused to have a license plate on his car

In Steve Jobs' Commencement address at Stanford University, in the part media did *not* air, Jobs, who never graduated from college, spoke of his biological mother and how his adopters who had been on a waiting list for a child to adopt, received a phone call in the middle of the night asking: 'We have an unexpected baby boy. Do you want him?" So much for the "**chosen child**" story. Jobs went on, " My biological mother later found out that my [adoptive] mother never graduated from college and that my [adoptive] father never graduated from high school. She refused to sign the final adoption papers. She only relented a few months later when my [adoptive] parents promised I would someday go to college." Although he resumed college 17 years later, he said he dropped out again because it was costing his working class [adoptive] parents all of their savings and he had "no goal" in mind. Many adoptees intentionally resist being morphed into the child their adopters could not have. And, knowing his cancer had spread, he advised the graduating students "Your time is limited so don't waste it living *someone else's life*. Don't be trapped by dogma – which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become." Steve grew up struggling with "not knowing" and being unable to gain insight into who he was, unresolved by drugs, psychotherapy work nor multi-billionaire wealth.

Had almost 3 decades of his life not been burdened and preoccupied with uncovering the secrecy of his origins, confidence to set goals and have a relationship with his daughter may have found expression decades sooner. (Source: "The Journey is the Reward," by Jeffrey S. Young; and *Stanford University News* "You've Got to Find What You Love," transcript, *Stanford Report*, 6-14-06; and "Steve Jobs Biography" Synopsis, *Biography.com*; and *CBS-60 Minutes* transcript, 10-23-11.)

LOPEZ, Ronald Leo

Ron wrote AmFOR, "I was 13 months old and my brother was 2 when my Dad went to prison. When he was released from prison and remarried, my father evidently fought for custody of us when Social Services took us from our mother and for a time we were adopted by this new stepmother. Over time, I had lots of hate towards my real parents though I was too young to remember who they were. I just

knew I hated them for abandoning me and my brother and for letting my brother and me become separated. I was sent to several foster homes and when I was older it was group homes. I found it hard to trust anyone. At 17, I was legally on my own and lived on the streets where I quickly grew up and quickly got into drugs. Drugs took away my emotional roller-coaster. Of course I stole to pay for drugs, and was in and out of hospitals, drug programs and prisons, and am now in this prison on a "Three Strikes" sentence of 25-years-to-Life."

McGEE, Thomas Kent

Tom was born 6-24-75 in Fresno, California, under his birth name, Thomas Ralls, Jr. Tom first wrote AmFOR from the Department of Mental Health (DMH) Section of California State Prison at Vacaville, seeking help in discovering and locating his mother and any siblings. But he worried about his mother's reaction to his incarceration – "Will she be disappointed that her son is a drug addict and in prison? Will she blame herself for my shortcomings? I am prepared to deal with her situation no matter what it may be. Not knowing at all is worse than knowing, even if knowing may hurt. As for my psychiatric history, the many diagnoses I received have been inaccurate because I hide some symptoms and fake others. I saw a psychologist regularly from age 15 to 18. In prison, I sought psychiatric care mainly to obtain medications (legal drugs). After awhile I finally admitted to myself I really do have problems."

Tom shared his story of short term jobs, being shut out of his adopters home due to his drug addiction, and living on the street and under bridges as result. He wrote "I'm not crazy but sometimes you *have* to be crazy to get their attention. I have a lot of anxiety around others. I always feel that I don't belong. I've never been able to decide who I am. I know that if I find my biological family, then I'll feel I really exist with a true origin, that I came from Mrs. And Mrs. so-and-so. Knowing who I am and where I came from can help me decide where I'm going and who I want to be. Anger, for me, stems from fear...fear that I might lose control over a situation."

In 1999, AmFOR discovered and located Tom's mother, Cynthia Oka Peret, who was dying. She and Tom could only share a couple phone conversations before she died, as the prison would not allow him a supervised visit across county lines to meet the mother he never knew. We learned that Tom has 7 siblings and that his mother and siblings had previously attempted to contact Tom through Social Services but were simply told that "records are sealed." I next located Tom's father, Thomas Wayne Ralls, who was cautiously receptive but was not able to visit Tom in prison due to having an old criminal record. His father confirmed that while his mother did have problems, they probably stemmed from her having been sexually abused as a child. While Tom was on parole, he met his maternal aunt and his siblings who welcomed him. He held his mother's ashes, and, for the first time, cried for her. Years of addiction, inadequate rehab, no income and no place to go made it difficult for Tom to remain free for long, so he was returned to prison. In 2008, Tom wrote AmFOR from a shelter to which he was paroled, but hasn't been heard from since. (Source: Tom McGee's letters to AmFOR and phone interview with Tom Ralls, his father.)

PERLMUTTER, Daniel

Assistant U.S. Attorney, Daniel Perlemtter, fell overnight from prosecutor to prosecuted, from accuser to accused cocaine addict and criminal. His older brother, who, like Dan, had been adopted in infancy, had been hospitalized for using heroin. Perlemtter felt he was "a fraud"—that his life "wasn't real" and was driven by his "need to know his origins." (Source: *New York Times*, 1-11-86)

STONE, Noah

Born 8-1-58 in Bakersfield, California, under his birth name Kenneth Owens, after his father, Noah was 3-1/2 years old when his mother was hospitalized in a coma from a traffic accident. Without her knowledge or consent, his father sold him for \$350 to a couple he met at a bar called “The 8 Ball Café” (Which is the title of this writer’s book about Noah). Gladys and Herbert Gill had tried to adopt but were told they were too old.. They renamed him Herbert Kent Gill and his illegal California adoption was later legalized. He legally changed his name to Noah Stone when he was in his 30s to have a name “all his own.” Gladys, unable to handle the boy diagnosed as “hyperactive,” locked him in his room, in a closet, and even in a dog’s cage. Throughout his formative years, Noah was abused physically, probably sexually, certainly emotionally, and by prescribed drugs. The abuse and memories of his natural parents prompted his many attempts to run away from his adopters’ home to “find his natural parents” whose identities his adopters would not reveal to him, even in adulthood, and the more he tried to run away, the more his adopters moved him from their home to psychiatric facilities, to group homes, to juvenile detention facilities, and around again.

Declared a genius when he was a young child, Noah’s mental acuity was still remarkably intact at age 43, despite 36 years of drug addiction since age 7. But, like many who are incarcerated from a young age, he remains the emotional age at which he first entered the prison system. By the time he reached adulthood he had sampled Inhalants (Kerosene, Glue Vapors), Sedatives (Quaalude, Phenobarbital), LSD, Marijuana, Methamphetamine (“Speed”). Nosh said his first use of heroin was sold to him by a guard at California’s model Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (CASTF) at Corcoran State Prison. Unable to pay his mounting drug bill, he had to be transferred to another prison for his safety. And, more than once, he had attempted suicide while on drugs. Noah believed, as the theme song from the long running TV series “MASH” alleged, “Suicide is painless”while his daily existence has been one of painful torment.

AmFOR reunited Noah with his mother and sister during his parole hearing at Arizona State Prison in Florence, Arizona, and provided Noah with temporary housing and a means of support in California after he completed his concurrent sentence at a prison in Perryville, Arizona where I picked him up.. But even as we crossed the Arizona-California border, Noah had smuggled drugs under his jewelry making supplies and could not complete a drug treatment program, so his taste of freedom was brief. All of his convictions were for Thefts or Burglaries to support his drug addiction. When Noah last wrote to this writer, 3-11-11, he said he had “done bad things” to himself, that methamphetamine has “put holes” in his brain, and that he now “hears voices through the holes.” He said he also has Stage 2 Hepatitis C, his lungs hurt, and has been on anti-seizure and anti-anxiety medication but asked the prison doctor to stop his “medication for the voices” because he didn’t like it. He was pondering what he called “a wasted life.” (Source: Direct involvement with Noah Stone, and his adopter, Gladys Gill, court and juvenile records, and Noah’s correspondence from 1992 through 2011.)

QUINLAN, Karen Ann

Karen Ann Quinlan, an adoptee, made national headlines when she fell into a coma for 10 years from over-dosing on drugs and alcohol. Her journal reflects possible thoughts of suicide: “I wish to curl myself into a fetal pose and rest in the eternal womb awhile.” Society became distracted by the legalisms surrounding whether Quinlan’s life support machine should be disconnected and whether she had “the right to die with dignity.” The question as to whether adoptees like Quinlan have the right to life with dignity – from knowing their own origins – was never mentioned. (Source: “Karen Ann “Tells Her Story,” Doubleday, 1977).

14. ADOPTEES WHO LIE, CHEAT and STEAL

*"When adopters say 'I don't know why my kid lies,' I say
He's living one of society's biggest lies: You belong in this family."
from "Birth Scene—A Different Kind of Relationship: Thoughts on Adoption"
-by Nancy Verrier, MA, MFT, Adopter*

For an adoptee, as for anyone, pathological lying, cheating and stealing are not isolated behaviors but a symptom of underlying issues that disable. Four reasons why people lie are offered by Susan Krauss Whitbourne, PhD (in “Excuses, Excuses: Why People Lie, Cheat and Procrastinate,” *Psychology Today*, 5-18-10): They are: (1) Reinforcement - The seeds of lying are planted in childhood and mature while people are in school. Getting away with an excuse or lie strengthens their inclination to lie the next time; (2) Memory Distortions: Lies and excuses build on each other and create their own reality. People who lie about their past, for instance, tell one little story. The next time, having told that story, it becomes part of their long-term memory. (3) **Protection of Positive Sense of Identity:** People want to believe they are ethical, honest, and morally upstanding. They will go through all sorts of mental shenanigans to maintain this view, even when their behavior is in direct conflict with reality. Or they may use a defense mechanism known as “projection” to attribute the blame to someone else; (4) Self-Serving Biases: In line with the “identity” explanation, they blame, the situation, not themselves, when they make excuses or lie. However, catch someone else in a lie and that’s someone they wish to avoid at all costs, if not penalize - which is known as the Fundamental Attribution Error.” If you are going to tap into your true potential, you have to set aside that false self and accept your “real self,” flaws and all; and, as you do so, you have fewer reasons to lie.

But what if you are living a lie that others created for you and even the law requires that you accept as fact yet you know it’s not true? Seven decades of American adoptees have had their true birth records falsified, their true identities and biological realities hidden under seal of secrecy, and been told the “*chosen child*” story — that they were “chosen” by strangers, but not by their biological relatives. How does an adoptee overcome the legal and societal barriers that conceal the truth of his or her own identity and the identity of all who are biologically related to him? How does the adoptee overcome being a “legal fiction?”

Could many of today’s criminals have led a more productive life had they never been “rescued” by adoption? Given their grasp of things, the following adoptees could have.

Adoptees Incarcerated for Theft or Fraud

who wrote to AmFOR for assistance in connecting with their biological families

BOYD, Jeffrey Neil

Born 7-9-74, Jeff was adopted 7-17-74 and the adoption was finalized 1-23-75 in Texas. Jeff wrote AmFOR that he would like to find any of his biological relatives, especially siblings, “even if no relationship develops.” He knew only that his mother was born 1-29-53 in Montana but lost a list of females born on that date who he intended to write to.

Jeff was convicted of Arson and Theft.

BRACY, Anthony

Born 7-22-81 in Columbia, South Carolina, Anthony is searching for his biological parents and sister. He was convicted of Second Degree Robbery with earliest release date in 6-1-13.

BRAVERMAN, Jonathan

Born 9-10-69 at Staten Island University Hospital, New York, Jonathan was placed with his adopters on 9-18-69 through Louis Wise Services, New York City. Jonathan contacted AmFOR in hope of finding his parents and any siblings and also registered on the New York State Adoption Reunion Registry. He was convicted of Armed Robbery and was expected to be on Work Release in 2006.

BROWN, Derek

Born 8-22-73 in St. Louis, Missouri, Derek, who is African-American, retained his birth name through a series of kinship adoptions (adoptions by relatives). Derek's mother, Carol D. Brown, died in a car crash in 1974. His father evidently had custody of Derek briefly but Derek was so young that he does not remember either of his parents.

He was also placed with his maternal grandmother, Clara L. Brown, who informed him his father's name is Leroy Watts or Watson and that he was married to Yolanda Hall, last known to reside in Jefferson City and they had other children. Derek has 2 sisters, Lakeisha Roberson and Lonya Blanks, and a younger brother. Derek was convicted of Robbery.

DAVENPORT, Scott

Scott was born 4-20-76 in Lexington, Kentucky. At age 12 he and his brother Aaron, age 14, were adopted separately. At age 18, Scott was convicted of Second Degree Burglary and wrote to AmFOR in hope of locating his brother.

CALHOUN, Donald P.

Born 4-21-70 at Los Angeles General Hospital, after his 4-24-70 foster care placement Donald was adopted twice. His first adoption placement was on 10-18-71 and was terminated on 2-17-72. He was again placed with a foster family until his second adoption by the Calhouns in 1973.

Donald wrote AmFOR requesting assistance in finding his biological parents, siblings and any other relatives. He knows his mother is Hispanic, was born in 1948, and that his father is Black, was in his 20s when Donald was born, and was in a Job Corps program.

Donald's mother's family had strong racial hatred of Blacks and would not have accepted a Black or mixed race child. He knows that his mother was unmarried at the time of his birth, that her maiden name is probably Chavez, and she and her twin brother were the 10th and 11th of 12 children and 4 of her siblings died in infancy of a variety of natural causes. The twin brother died at age 18 months of pneumonia. Apparently she lived some distance from the nearest town. Donald was convicted of Robbery.

ENGLISH, Shawn Christian

Born 5-12-73, in Delano, California, Shawn was adopted by Gary M. and Jesse A. English, now deceased. Shawn would like to find his biological parents and any other family members. He was convicted of Identity Theft and Forgery with earliest release date of 7-22-05. He wrote that none of the identities were of real persons and that he was also seeking penpals "who can relate to growing up with the feeling of *not belonging*."

GETTY, Michael

Michael was serving a sentence of Life Plus 17 Years With Possibility of Parole when he first contacted AmFOR in 1997. He wrote "I am an adoptee, birth name Max Leroy Robinson, born 7-4-66 and

adopted when I was 7 years old on 12-17-73. I've spent some time putting together a file of information and names relating to my natural family. While I have been somewhat successful at this, apparently none of the people I have located wish to have contact with me. I know who my mother and father are. I know I have a brother and a sister but don't know anything about them." Michael was convicted of Armed Robbery and Assault committed during an Attempted Escape from prison.

Michael's history of stealing and running away are two of his Adopted Child Syndrome behaviors. Michael's story highlights the basic human need for "family." Michael wrote: "I no longer have a relationship with my adoptive family and I'm not exactly sure when it died. I've lost two families in my life – the one that gave me away and the one that drove me away.. That's why this search is so important to me. It's my heritage as much as it's there's and I don't think anyone can justifiably keep it from me."

Many incarcerated adoptees, particularly those like Michael who are serving long sentences and have been abandoned by their adoptive families, feel a sense of "double rejection" and employ a great persistence to "connect" with their biological families or, at least, to know the truth of their pre-adoption pasts. Although, with assistance from AmFOR, he managed to chart his extensive biological family tree, even identifying the pall bearers at his grandfather's funeral, no one in his biological family would respond to his letters. He reported that his letter to his grandmother was returned unopened and that an aunt allegedly did not want involvement, but that response was via his adopters, leaving Michael wondering whether his mother and siblings even know that he has been attempting to contact them.

Statistically, only 1-2% of relinquishing mothers found by their adult adopted children refused contact with them, even when the adoptee is incarcerated for a serious crime, according to the experience of both state-run and private search-and-reunion entities, many having more than 100,000 registrants annually. Michael did discover that the aunt had adopted his sister who allegedly has also been in trouble with the law. Without knowing what caused the family separations, it is not possible to speculate whether his natural parents and sister were able to remain in contact or whether the lack of contact similarly negatively affected Michael's sister.

Response was better from a woman willing to be his pen-pal. On 8-21-98, after 5 years of correspondence and visits and feeling they were in love, they were married. The wedding took place in prison, despite that they did not yet know whether he would be paroled, and despite that conjugal visits were not permitted at his prison. Motivation for prison marriages ranges from needing someone to substitute for missing family members to needing a place to go upon release, as well as companionship, genuine affection, love, helping the inmate to pass the time he must serve, and a sense of stability. Michael wrote: "Opening my heart to her as I have is probably the most courageous thing I've done in my entire life and sometimes it scares hell out of me. But when I feel like that I can just call her and just the sound of her voice gives me strength." (See also "Prison Marriages" in the Prisons section of this book.)

It is not known whether he has since had any contact with any member of his biological family who he seemed resigned to know only through scant historical references. What he calls his "genealogy project" is more than a vicarious glimpse into what "could have been" or defiance against what "cannot be." He wrote: "I can't begin to describe the changes that I've made in my life over the last 4 years of my search, through the small discoveries I've made. I've given substance to ghosts that have haunted me for as long as I can remember. They no longer haunt me – at least not to the extent that they have any power in my life. It doesn't matter that the people I've tried to contact chose not to write back or made it clear that they didn't want any contact. At some point I realized that my natural parents were just two people who had a lot of problems and that, in trying to deal with them, they made bad

choices...like I did. The act of reaching out, unsuccessful as it was, has enabled me to overcome 31 years of *guilt and low self esteem* and made me realize *I wasn't to blame*” - which echoes the feelings of many adoptees who believe they were rejected at birth.

Michael is responding to a natural primal instinct that seeks a natural order and which brings peace and healing.

KELTCH, Ryan

Born 7-5-74 in Thornton, Colorado, Ryan's parents were both in the military. His was a step-parent adoption and he wrote AmFOR that he is searching for his “real” father.

LOVEJOY, Kenneth Wayne

Born 3-24-79 in Okinawa, Japan, Kenneth was seeking information about his biological parents. Ken had a medical background and had worked as an EMT. He was convicted of Aggravated Robbery and Robbery with earliest release date of 3-10-11.

MAURER, Ronald Lee

Born 6-13-51 in Cleveland, Ohio, Ron was adopted at birth and apparently his adoption was finalized in New York, although his amended birth certificate was recorded in Ohio on 6-22-51. He wrote AmFOR in hope of finding his biological family and discovered the family's name was “Green.” He was convicted of Robbery and Grand Larceny with an earliest release date in 2006.

In 2010, after he had been out of prison for 4 years, AmFOR received an update from Ron – He became credentialed in New York as an Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor in 2010 but still had not found his family.

MELINGER, Alfred

Born and adopted 11-19-49, Al was uncertain whether he was born in Idaho or Georgia when he wrote AmFOR that he was seeking his mother, Barbara Derrick, from Jordan Valley, Oregon. While in prison, Al received a visit from his father, Alfred Derrick, who was originally from Burns, Oregon, and resided in Twentynine Palms, California, before he died 1-2-91. His parents divorced sometime between 1946 and 1952. He does not know his true nationality and ethnicity. His adoption was facilitated by Dr. Rosco Kellogg, a naturopathic practitioner who was later indicted in Idaho for practicing and prescribing drugs without a license.

Al wrote that he escaped the physical and emotional abuse caused by his adopters when, at age 14, he was sent to a juvenile facility and has had no contact with the Mellinger family for over 43 years, mostly spent battling alcoholism and drugs.

When last heard from, Al was in an apprenticeship program for certification as an alcohol/drug counselor, and had 10 years of sobriety and intense therapy. He was planning a career as a Counselor. Al was convicted of Bank Robbery in 1997 and was scheduled for full time release on 3-13-10.

McCOY, Richard Lynn

Born 1-25-82 in Germany, Richard had a Black American father who was in the military and who was married to his Caucasian mother. Richard was adopted in his first year.

During his search for his family, with AmFOR's assistance, he discovered he may have a younger brother. Richard was convicted of Second Degree Robbery and Unlawful Use of a Weapon, expected to parole in 2003.

POGUE, Qiyam Leon.

Born in December, 1957, in Germany, to a German mother who died from cancer in 1985, Qiyam would like to find his unknown African-American father, Leon Johnson. He knows that his father must have been in the service in or around Nurmburg, Germany, in April 1957 when he was conceived. Qiyam is serving 25-years-to-Life under California's "Three Strikes" law for driving a stolen rental car.

ROSE, Kinja M.

Born 5-30-76 in Farmington, Connecticut, Kinja is Jamaican and Italian. When he was a year old, his mother, Sonia Rose, left him with the Otis Crocker family of 4 girls and 4 boys. He was then back and forth between a cousin and grandparents until age 13 when he ran away from yjrir home. The Crockers found him and immediately filed a court petition to adopt him.

From age 17 on, Kinja lived on the streets, stealing to try to obtain things he was used to his grandmother providing for him before she and his grandfather, Arnall Rose, died, leaving a cousin to handle his grandparents' estate which he was to have inherited but the money and property were taken. When he was 20 in 1996, he found his mother. However, she died 6 months after he met her. He still does not know who his father is, only that the family is from Atlanta, Georgia. Kinja managed to obtain his high school diploma, had a year of college classes, and fathered a son, Justus.

Kinja was convicted of First Degree Larceny and Third Degree Burglary and received a 9-year sentence. He states that he is guilty of only 2 of the 12 burglaries for which he was convicted and is "serving someone else's time" due to a plea bargain.

SANTOS, Gilberto

Born 10-4-73 at Hartford Hospital, Hartford, Connecticut, Gilberto was adopted through DCYS. His male adopter, Roberto Santos, is deceased and he was searching for his biological parents. Gilberto was convicted for Driving with a Suspended License, a Violation of Probation on a previous conviction for Robbery. His earliest release date was in 2009.

SAUNDERS, Devon Lee

Born 5-13-68 at Children's Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky, under his birth name, Devon Lee Smith, Devon is of African-American descent. He knows his mother's name was Carolyn Y. Smith and that she was only 13 when he was born and adopted. He was convicted of Possession of a Stolen Vehicle.

SESSIONS, Jason C.

Born 3-21-68 under is birth name, Jason Christopher Legge, at Imperial Valley Hospital in Brawley, California, Jason is part French/Caucasian and part Native American/Shoshone. He was searching for his biological mother, Barbara J. Bender. His father, John A. Legge, died around Y-2000. Jason wrote AmFOR: "My mother needs to know I'm alive and that she's a grandmother."

Jason was convicted of Grand Theft, Escape, and Assault on a Correctional Officer, with earliest parole date of 10-15-06. Jesse turned himself in after being a fugitive for 6 years, in order to set things right for himself and his 2 daughters who he had with his girlfriend who left with his daughters.

SMITH, Kevin Douglas

Born 7-17-63 in Kern County, California, Kevin was serving a 31-year sentence with possibility of parole– 6 for Robbery, 5 for the gun enhancement, 20 for four 5-year prior enhancements for robbing

drug dealers when he was a kid – when he first contacted AmFOR in 1996 at age 38. A burley biker who referred to himself as “Ole Honey Bear,” Kevin has lived a fantasy life of “devil may care” excesses that have been categorized as Adopted Child Syndrome behaviors. They include his past sexual exploits, when he was young and living out a “Robin Hood” fantasy, and a shootout with a SWAT team during a robbery which could have taken his life. Kevin’s aggressive survival instincts saved his life while in prison.

Kevin explains, “I always thought life was about two things: possessions and sex; everything else was just a path to that. I was told I was “special” and “**chosen**” which are terms the kids on the playground don’t use, if you know what I mean, but I did fight a lot as a kid over name calling about my adoptive status. I’ve never really been into chemicals other than “grass,” but I have been pulling capers for money since I was a teenager and did distance myself a lot from normal ways of thinking. When I was older, whenever I would drop a hint to my adoptive parents that I was interested in knowing about my natural parents, they’d have a “scared horses” look that told me to drop the subject. And I was never told by Social Services or anyone that, as an adult adoptee, I have a right to certain “non-identifying information.”

On 10-22-96, Kevin received his “non-identifying” background information and he was surprised to learn he has an older brother. In May, 1997, with AmFOR’s help, Kevin and his mother were finally in contact. His mother was paraplegic from a car accident, so could not travel to the prison to share a face to face meeting, but they maintained a steady correspondence.

On 7-21-97, Kevin wrote: “Received a quatrillion page letter from my Mom! She is so very much like me that it is scarey! This is so neat! Did you see how similar our handwriting is? I thanked her for the greatest gift of all – life!” Kevin grew up realizing that the trade-off for being a “**chosen child**” meant “don’t ask, don’t tell,” at least not in his adopters’ presence. Like many adoptees, Kevin searched in secret for answers regarding vital questions of his identity and his place in the world. In self defense rather than denial, he admitted to Adopted Child Syndrome behaviors – lying, conflict with authority, stealing, sexual acting out, fire-setting, etc. He discovered he had not inherited his criminality.

SWIMS, Keyran

Keyran was born 7-21-80 at a city hospital in St. Louis and adopted by his aunt. His name was changed. Keyran was serving 5 years for Second Degree Burglary with release date of December 2005, and before he was released in 2006, he wrote AmFOR in hope of locating his family. Ryan was also convicted of Fraud for a check on his own account when starting his own business.

VELASCO, Jesse

Jesse had no pre-adoption information about himself when he first contacted AmFOR. He was convicted of Second Degree Burglaries with an earliest release date of June 2011.

WITHAM, Bryan Scott

Born 6-24-70, in Biddeford, Maine, and adopted in 1970, Brian wrote AmFOR that while he was incarcerated, an Intermediary allegedly contacted his biological mother without his knowledge or permission and claims there was no response from his mother. Therefore, he has no information about her, nor her reason for refusing contact, nor about other family members, if, in fact, she had been contacted at all. Bryan was convicted of Robbery, with earliest release date of 2012.

15. ADOPTEES WHO ARE SEX OFFENDERS

Father Lavin never knew his natural parents.

He was raised in foster homes."

—from the movie, *Boys of St. Vincent*,
true story of a child molesting priest

Types of Sex Offenders and Their Victims

Families of our parents' generation never openly spoke of sexual child abuse. Today, adults who were abused as children are speaking out.

Sex Offenders, including child molesters, are perhaps the most misunderstood of all criminals. Of all crimes, crimes by Sex Offenders against children are most repulsive to society because children are small, innocent, and defenseless against an adult predator. **Two-thirds of all prisoners convicted of rape or sexual assault committed their crime against a child** (Source: Bureau of Justice Executive Summary, "Child Victimizers: Violent Offenders and Their Victims," by Lawrence A. Greenfield, BJS Statistician, March 1996 issue).

On 11-4-11 retired Coach Jerry Sandusky, who has an adopted son, was arrested and charged with 40 counts of sexual abuse of disadvantaged young boys recruited through his Second Mile Foundation, over a 15 year period. The alleged ongoing coverup by Penn State officials and others shocked the nation as more former child victims surfaced. Yet no one seemed shocked when, just a month before, on 10-28-11, CNN's "Predators in Plain Sight" reported that "Nearly 6,000 priests have been accused of molesting children in the United States since the 1950s, according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops." Very few make it to criminal trial because by the time victims come forward the Statute of Limitations has passed and many of the priests have been relocated, whereabouts unknown. Because they avoided conviction, they are not required to register as sex offenders and are living in communities among young children all across the country. But it is not only child molesting priests who hide in plain sight. California has lost track of "at least 33,000 or 44% of its 76,350 registered Sex Offenders" according to an AP investigative report ("Survey: Megan's Law Failing Across the U.S.", *The Desert Sun*, 1-7-03). .

In his tv role as the lead investigator on "Criminal Minds," actor Joe Mantegna's character profiles serial killers, but when he had a case involving a serial Sex Offender and his colleague asked "Why?" he responded "*The job is to find evil and stop it. That job is tough enough. Let someone else find where it came from.*" And so this writer endeavors to answer the "Why?"

What we do know is that there's no one-profile-fits-all with Sex Offenders. It is now common knowledge, and finally admitted in FBI statistics, that child molesters are usually a close family member, or family friend, and that **a majority of their child victims are adoptees**. Only 10% of child sexual abusers report that they molest a child who is a stranger. (Abel and Harlow Child Molestation Research and Prevention Study). The 1999 U.S. Census Statistical Abstract confirms that **30% of children molested "in the family" are a stepchild, adopted or foster child**; only 19% are the biological child. Currently, 90% of efforts go to protect children from abusers who are strangers, when what is needed is to focus 90% of efforts toward protecting children from molesters in their own families and who are friends of their families (Source: Policy statement by Child Molestation Research and Prevention Institute Inc, Oakland, California, 2009).

In one study, 27% of adult female sexual abusers but only 16% of adult male sex abusers admitted to having been sexually abused in childhood (as cited in "The Boy Who Was Raised As A

Dog" by psychiatrists, Perry and Szalavitz, 2006).. A Sex Offender can be from any walk of life, young or old, male or female, homosexual or straight, married with children or loners. Their crimes range from non-contact crimes such as peeping and pornography, to contact offenses including rape and murder. Their victims can be female or male, very young or elderly, stalked or chosen at random. Adults who prey on children often hold positions of authority in order to gain the trust of unsuspecting children and the community. A pedophile may blame the victim, claiming the child was seductive, and even though some very young girls are innocently seductive, the point that seems to escape the pedophile is that it's always the responsibility of the adult to protect the child. Young children even blame themselves, not realizing they are victims until they are older.

There was a startling *CNN Report* (9-27-91): "**One out of every six to seven boys is sexually molested, usually by an older woman.**" That statistic refutes the public's misconception that it is predominately homosexual men who molest young boys.

"Tough on crime" rhetoric by politicians has created vigilantism without full understanding or in total disregard of the wide range of ages and behaviors and treatment programs that differentiate a violent predator who is likely to repeat his acts from someone who poses little risk of repeating his offense and who is not a danger to the community. There is great debate on whether they should be treated as "mentally ill," able to rehabilitate in some cases, or simply incarcerated, while those released on parole are subjected to lifelong reporting and community vigilantism including harassment and murder, or civil commitment *after* they've completed their court ordered prison sentences..

We do know it's a myth that Sex Offenders can't be treated, and Iowa studies over a 10-year period, for example, show only 10% re-offend after going through treatment. There are about 20,000 Sex Offenders" in Los Angeles County alone (*CBS Report*, 9-14-98). Of those, not counting child traffickers and pimp, and 15,000 of them can be looked up on the Internet by the general public, under Megan's Law, to determine whether a sex offender resides in a community.

In 2001, studies revealed that offender registration and notification systems nationwide were found to be "inaccurate" whereby innocent men by the same name as offenders were found to be listed the registries. Although California has had some form of "reporting" law since 1944, the primary change brought about by "Megan's Law," which a federal court upheld in 2000, and which Hawaii struck down as unconstitutional in 2001, is that now some (but not all) Sex Offenders can be disclosed to the public under certain circumstances. Criteria and procedures for identifying Sex Offenders differ significantly from state to state. Typically, an underage girl who is impregnated as result of incest or by a pedophile is *forced* to abort the pregnancy if state law permits; otherwise, the baby, is *taken* for adoption.

The non-profit Barbara Sinatra Children's Center, on the campus of Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, California, provides counseling for children who have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused, regardless of a family's ability to pay, while ChildHelp USA includes residential treatment "villages" and therapeutic foster care group homes (See Resources Directory).

SEMON, Kerry

A registered nurse and an adoptee, Kerry heads "Pound Pup Legacy" (<http://PoundPupLegacy.org>) an organization that documents cases of physical, sexual and emotional abuse of adopted children. Kerry, whose parents were French and Ukrainian, was born in 1968 in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada, and she was adopted by an American couple through a no longer existing adoption agency, Sister Mary Eugene Foundation. Her interest in abuse of adopted children arises from her own adoption horror story – from having been sexually abused in childhood. (Source: Emails from Kerry Semon to AmFOR)

HUDSON, Deanna,

Deanna, an adoptee, was 30-years old when she provided her story to AmFOR as follows: " I was Deanne Lorraine Harper at birth, the oldest of three girls. My father was shot and killed by the man who my mother married when I was 3-1/2. He adopted me and my sister and later another daughter who was his and my mother's biological child. I remember us moving to California when I was six. Things seemed pretty good until my Mom caught my adoptive father cheating on her. She beat him up and threw him out. From then on, a lot of men were coming and going. Unknown to my mother, her boyfriends started molesting me. One night I was raped and told my mother what happened. She beat me bad, and when I went to school the next day with bruises and choke marks on my neck the teacher called Social Services and I was placed in foster care. The foster parents were very mean to me, so I believed it was all my fault that I got raped and later the court sent me back home where I was continually molested by men my mother knew.

I was back and forth between foster homes and my mother, until I became pregnant. When I was sent to prison for selling drugs, a lady from Social Services told me I had to sign over my son for adoption while in prison or she would have me charged with being unfit and make sure I lost him permanently. I didn't want him to end up going from one foster home to another so I signed, not realizing I would not be permitted to see him again or know where he is. He was born 1-10-86 in Visalia, California. Even though my son was with a babysitter when I was doing drugs, I know I was doing wrong but want him to know the reasons and that I never stopped loving him."

WALSH, Adam

Adam, the young son of former FBI investigator John Walsh, was murdered by a child molester. Walsh says he has dedicated his life to finding missing children. But he is also obsessed with "catching the bad guys" and asks the public's help through his TV show "America's Most Wanted." The program provides a detailing of the crimes, how they were committed, modus operandi, the victims, but not much insight on what caused these killers to be killers. Although viewers are asked only to report any sightings of the "Wanted," and are warned not to approach the armed and dangerous, media has become an accomplice to Walsh's personal vendetta. Programs like "America's Most Wanted," "Cops," and the like, cast the accused or convicted as less than human, deserving of "no mercy," and even deserving ridicule and maltreatment by their captors. Would-be vigilantes, even children, get the wrong message. These programs are not concerned with *why* a person has anti-social behaviors, nor what can be done to prevent or cure them, only about punishing them. John Walsh was also the prime mover in establishment of the Adam Walsh Act (AWA) requiring civil commitment of a broad category of Sex Offenders after they have served court ordered prison sentences. [See "Civil Commitment" under the "Prisons" section of this book for fact on the unresolved issues and costs.]

COBERLY, Emerson

Mildly retarded, Emerson Coberly has had his life ruined over a relatively minor incident. The court officials said Coberly repeatedly touched an 18-year-old woman at school after school officials had told him not to. Coberly touched the woman's breasts and buttocks for 30 seconds, according to court documents. One several anonymous callers said if they didn't get that 'predator' out of here, they'd burn him out! Coberly had hoped to forget the past and start over at Southeast Warren High School. He wanted to go to football games and the prom with his girlfriend. But he can't get a job because he is on a Sex Offender list. Others felt he should be punished but not to this extent." (Maggie O'Brien, Staff Writer, "Sex Offender Drops Out of High School," *Des Moines Register-Tribune*, Iowa, 8-11-98).

JENSEN, Thomas

Tom Jensen, 27, faced a Life sentence on 11-18-98, for impregnating his three stepdaughters—one aged 11, and twins age 12. All three babies were put up for adoption and the girls now live in a group home.

STEPHANIE and KEVIN

Stephanie and Kevin were teenagers - a modern-day Romeo and Juliet. Kevin got Stephanie pregnant as result of consensual sex when both were under legal age. Despite that Kevin has supported the child and the teenagers had planned to marry, he is permitted only limited, supervised visits with his child and was required to be registered as a Sex Offender for the rest of his life (NBC's *Leeza Show*, 8-11-98). According to Mark Gregston, a teen counselor, "There are several catalysts for sexual promiscuity among adopted kids, above and beyond the normal temptations of the hyper-sexualized teen culture. Sex can temporarily satisfy an adopted teen's craving for a relationship, belonging, and a connectedness to another person. Over the years, we have seen a major shift – a disconnectedness among the kids we work with, and especially among the adopted kids. The normal and powerful desire by all teens to "fit in" and "belong" comes to adopted young people at the same time they are dealing with a growing sense of abandonment by their 'birth' parents. Even kids who had been doing well may start to having major issues as result." ("Sexual Promiscuity and Adopted Teens," *Christian Blog Posts*, 1-10-2011).

LATTOURNEAU, Mary Kay

In "Family Man—As Mary Kay Letourneau Gives Birth Again, Her Lover, Now 15, Tells Their Story" (*People* magazine, 11-2-98), Letourneau, 36, a former teacher, was returned to the Washington Corrections Center for Women, where she is serving a 7-1/2 year sentence for the Rape of her newborn's father, 15-year- old Vili Fualaau, her one time elementary school pupil. The baby, Alexis Georgia, Letourneau's second by Fualaau, went home with the boy's mother, who is also raising their firstborn, 17-month-old Audrey. Fulalaau was promoting a book, "Un Seul Crime, L'Amour" (Only One Crime, Love). "They say I'm a victim, but I'm not. I'm more a victim without her."

With the birth of the second child, prosecutors are considering filing additional Rape charges against Letourneau, because Fualaau was 14 at the time of his last encounter with her. Letourneau fought in vain for the right to breast-feed her baby. Letourneau believes the two will someday marry. Had Fualaau touched a female *younger* than himself, the state would have charged him "as an adul't instead of portraying him as a helpless victim.

McCOLLUM, Laura Faye

Laura Faye McCollom, 39, a Washington State Prison sex predator, served 5-1/2 years in prison for repeatedly raping a 2-year old girl and admitted sexually assaulting other children including a 4-day old baby. Eventually, the United States District Court determined that incarcerating her together with 45 *male* inmates who allegedly exposed themselves to her and touched her was "unethical, clinically inappropriate, and cruel" and granted her transfer to a women's prison. ("Jail's Sole Female Sex Predator Transferred," *The Desert Sun*, Palm Springs, 6-13-97).

ROYAL, Arlene Dian

Arlene Royal, 28, of San Pedro, California, was charged in 1998 with 3 counts of Unlawful Sexual Intercourse, 3 counts of Oral Copulation with a 15-year-old boy since he was 12, and she faced 16 years in prison. (Source: "Woman Charged in 3-Year Affair with Boy," *Los Angeles Times*, 10-6-98.)

The Adopted Sex Offenders

The following are both from adoptees incarcerated for sex offenses who contributed their stories by written permission, and also from news articles. Their stories may shed light as to the reasons behind these individuals' outcomes and provide some insight toward prevention.

ACKERMAN, Gerald Ajax, 42

Born to an alcoholic mother, Ackerman was taken from her by the State and adopted at 18 months. He grew up troubled in Oak Park, Michigan, described by his own adoptive sister, DeAnn Fierman, as "the evilest child" she had ever seen. On 6-20-00, Gerald "Ajax" Ackerman, 42, an adoptee who was the Mayor of Port Huron, Michigan, was sentenced on 16 felony counts stemming from sexual activities with girls 9 to 14. Ackerman, a former biker, is said to have brought more of the "common folk" into city government and helped reduce gang problems. He was also director of "Clear Choices," a center that counseled troubled youths to keep them off drugs. It was at the Center that Ackerman ran into trouble by having sex with the young girls there, police said. His attorney, Gerry Mason, said it was a tragedy for Ackerman, a man who it appeared had taken a lost life and turned it around. Gene Schabeth and Janet Naylor (*The Detroit News*, 4-8-99) profiled Ackerman who rose from drug addiction to public office.

Ackerman began using drugs and alcohol at age 14 in high school when his adopters sent him away to military school in Illinois.. To an already troubled adoptee, being sent away from home equates to another "rejection," compounding the perceived "rejection" by his parents despite that he was not voluntarily relinquished. He managed to graduate Allendale High but failed at college and Navy enlistment. His frequent run-ins with the law began at age 15 continued until he was 30. It took a near-fatal car crash, the breakup of his first marriage, and 5 trips to rehab to get himself cleaned up.

"Ajax" is the name he picked up during his biker days, from the movie "The Warriors." His behavior so disturbed his adopters that they gave up on him and moved to Florida—which he must have regarded as one more rejection. By the time Ackerman arrived in Port Huron in 1987, he was clean of drugs and alcohol and apparently was determined to remake his life, but he was homeless. He was able to borrow money to attend St. Clair College and graduated with an Associates in Arts (AA) degree. In 1994, Ackerman was named "Michigan Public Citizen of the Year" by the National Association of Social Workers, becoming their "adoptee success story" poster boy.

At the time of his 1999 arrest and resignation from office, he was only 6 credits shy of a Bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University. Just as the 2000 presidential election will always be a subject of controversy, so was the verdict by Ackerman's jury.

In 2002, this author wrote to Ackerman inquiring whether he had ever reconnected with his parents or had any desire to, and whether he would like to comment for publication. He did not reply. (Sources: Article by Gene Schabeth and Janet Naylor, *The Detroit News*, 4-8-99; and "Former Mayor Gerald 'Ajax' Ackerman Will Spend at Least 18 Years in Prison for Sexual Misconduct Involving Children" (*Associated Press* and Maryann George, for the *Detroit Free Press*)

BALL, Michael W.

Born 10-24-66 in Seattle, Washington, Michael is part Native American (Cherokee and Chippewa) and part Caucasian. At age 12, he was separated from his family and the last of several foster families permanently informally adopted him. He wrote AmFOR for assistance in locating his biological family,

particularly his father, Curtis Lee Blackburn, and relatives on his father's side. He also wanted to know more about his Native American heritage. At age 15, he was convicted of sex offenses "as an adult" after being coerced into stating he was 16. At age 22, Michael was convicted for Life under Washington state's "Three Strikes Law" although the prior convictions were when he was 15.

CAMPBELL, Frank Jayson

Born 9-11-70 under the name Francis Byron Harmon, in Haverhill, Massachusetts, Frank, who is uncertain as to his mixed race background, was first adopted in 1983 by a couple named Acousti, with whom he moved to Poland Springs, Maine. But for some reason the adoption did not work out and he was re-adopted by the Campbells in Farmington, Maine. Frank was convicted for Gross Sexual Assault which he stated was non-violent sex with a 24-year old woman who is mentally challenged, and so, under the law, she could not legally consent. He had a concurrent sentence in New Jersey for Illegal Possession of a Firearm.

GRAY, Steve

Born 3-15-63 in Missoula, Montana, Steve's parents are shown on his original birth certificate as Clinton C. Kaldahl and Patricia Elizabeth Welborn. He wrote to AmFOR for assistance in finding his biological family, despite what he described as "many fears and apprehensions" as to what to say to them when found. Typically, an adoptee fears or may violently react to rejection. Steve's conviction was for Rape, Assault, Sodomy, Breaking and Entering, Robbery and he was sentenced to "2 Life Sentences Plus 112 Years."

HALE, Daniel Edward

Born 1-16-65 in Cleveland, Ohio, Daniel Hale was adopted at birth. He graduated college with an AA Degree and had been in the Army and Navy 6 years. He had been convicted for Attempted Rape, although consenting, under Statutory Rape law because the girl was under legal age. While incarcerated, and with AmFOR's help, Daniel was reunited with his biological mother, Judith Partin Schroeder. On 10-10-04, Schroeder wrote as follows: "When Daniel was born, I was 22, unmarried and forced by circumstances to release him to the adoption system in Ohio. Thanks to help from you and others, Daniel and I were finally reunited. This was after 40 years of anguish, heartache and wondering if I would ever see my only child again. It never occurred to me that my baby would be released to people such as those who adopted him – an alcoholic, atheistic and abusive situation such as Daniel's is simply unconscionable. I do not understand how such a thing could happen in a so-called civilized society. Nor do I understand why there is no followup to monitor the home after an adoption is finalized. When I relinquished Daniel, I did so in the belief that he would be loved, cherished and have all the material and educational advantages that I was unable to give him. We both realize there is nothing we can do now to change what has already happened. Daniel has emerged from his traumatic experiences with such a beautiful and kind spirit. It amazes me that he could come away from his adoption and prison experience with so much love, understanding and forgiveness. Thank you for helping Daniel to locate me. It has truly changed my life."

MITCHELL, Emanial

Born in 1967, Emanial's adoption was a stepparent adoption. At first, he was raised by his biological mother but then had a stepfather and, at age 14 also had a new stepmother who was 28 and with whom

he resided until he was 21. He alleges that stepmother and two of her friends sexually molested him..

Although Emanial wrote AmFOR from the Augusta State Medical Prison where he was incarcerated that he is Guilty of the first charge of Child Molestation, he stated he is Not Guilty of the additional charges of Aggravated Stalking and Aggravated Child Molestation for which he was convicted, and expressed remorse for the crime which he said hurt the person he cared about.

PRINKEY, Robert Lee

Born 6-25-48, presumably in Pennsylvania, Robert Prinkey is of Native American (Cherokee), English and Sicilian ancestry. The only pre-adoption information he had, besides his place of birth and nationality, was that at one time he had foster parents named Anasetti. Robert was seeking his biological family and also his daughter when he wrote AmFOR that he had seizures since a motorcycle accident and being repeatedly beaten and abused in prison. He was appealing his conviction for Sex With A Minor for which he had a 20-year sentence and was re-educating himself.

REINAN, Tommy Lewis

Born 2-16-46 in Nampa, Idaho, as Tommy Lewis Walker, he was 4 years old when his mother, Doloris June McArthur, left him and his older brother in a Portland, Oregon Catholic orphanage. His father, Robert Keith Walker, denied that Tommy was his son. He remained at the orphanage until age 6. He recalls waiting on a beige concrete bench for his mother to come for him but she rarely came. He later learned she had been working just a mile or so away at a cheese factory. His mother then married Duane Milton Reinan who adopted Tommy and his older brother. He believes that because he reminded his mother of her first husband, he was “farmed out” to his mother’s friends and relatives and came to the realization at a young age that he was “unwanted.” After living a short time with his mother and Reinan, he left home, though he felt Reinan was a good man. Despite being on the streets and “sleeping in Goodwill drop boxes,” he completed grade school and high school and went on to take college business courses. But he discovered he was dyslexic and “turned numbers around,” so could not get a job in his chosen field. He was a Teamsters truck driver for 25 years, had 3 marriages, was honorably discharged from the Army as a POW from Vietnam, and was a bull rider with the rodeo circuit.

Tommy was convicted of one count of Rape of a Child, which he denies and states the girl was 18 or 19 years old but had a falsified birth certificate. He is serving a 50-year sentence.

RIDER, Christopher Scott

Born 1-28-69, under his birth name, Donald Scott Kelley, in Anderson, Indiana, Chris was adopted at age 6 in Indiana by his aunt and uncle. He shares that in childhood he was diagnosed with hoof and mouth disease, was physically and sexually abused by his adopter uncle as well as by others. He wrote to AmFOR in hope of finding his biological father and grandparents. He was originally committed to the California Department of Corrections in Y-2000, sentenced to 70-Years-To-Life, but was resentenced to 44-Years-To-Life on a Three Strikes conviction for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child and Torture and also had offenses of Child Abuse/Endangerment and Corporal Punishment of a Child.

STROHMEYER, Jeremy

Adopted in 1980 at 18 months old, Jeremy was an 18-year old honor student when, on 5-25-97 he raped and killed 7-year old Sherrice Iverson—a stranger to Jeremy-- in a Las Vegas casino restroom. According to a psychiatrist who researched the case, while Jeremy was molesting the girl, he strangled

her to stifle her screams, and because she was still breathing, he twisted her head in an attempt to break her neck. He later told police “I just wanted to experience death.” He was convicted of Rape and Murder and sentenced to Life. His famed attorney, Leslie Abramson, defended him based on his “diminished capacity” due to prescribed drugs and he was allegedly on metamphetamine (“speed”).

Jeremy said that he had sometimes played a game called “whore dragging” in which he fantasized that prostitutes were lured to his car, grabbed by their arms as the driver sped off, and dragged along the street until Jeremy let go. The media focused on the fact that more than 800 files of child pornography were found on Jeremy’s computer. At the urging of his adopters, Jeremy pled Guilty, a plea bargain that allowed him to avoid the Death Penalty. A year after his conviction, a *Los Angeles Times* feature (7-19-98) revealed that Jeremy had kept his adoptive status hidden even from his close friends and that, as early as age 4, Jeremy would talk about wanting to find and help his mother, that his mother had a drug problem and was diagnosed as schizophrenic or alcohol dependent, and that his father had been incarcerated in California for most of the previous 10 years for drug-related problems. Abramson, to her credit, told media that Jeremy was not a “bad seed” – that he was “mentally gone” at the time of the crime – but no one will ever know whether a jury would have been swayed by either the “diminished capacity” defense or an Adopted Child Syndrome defense. His highly publicized case also highlighted adoption-caused patterns of behavior.

Jeremy’s public statement was as follows: “In trying to answer questions, I have had much help from my lawyers, my [adopters], and psychiatric experts. For some of us who were adopted, not knowing from whom or from where we came can wreck our lives. It can make us walking time bombs, full of rage we don’t consciously experience. I was filled with anger and rage I couldn’t understand. My recently found half-brother who knows our mother, and grew up seeing her, has avoided the pitfalls of drug and alcohol use. But our brother [also adopted] has been having some of the same problems I was having. Adopted kids like me, I now know, seek out rejection and believe on some level that no one will keep them. Had any of the 3 mental health professionals I sought help and advice from even raised the issue of adoption, they might have treated me for the complications it caused in my life. What needs to be understood is that being adopted is *not* the same as being born into a family. Many adopted kids do feel the confusion and doubts about who they are—as I did. What’s bad is not knowing what your genetic history is, or why you were given up for adoption in the first place. It shouldn’t be as difficult as it is to find out about your roots. Had my [adopters] not been led to believe the false popular myth that adoption is a non-issue, they might have suspected the existence of a secret shameful self inside me. They might have seen how serious my struggle with it was. Closed adoptions are dangerous. Isolation and lack of real relationships and communication with your family is a real destroyer.” On 10-24-99, John and Winnie Strohmeyer filed suit against Los Angeles County alleging that social workers deliberately withheld crucial information about his mother’s mental illness that would have stopped them from adopting – despite that although they already had a biological daughter, Heather, when they decided they wanted to adopt a “hard-to-place” child, one who might otherwise be “unwanted” – a term which may have lingered in Jeremy’s subconscious. (Source: *AP* News articles)

TIBBS, Chico Matthew

Born 9-2-68, Chico, who is African-American, does not know where he was born, only that he was adopted in Washington, DC by an Italian couple who are White and who died in California in 1993. Chico was seeking his adoptive sisters, Felicia and Christine Tibbs and his biological family. In his only letter to AmFOR, Chico said “*I just want to be loved*” and claimed he was innocent of the Rape and Robbery charges for which he was convicted and had an earliest release date of 2007.

WILLIAMS, Harold Duane

Born 1-27-56 to Harold Williams and Betty Lorraine Marr Stutz in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Harold and his siblings were adopted separately after several years of being subjected to sexual abuse, beginning when Harold was only 3-1/2 years of age, and his sister was 4. They were repeatedly molested by both men and women and eventually placed in Children's Square, and then Anne Wittenmeyer Home with his brother, Ron, until each child was adopted separately. He was married for 7 years and has a daughter and son. Harold is typical of child molesters who, themselves, have been victims of child molesters. His sex offenses began when he was a very young, essentially parentless child, who was taught no other example of behavior. He has been behind bars 30 years, has undergone psychiatric and rehabilitative treatment, passed numerous polygraph tests successfully, and was voluntarily chemically castrated by high, long-term doses of testosterone, despite that libido is not the impetus for sexual offenses. If released, he is subject to Megan's Law on community notification intended for offenders who are likely to repeat their offenses, which could adversely affect his chances of leading a normal life. Or, he may remain confined under Iowa's retroactive mandatory civil commitment law which replaced judge's discretion. In 1996 Harold began providing his story to this writer, as follows.

"For over 20 years, I searched for my family and located all except my younger brother, Ron, who I would still like to find. My other family members are either dead or out of my life by their own choice. The Iowa Parole Board reviewed my case last December, once again refused to release me, but agreed to review me again. Now, my counselor has notified me that Iowa has passed a law to civilly commit Sex Offenders *after* they complete their sentences. This is my 4th time in prison. I have had only 18 months of freedom since May, 1977. I received a 25-year sentence for this crime which was for penetrating a 2-year old girl with my finger. I absolutely deserve the sentence and have chosen to do everything possible to change my life. When my sister Deb, my younger brother, Ron, and I were ritually abused, several things happened at once. It began about 1959 when Deb was 4, I was 3, and Ron was 18 months. Every sexual act you can imagine took place, perpetuated by adults, including urination and defecation. They had Deb and me touch, lick, and hold each other and urinate on each other. As sick as it sounds, I did not mind doing it with her as she felt pleasant and safe, but not with them. I have tolerated homosexuals, even though I am not one, and my experience with adult males was of constant pain and betrayal, whereas Deb was pleasure, warmth, and security. My parents were unmarried "common law" husband and wife, and my father wanted to separate from her. One day in 1959, my father simply ordered my mother and her sister to go out for groceries and, while they were gone, he put us kids in the car and sped off to Iowa where I never saw my Mom again. My father told authorities my mother had abandoned us, so we were made wards of the state and placed at Children's Square USA in Council Bluffs. Despite that those in charge knew my father had abused and adopted the girls from his first marriage, he was permitted to take us home every weekend. None of the adults who abused us have ever been charged. Years later, I talked with Mom about what happened. Her response was, "*Oh well, it happened a long time ago, so get over it.*" Ironically, one of my institutional treatment counselors said the same thing to me in a group session. As I told you, they are poorly trained. In 1992 when we were adults, I had an exchange of letters and conversations with Deb. She opened my eyes for the first time and I actually felt her pain and was angry over our abuse. For 6 months, I contemplated suicide, fighting the urge every day and night. The psychologist said I was only seeking attention, so I gave up seeing him and fought it alone." Just before Christmas 1998, Harold Williams was informed that he is to be civilly committed, instead of being permitted Work Release. He was remorseful and has undergone rehab yet remains in Civil Commitment at this writing (Source: Harold Williams letters to AmFOR).

16. ADOPTED KILLERS

"I know I made a hole in a lot of people's hearts and souls, but probably I had the biggest."

-Keith Chul Weave, who killed his adoptive parents and sister

Serial Murder - Crime of Rage, Crime of Possession

The FBI estimates 500 serial killers currently live in the U.S. Over 100 of the better known serial killers (20%) are detailed on the following pages – Most are American born and they are all adopted. Since the government alleges adoptees represent only 2-3% (5- to-10-million) of the general population, 20% (100+ out of 500) who are serial killers is an over-representation of adoptees who are serial killers, and there are undoubtedly more. Due to the rarity of female serial killers, profilers tend to profile them the same as male serial killers. There have reportedly been only about 36 documented female serial killers from the late 19th century to date and only 6 in recent history, all of whom are included in this chapter because, yes, they are adoptees.

In “Killer Adoptees: Don’t Shoot The Messenger” (About.com, 2002), this writer responded to a pro-adoption article “The Myth Series: Killer Adoptees.” While many factors come into play with regard to serial killers, there has been a deliberate effort to debunk the notion that adoption itself has so burdened some adoptees that they are at risk of becoming killers by virtue of their adoptive status as at least a contributory factor. A 2009 Baylor University study of serial killers captioned “Sociological and Psychological Predisposition of Serial Killers” found that while there was no single “trait” present in every serial killer studied, predispositional factors included only two: that all were male and that 71% had some type of abandonment issues. Because every adoption requires “legal abandonment” via relinquishment by the biological parents, most adoptees assume they were not wanted, which may or may not have been the case. Because court and prison records and also newsstories concerning serial killers often intentionally omit adoptive status, the Baylor study may have missed adoptive status of some of the serial killers studied. It’s a subject no one has ever wanted talk about, particularly adoptive families. This writer ferreted out over 100 *adopted* serial killers on the following pages before having to reach a stopping point. There are more. One may ask why they exist at all if adoption was truly in their best interests. To answer that, this book documents the names, the adoptive status and the untold stories of Adopted Killers, often in their own words. Often a real or perceived secondary rejection triggered the acts of adopted killers as a “crime of rage.”

The term “serial killer” was coined by psychologist, Robert Ressler. The FBI defines Serial Murder as follows: “a minimum of 4 victims, with a ‘cooling off’ period in between. The killer is usually a stranger to the victim. The murders reflect a need to dominate the victim. In childhood, serial killers often demonstrated what is known as the ‘triad symptoms’ which are fire-setting, animal torture and bed-wetting. The victim may have a symbolic value for the killer. Statistically, the average serial killer is a White male from a lower to middle class background, usually in his 20s or 30s. Many were physically or emotionally abused by a parent. This kind of killer is distinguished from someone who commits multiple murders or mass murders in a single event or killing spree or over a more compressed period of time than the serial killer. *Some were adopted.* ”

How does one define “some” without really knowing how many adoptees and how many serial killers exist at a given time? “Some” male serial killers profiled are thought to have targeted “only prostitutes,” or only certain women, not so much for reasons of opportunity but because each victim represents the mother he perceived as rejecting him. Vincent Bugliosi tells us in “Helter Skelter: The True Story of the Manson Murders” (Bantam Books, 1974, p. 184): “Charles Manson was born “No

Name" Maddox on December 11, 1934, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the illegitimate son of a 17-year old girl named Kathleen Maddox. Manson believed his mother was a teenage prostitute."

The difference between aforementioned serial killings as a "crime of rage" versus "crime of possession" is the difference between the self-realizing serial killer who selects for cunning, psychopathology and hyper-narcissism, and the serial killer who rapes his victims in sexual homicides as was explained by adopted killer Ted Bundy. The thrill from sexual homicide comes with "**possessing**" victims "physically owning" the victim. (Source: "To Have and To Kill," by Stephen C. Michaud, Ted Bundy biographer, 8-25-99).

Michaud goes even further to suggest "Serial Killers aren't acting out random bursts of depression or anger – They are trying to fill and emptiness in their souls." Consider the "emptiness" in the adoptee's lack of his own sense of self from secrecy of his origins. Unlike males, it appears that female serial killers typically kill their partners and their partners' children or people in their care, although Aileen Wuornos shot and killed men she picked up along the Interstate. The overwhelming majority do so at a distance with poison or guns. Dana Sue Gray may be the only female serial killer to strangle and bludgeon her victims to death.

In the Bouchard studies of twins separated at birth by adoption and raised apart, Nature apparently wins out over Nurture. The genetic pull is greater than learned behaviors. No one is a "born killer" and although personality traits can be inherited *criminality is not genetic*. Seemingly random acts of violence, without remorse, can't all be pinned on genes.

Psychologist, David Lykken, who specialized in criminal behavior and who, like Bouchard, studied personalities of twins reared apart, blamed most anti-social behaviors on incompetent parenting, which can include adoptive parenting, as well as breakdown of the nuclear family, poverty, racism and unemployment. Paul Henderson, Director of "The Haven" (New Trier Township, Illinois) which found homes for **locked out teens**, reported that **50% to 75% of his caseload were adoptees** and that there is still a need for adoption-sensitive professionals. (Source: "Were You Born That Way," by George Howe Colt, *LIFE* magazine special issue, 4-98, p. 39).

Studies show that the lack of physical touch can also be harmful to a child's development. Serial killers whose childhood background is known or unknown were separated from parents at birth or an early age, or were denied their mother's love and physical touch. The predatory gaze of the psychopath (according to Meloy) lacks emotions and is as cold as a reptile's blank stare. Reptiles are missing the limbic part of the brain, hence serial killers are described as "cold blooded," though brain injuries do not always make a serial killer ("What Makes Serial Killers Tick?" by Shirley Lynn Scott).

Why So Many Serial Killers Are Adoptees

Identity issues inherent in sealed, secret adoptions for the past half century have been cited by defense attorneys. During the trial of Phillip Markoff, "The Craigslist Killer," an expert witness psychologist for the Defense explained: "*A fractured identity* can result in violence." There is no identity more "fractured," than that of an adoptee.

Adoption as a potential contribution to the serial killer's motivation is fascinating to researchers because it creates two questions. The first one is whether the biological parents may have left their child with "defective genes." No gene for "criminality" has been identified. The closest researchers have come to supporting a "Killer Brain" theory is Monoamine Oxidase-A (MAOA). Called the "violent gene," it's something that has been found in murderers tested. It is a brain enzyme which helps "clean up" neurotransmitters after they've done their job, a sex-linked hereditary characteristic, like color

blindness, passed from mother to son. (Source: "A Killer Brain: A Look Inside Serial Killers," at *Serial Killers A-Z*, 7-28-09; and *ABC News* online, 3-21-06). The second question researchers ponder is whether finding out that one was adopted may undermine the sense of identity in a fragile youth to such a degree that the adopted child, even in adulthood, is preoccupied with fantasizing as to whether his "true" parents were good or bad. Was the mother a prostitute? A nun? Was the father a gangster? A hero? And why did they "reject" him?

In 1992, psychologist David Kirschner's study abstract was published in The National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS), "Understanding Adoptees Who Kill: Dissociation, Patricide and the Psychodynamics of Adoption," to wit: "Adoption is a critical factor in the psychopathology of many adopted killers, yet one that is often overlooked. While antisocial behaviors are often characteristic of children and adolescents generally, adopted children have a paradoxical identity; they are both of the adoptive family and different from it. In a family climate of anxiety and denial where children feel threatened, they will suffer severe impediments to achieving a positive, coherent self image and a mature superego. Those prone to the Adopted Child Syndrome are especially prone to dissociation and to multiple personality disorder in extreme cases."

There is considerable denial about adoptee violence, as well as the extent of the spectrum of emotionally disturbed adoptees, by special interests that promote secret adoptions and even by some organized adoptees who are activist for adult access to their records. They don't want it examined. They defend such denial on the premise that "fewer people would adopt." That is like saying "Let's not understand what makes a serial killer the way he is, lest we have fewer serial killers. While most psychotherapists have been aware that adoptees make up a significant portion of their practice, one of the few agencies that kept reliable statistics on adoptees was Coldwater Canyon Hospital in North Hollywood, California, which treated pre-teen and teenage patients. Fifteen years ago, former Unit Director, Dr. Lee Bloom, revealed: **65% to 85% of Coldwater's internees are adoptees** ("Growing Up Behind Bars," *Rolling Stone*, 12-20-86). And more than 10 years later, in 1997, just before Coldwater permanently closed its doors, psychologist, Richard Sherman, said: "At times, adoptees represented as much as 50% of Coldwater's hospitalized population." Some "experts" challenge the significance of such numbers, pointing out that adopters are predominately middle class and therefore much more likely to seek professional help for their children. But Kirschner counters that most of the adopted kids he sees are referred by the Probation Department, whereas other adopted kids were referred by the juvenile courts. In one of the largest studies in the nation of adopted children, at Rutgers University, David Brodzinsky, PhD, observed uncommunicative behavior and hyperactivity in the boys. Among the girls, he observed depression, hyperactivity, delinquency, and surprisingly, aggression. Except for an occasional reference regarding his or her family background, no one work has linked every serial killer by the abnormality of their adoptive status or perceived abandonment. Ted Bundy biographers, Michaud and Aynesworth, say Ted's emotional growth was stopped after he learned he was "illegitimate" at age 13. "It was like I hit a brick wall," Bundy said.

Three major danger signals can alert caregivers to child abuse: enuresis (bed-wetting) in adolescence, firesetting; sadistic tendencies (Harold Schechter and David Everett; and "A to Z Encyclopedia of Serial Killers"). In studies, Romanian orphans, and animals separated from their mothers at birth, "developed abnormally high levels of the stress hormone, Cortisol, which can have serious long-range effects on memory; the infant's brain cells may simply commit suicide." ("Neglect Harms Infant Brains, Researchers Say," *Los Angeles Times*, 10-28-97, A-19.) Infants are left in a state of hyper-arousal due to elevated hormone levels if they are snatched from their mothers upon delivery" (Joseph Chiton Pearce, *Evolutions End*, 1992). Even non-adopted, mass murdering children such as

15-year-old Andy Williams, "The Santee School Shooter," suffered family dismemberment and bullying in school that sent him into a downward spiral of rejection, isolation, and anger. Seth Privacky, 18, said he was angry because his father had told him he didn't love him anymore and wanted him to move out of their Michigan home. Seth then murdered his whole family. (Sources: Wikipedia; and "Seth Privacky Confession," *Muskegon Daily News*, 7-15-10 at MLive.com)

The Adopted Serial Killers

(Listed alphabetically with source noted.)

ALBRIGHT, Charles Frederick ("The Eyeball Killer")

Born 8-10-33 in Amarillo Texas, adopted as the only child of Fred and Delle Albright in Dallas, he was the most prolific murderer in Texas history. His adopter, a school teacher, was strict and over-protective. She accelerated his education, helping him to skip 2 grades. When a teenager, he got his first gun and would kill small animals which his adopter helped him stuff due to his interest in becoming a taxidermist. When his adopter was unable to afford the glass eyes used in taxidermy, he had to use buttons instead. Albright began his criminal career as a petty thief at age 13. Later, he murdered South Texas; his signature was cutting out their eyes. In 1991 he was convicted of killing 3 women (Shirley Williams, Mary Lou Pratt, and Susan Peterson), and received 8 Life sentences Without Possibility of Parole.(Source: *Dallas Morning News*, 5-7-00; and Wikipedia)

BARONE, Cesar Francesco, 31

Born 12-4-60 as Adolph James "Jimmy" Rode Jr. and adopted as "Barone," he was convicted of sexually assaulting and killing 4 women in the Portland area in the 1990s and was sentenced to Death in 1995 (Source: Washington County Corrections website).

BARTSCH, Juergen, 15

Born 11-6-16 as Karl Heinz Sadrozinski in post-war Essen, Germany, Juergen Bartsch was termed an "illegitimate" child. Juergen's mother died of tuberculosis when he was only 5 months old. After spending 11 months in a foundling home, he was adopted in Langenberg, Germany, by a butcher and his wife who suffered from obsessive compulsive disorder (fixated on cleanliness). He was not permitted to play with other children lest he become dirty and his adopter bathed him until he was 19. While enrolled in a parochial school, he was seduced by a homosexual priest who delighted in filling his mind with sadistic stories from medieval times. In his adoptive home he was alternately treated with contempt and extravagant attention. Between 1962 and 1966, he abused, tortured and killed 4 schoolboys in Germany's Ruhr District. Bartsch was 15 years old at the time of his first crime and 19 when he was caught. Bartsch's adopters were described as cold and severe. His terror-filled years at a Catholic boarding school and the discovery of his sexual attraction to boys compounded his desperate longing to "never have to grow up." (Source: "Serial Killer Central" at <http://www.skcentral.com>)

BENEFIEL, Jr., Bill J.

Born 6-3-56 in Indiana, Bill Benefiel was given by his mother to an unfit adopter in exchange for having a place to live. Benefiel endured a traumatic childhood including abandonment and sexual abuse by his female adopter's boyfriend. Benefiel was convicted for the 2-7-87 murder of Delores Wells, 18, of Vigo County. Wells was kept in Benefiel's home for several days and was sexually abused and tortured before Benefiel killed her. Benefiel also kept another victim in his home and

repeatedly raped her; she survived and testified against him. Court-appointed experts testified during the guilt phase of the trial that Benefiel suffered from a schizophrenic personality disorder and from a mental disease or defect. In 1991, the Supreme Court of Indiana decided that Benefiel's impairment issue as mitigation was diminished because Benefiel exhibited periods of non-violent behavior and control, and because of the way in which the crimes were carried out. There is strong evidence to support the argument that Benefiel suffered from mental illness. The execution of persons with mental illness is a clear violation of the 1964 and 1989 U.N. Economic and Social Council Resolution and the United Nations Human Rights Commission Resolution. Benefiel was executed by lethal injection on 4-21-05. (Source: Wikipedia)

BERKOWITZ, David ("Son of Sam " and "The 44-Caliber Killer")

Born 6-1-53, Davide was adopted by Nathan and Pearl Berkowitz who died when he was 14. There was no pre-adoption abuse to blame for his outcome. Believing his mother died giving birth to him, he grew up feeling intense anger and guilt, also feeling rejected and scorned about being adopted.

Berkowitz's killing spree started soon after a reunion with his biological mother who he located with the help of an adoption support group. His mother brought her other biological child, a sister he never knew about, to the reunion. The discovery that his mother had raised this sibling, while giving him up for adoption, may have resonated with already intense feelings of rejection and abandonment. The murders not only started shortly after the ill-fated reunion but also occurred in the same neighborhood as his meeting with his mother. Berkowitz later revealed to another prison inmate that he believed he had been conceived out of wedlock in the back seat of a car, and that his purpose in killing couples in cars was to prevent a repetition of his own conception, birth and abandonment through adoption. He claimed he heard voices in his head and started over 1,000 fires. He began killing in 1976, is known to have killed at least 6 people and wounded several others. (Sources: "The Mind of the Accused," by David Abrahamson; About.com; and "Infamous American Murders" by Oracle ThinkQuest website.)

BIANCHI, Kenneth Allessio ("The Hillside Stranglers")

Born 5-22-61 in Rochester, New York, to a prostitute who gave him up for adoption when he was 2 weeks old, Bianchi was adopted at 3 months by Frances and Nicholas Bianchi. His adopter described him in childhood as being "a compulsive liar, quick to lose his temper." At age 5 he was diagnosed with "petit mal seizures," and at age 10 as having "passive aggressive disorder." Bianchi and his adoptive cousin, Angelo Buono, worked together as pimps and, by 1976, they escalated to murder. They raped and murdered 10 women by 1979 for which they were sentenced to Life in prison, and are alleged to have actually killed 25 women – 23 in Los Angeles and 2 in Washington state where Bianchi was incarcerated at Walla Walla State prison. (Source: *Court TV*, and "Infamous American Murders" by Oracle ThinkQuest website.) (See also "BUONO, Angelo.")

BITTAKER, Lawrence Sigmund

Born 9-27-40, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, an only child, Lawrence Bittaker was adopted shortly after birth as the only child of Mrs and Mrs. George Bittaker who worked in aircraft factories which required the family to move often -- from Pennsylvania to Florida, Ohio and California. Bittaker had a tested IQ of 138 but dropped out of high school in 1957 after several run-ins with the law. Over the next 20 years he worked as a machinist and was in and out of prison multiple times for Auto Theft, Hit-and-Run accidents, Burglary and Parole Violations. At California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo,

he met Ray Norris who would later become his accomplice in murders. During Bittaker's incarcerations, prison psychiatrists diagnosed him as being Paranoid and Borderline Psychotic. But when he stabbed a grocery store employee who caught him stealing steaks, and was once again incarcerated, a prison psychiatrist rejected the previous diagnosis and labeled him "Classic Psychotic." Another psychiatrist decided Bittaker was a "Sophisticated Psychotic," yet in 1978 he was again released. In 5 months of 1979, together with Ray Norris, Bittaker kidnapped, tortured, raped and murdered 5 young female hitchhikers in California (Source: Wikipedia and Prosecutor website).

BOWLES, Gary Ray ("Florida Gay Bar Murders")

Born 1-25-62, in Clifton Forge, Virginia, the second son of Frances Carole Price Bowles, Gary's was a stepparent adoption. His biological father, William Frank Bowles, died in 1961 before he was born. Frances remarried several times. At age 7 or 8, Gary began to suffer from abuse by his first stepfather and later by subsequent stepfathers. Around age 10, Gary began to sniff glue and paint, as well as experiment with drugs in an attempt to escape his unhappy situation, and dropped out of school during the 8th grade. When he was 13 or 14, Gary and his brother ganged up on their stepfather, severely beat him, then left home to live on the streets. Throughout his youth and adulthood he was able to provide for himself financially by prostituting himself to men and remained homeless for a majority of his teenage years and adulthood. He was not gay but was violent in his relationships with women. Gary Ray Bowles has been on Death Row at Union Correctional Institute, Raiford, Florida, awaiting execution on 3 counts of First Degree Murder (Source: "Crime Library," http://www.crimelibrary.com/serial_killers/predators/gary_bowles).

BRADY, Ian, 23 ("The Moors Murderer")

Born 1-2-38 as Ian Duncan Stuart to a single mother, Peggy Stuart, in a Glasgow, Scotland slum, he never knew his father's identity. When he was 4 months old, his mother, unable to afford a baby sitter while working as a waitress to support them, was forced to leave Ian alone for long periods, so gave him up for "unofficial adoption" to the Sloane family. She visited him until he was 12 but never told him she was his mother. A lonely, difficult child, he was prone to tantrums despite best efforts of his adopters. He became fascinated with Nazis and writings of Nietzsche and de Sade about torture. At 16, as result of his petty thefts, and to avoid jail, he was returned to his mother and her then-husband, Patrick Brady. He took his new stepfather's name but did not feel he belonged, returned to crime and was sentenced to prison at age 17. After his release in 1957 at 19, he worked as a stock clerk and met Myra Hindley, a typist born in 1942 in Manchester and raised by her grandmother after being beaten by her alcoholic father. Obsessed with Ian, Myra became his obedient soulmate, not only sharing his reading preferences but also killing together "for kicks." On 5-6-66, Brady was convicted of Murders of Lesley Ann Downey, John Kilbride, and Edward Evans. (Sources: "The Biography Channel," *Biography.com*, and "True Crime: The Moors Murders," by Julia Bond, at *Helium.com*, 7-15-07)

BRIDEWELL, Sandra Camille ("The Black Widow")

Born 4-5-44, in Sedalia, Missouri, Sandra was adopted as an infant by Camille and Arthur Powers, owner and manager of the local Dr. Pepper bottling plant. When Sandra was 3, her female adopter was killed in a car accident. Three years later, the family moved to a small house in Oak Cliff, where her male adopter worked as a cemetery plot salesman for Laurel Land. He remarried, but Sandra didn't get along with her stepmother. Sandra painted Doris Powers as evil, a stepmother who shut her in a closet

and failed to send out invitations to her birthday party telling her that “no one wanted her.” Sometime between high school graduation in 1962 and 1967, she remade herself, inventing stories about colleges attended, boys dated, reportedly telling friends she dated a West Point cadet who later committed suicide, and adopting the persona of a helpless but seductive Southern belle looking for Mr. Right to rescue her and provide a world of materialistic bliss. Writer, Glenna Whitley, who over the years had closely followed Powers, reported in the *Dallas Observer* about the aspiring socialite’s several marriages and suspicious deaths of her husbands that resulted in headlines, referring to Bridewell as “The Black Widow.” (Source: news stories by Glenna Witley for *Dallas Observer*: “Return of the Black Widow,” 1-22-04; “Seductress of the Saints,” 12-9-04; “Black Widow Pleads Guilty,” 2-27-08)

BUNDY, Theodore “Ted” (“Florida Co-ed Murders” and “Lady Killer”)

Born 11-24-46 out of wedlock to Eleanor “Louise” Cowell at Elizabeth Lund Home for Unwed Mothers in Burlington, Vermont, and possibly fathered by Louise’s violent, abusive father, Samuel Cowe;1, Bundy was raised by his maternal grandparents, Samuel Cowel, a violent, abusive man, and his wife Eleanor Cowell, who was described as timid. Bundy was told that his grandparents were his parents and that his mother was his sister to coverup his in-family informal adoption. Bundy was executed in Florida for serial killings of at least 28 women. According to Bundy biographers, Michaud and Ainsworth, Ted’s emotional growth was stopped in its tracks after he learned at age 13 that he was ‘illegitimate.’ “It was like I hit a brick wall,” Bundy had said. Bundy also expressed a lifelong resentment toward his mother for lying about his parentage and having him discover it for himself. (Sources: *Wikipedia*; and *Court TV*, <http://www.CourtTV.com/news/flashbacks/January.html> “Infamous American Murders” by Oracle ThinkQuest website.)

BUONO, Angelo (“The Hillside Stranglers”)

Born 10-5-34 in Rochester, New York, to Jenny Buono and her husband, his parents were first generation immigrants from San Buono, Italy. In 1939, when Angelo was 5, his parents divorced and he was separated from his mother to be informally adopted by his grandparents. Together with his adoptive cousin, Kenneth Bianchi, Buono is alleged to have killed 25 women. They were sentenced to Life in prison for Rape and Murder of 10 women. Buono died of heart failure at age 67 at Calipatria State Prison in California. (Sources: *Court TV*, <http://courttv.com/news/flashback/January.html>; “Infamous American Murders” by Oracle ThinkQuest website.) See also “BIANCHI, Kenneth Allesio.”

CAMERON, Rodney Francis, 19 (“The Lonely Hearts Killer”)

Born in 1955, Rodney Cameron had been completely rejected by his adopters by the time he attempted to strangle a young girl and an elderly woman. In 1974 at age 19, he raped and murdered a nurse. Dubbed “The Lonely Hearts Killer,” he used a radio match-making program in 1990 to lure an unsuspecting woman to her death. He confessed to murder of 8 victims (Source: *Wikipedia*).

COLLINS, John Norma (“The Co-Ed Killer”)

Born 6-17-47 in Center Line, Michigan, John Collins was one of 4 children. His father deserted him soon after his birth. Shortly afterward, his mother remarried but the marriage lasted only a year. Both husbands had been abusive to her and the children, and were alcoholics. When John was 4, his mother married another violent alcoholic, William Collins, who adopted all 3 children. That marriage ended in 1956. From age 20 to 22, he raped and murdered several teenage girls and boys in the Ypsilanti/Ann

Arbor area and burned several barns during his killing spree. On 8-19-70, John Collins was convicted of Murder and sentenced to Life in Marquette Branch Prison, Michigan, without parole. In the early 1980s, he changed his name back to Chapman, his mother's maiden name. (Source: Researchers Jamie Lyle, Justin Hamky, Rex Harrison, Radford University Department of Psychology.)

CONDE, Rory ("The Tamiani Killer")

Born in 1965 in Columbia, Conde's mother died of tetanus when he was 6 months old and he was informally adopted by his paternal grandmother. Conde was sentenced to Death for one murder, then pled guilty to murdering 5 prostitutes as part of a plea agreement to remove the Death Penalty and serve 5 consecutive Life terms without parole. (Source: <http://www.mayhem.net/Crime/condo.html>)

DESALVO, Albert ("The Boston Strangler")

Born 9-3-31 to Frank and Charlotte DeSalvo, in Chelsea, Massachusetts, Albert DeSalvo was one of 6 children in his violent family. He grew up with a warped view of both sex and violence, mainly as a result of his alcoholic father, Frank, who beat both his children and his wife.

When he was 12, his parents divorced, and his father sold him and two of his sisters to a farmer in Maine who paid \$9 for them to be his slaves, until they escaped. It is also evident that Albert was exposed to sex early in life. His father often brought prostitutes home and made his children watch as they had sex. Being in a poor area Albert sold himself to homosexuals around the community; he had his first sexual experience when he was about 10 and had an unusual sexual appetite which was thought to have later driven him to kill, but he was also burdened by a "family secret." He claimed to have murdered 13 young and older women and that he took a "family secret" to his death. DeSalvo was sentenced to Life for Sexual Assault and Robbery in a plea bargain. He was stabbed to death in prison in 1973. (Sources: Harold Schechter and David Everett, "A-Z Encyclopedia of Serial Killers," p. 293; Fortune City website; and "Infamous American Murders" by Oracle ThinkQuest website.)

DUGAS, Gaetan ("Patient Zero")

Born 2-20-53 in Canada, Gaetan Dugas, an adoptee and Canadian airline steward, is known as "Patient Zero," the person who brought AIDS to the U.S., intentionally infecting/killing hundreds of men in San Francisco's gay community. Gaetan resented his mother whom he never knew but fantasized about throughout his life. He died 3-30-84 in Quebec City at age 31. (Source: "And The Band Played On," book by journalist Randy Shilts)

GEORGES, Guy ("The Beast of the Bastille")

Born 10-15-62 in Angers, France, as Guy Rampillon, his father was George Cartwright, an American soldier who worked as a cook on the NATO bases and his mother was French. Abandoned by his parents when he was a small child, Guy was taken in by the DDASS, the French social welfare services and placed with a foster family. At age 6, to aid in facilitating his adoption, he was given the surname Georges after his father, was adopted by the Morins, and grew up in a family of 12 adopted children. Young George never received the love, attention and stability he needed and soon began to show a violent side. At age 16 he attempted to strangle his adoptive sister. By adulthood he had already racked up sexual offenses and his first killing in 1991. When arrested in 1998, he confessed to 4 rape-murders and was suspected of several other murders. The killer's trademark was to cut the front of each victim's bra. In 2001, he was sentenced to a light term of 22 years and has threatened suicide. (Sources: "Man

On Trial Over ‘Beast of Bastille’ Murders” by Harry de Quetteville, *The Telegraph*, 3-20-01, and *Crime & Investigation Network*, <http://crimeandinvestigation.co.uk>)

GRAHAM, Harrison T. “Marty,” 29 (“The Cookie Monster Killer”)

Born 9-9-99, this mildly mentally retarded Black man in Philadelphia entertained children with a Cookie Monster puppet. On August 9, 1987, upon being evicted from his apartment, police found the corpses of 7 women in his apartment. He was sentenced to “One Life Term and 7 Electrocutions”. (Source: http://www.geocities.com/verbal_plainfield/a-h/grahamharrison.html)

GRAY, Dana Sue

Born in California, Dana Sue Gray convicted of Murder of 2 elderly women and Attempted Murder of a third in California in 1994. When she was 2 years old, her parents divorced and she did not see her father again until her mother died when Dana was 14. She was then forced to live with him and her stepmother who adopted her. (Source: Wikipedia)

GRAY, Dorothea Helen (aka Dorothea Puente)

Born 1-9-24 in San Bernardino County, California, Dorothea Gray’s mother died when she was 4 and her father died when she was 6. She was sent to an orphanage and then adopted by relatives who were alcoholics and beat her. In 1946 when she was 17, she married her first husband who died of a heart attack when she was 19 and she began forging checks. She was jailed for 6 months for Check Forgery, became pregnant and gave the child up for adoption.

At age 23 she married Axel Johnson. The relationship was violent. She had been jailed for vagrancy and money crimes and began managing boarding houses before divorcing Johnson and owning her own board and care home and marrying Robert Puente in Mexico City when she was 37. That marriage ended when she was 39. From age 47 to 61 she had multiple convictions, and multiple people in her care disappeared. At age 59 she was investigated by Social Security; police fund 7 bodies on the grounds around her board and care home and she was found to have cashed over 60 Social Security checks belonging to the victims. Believed to be involved in 25 disappearances, she was found guilty on 3 of 9 counts of Murder, and sentenced to Life Without Parole at age 61. (Source: Researchers Brad Johnson, David Haulsee, Angela Osborne, Kristen Intellini, Ashley Amos, Radford University Department of Psychology.)

GUFLER, Max, 34

Born 5-1-18 in Austria, Max Gufler was adopted and little is known of his biological parents. He worked as a bookseller until 1951 when he was incarcerated for offering his customers illegal pornographic photos. Upon release from prison in 1952, he murdered Emilie Meystrzik, the first of more than 7 of his female victims. He was convicted in Vienna of only 4 murders and 2 attempted murders from 1952 to 1958. (Source: "Serial Murderers," *Biography*, A&E TV series; and Wikipedia).

GUNNING, James, D., 28

Born in Korea, adopted by American parents and raised in Feasterville, Pennsylvania, where he was married and worked as an auto mechanic, James Gunning was charged with the 1997 slaying of Dawn McCary, a sex worker, and attempting to murder 3 other prostitutes in Camden, New Jersey. Police suspect he might also be responsible for the murder of Caroline Ann Brader, 29, an Allentown area

prostitute whose body was found on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. He was arrested 6-2-99 in Hamilton Township, New Jersey, when a woman in her underwear jumped out of his parked truck and ran toward police crying that "He tried to strangle me." Gunning who was suspect in 3 killings in New York, 2 in Pennsylvania, and 5 in New Jersey, was charged with Attempted Murder of 3 New Jersey women and is a suspect in the strangulation murders of 10 prostitutes in 3 states (Source: Angelo J. Onofri, Assistant Prosecutor in Mercer County, New Jersey).

HALE, Bill ("The Osage Killer")

Adopted by Ernest Burkheart and his wife, Hale was suspected of killing 8 people, including, in 1925, his natural father from whom he stood to inherit. He also killed his father's attorney to whom Burkheart may have confided that the Osage Killer was his son. (Source: Michael Newton, "Serial Slaughter: What's Behind America's Murder Epidemic?")

KALLINGER, Joseph, 25 ("The Philadelphia Shoemaker")

Born 12-11-35 as Joseph Lee Brenner III to Joseph and Judith Kallinger in Philadelphia, his father abandoned the family in 1937 when he was first placed in a severely abusive foster home. He was then adopted by Stephen and Anna Kallinger, a sadistic Catholic couple who beat, burned, and starved him. He abused his 2 wives and 5 children and killed his own son for insurance money. After beheading his female adopter, he raped her headless body. He was in and out of mental institutions for suicide attempts and for setting his house on fire 3 times. A cobbler by trade, he sexually tortured a family and murdered 3 people.

In prison, he was diagnosed as Paranoid Schizophrenic and repeatedly attempted to kill himself, including by setting fire to his cell. In later years, Kallinger expressed remorse, refused to eat, and attempted suicide again. After 11 years on suicide watch, he died in prison of an epileptic seizure at age 59 on 3-26-96. (Source: "Crime Library," and Wikipedia)

KIMES, Sante

Born 7-24-34 as Sante Singhers in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, she and her family moved to Los Angeles in the mid 1930s. When she was 3, her father abandoned the family which probably caused her mother to turn to prostitution to support her children. In 1942 when she was 8, she claimed she was molested by several adults and was adopted by Edwin and Mary Chambers, along with a boy, Howard. The adoptive family moved to Carson City, Nevada, at which point she was separated from her birth siblings and her name was changed to Sandy Chambers. During the next couple years, she was repeatedly raped by her adopter, Edwin.

At age 65, Sante was found guilty of all 118 counts brought against her including Second Degree Murder of Irene Silverman who kept a notebook of her suspicions about Santr and Sante's own notebook detailing the crime. The Courts of Appeal in California and New York confirmed her convictions for the murders of David Kazdon and Irene Silverman. (Source: Researchers Lita Kessler and Alexis Knight, Radford University Department of Psychology.).

KIP, Martin James ("Dr. Crazy")

Kip, a rape-slyer, was the child of a prostitute, given up for adoption at an early age. (Source: "Attachment and Loss: Separation - Anger and Anxiety" book by John Bowlby, British psychologist, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst).

KONDRO, Joseph Robert ("The Neighborly Killer")

Born 5-19-59 in Marquette, Michigan, as Don Lee Durant to Native American (Chippewa) parents, Elizabeth Marie Curtis Durant and Dominic Durant, Joe was adopted at birth by John and Eleanor Kondratovich, who later changed their name to Kondro. Both of Joe's natural parents died before his attorney helped to discover who they were. His adopters are deceased also. He has compiled a great deal of information and photos from other biological relatives. Kondro showed a total lack of remorse for murdering two little girls, the daughters of close neighborhood friends who never suspected him.

The burly former Longview mill worker, father of 6, saved himself from the Death Penalty in 1999 by pleading guilty to killing 12-year-old Kara Rudd and admitting to a previous unsolved murder of an 8-year-old Rima Traxler. He was suspected of more than 70 other killings and disappearances. The self-described "psychopath" is serving a 55-year prison term. Kondro states he has been killing since age 7, beginning with animals. (Source: Law Enforcement and Court Records, newsclips from the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*; and Kondro's letters to AmFOR)

KREBS, Rex Allan, 17

A severely abused child, Rex Krebs first got into trouble as a youth in 1984 in Sandpoint, Idaho. After he moved to Grover Beach, California, where his mother had lived upon remarrying, his father, Allan Krebs, visited him at least once before his father was arrested for drug trafficking in Montana. His brother was murdered in Vancouver and his sister was murdered in Spokane. By age 21, Rex had been arrested as a suspect in 3 burglaries, 2 violent rape-sodomy attacks, and a misdemeanor sex offense. He was sentenced to 20 years in 1987, paroled in 10 years, registered as a Sex Offender, and was chased out of town.

On 11-12-98, in San Luis Obispo, he attacked a college student, Rachel Newhouse, who he beat unconscious with his fists, raped, and left hog-tied to strangle to death. In 1999, at age 33, in the same town, he beat, raped, tortured and killed another college student, Andria Crawford, 20. Upon arrest, the alcoholic sex-and-slaughter addict confessed, saying "If I am not a monster, then what am I?" In 2001, he was sentenced to Death. (Source: *The Tribune*, 4-24-99,)

LEE, Bruce

Killer, arsonist, child of a prostitute, he was given up for adoption at an early age. (Source: "Attachment and Loss: Separation - Anger and Anxiety" book by John Bowlby, British psychologist, psychiatrist and psychoanalyst)

LINDH, Aaron, 19

Aaron, who is Black, was adopted by Mary Ann Lindh into her White family. He was confused about his identity as an inter-racial child. The prosecutor and psychiatrist testified at his trial that his impaired logic perceives problems as *rejections*. Events even before the shootings, when he opened fire on police inside Madison Detective Bureau in 1/15/85, were seen as a series of *abandonments*. (Source: Ghost Dancer web-site by Kay Russell, quoting *Capital Times* and *Wisconsin State Journal*.)

LOPEZ, Pedro Alonso ("Monster of the Andes")

Born 10-8-48 in Santa Isabel, Columbia, Pedro Lopez said his mother was a prostitute who had 13 children and evicted him from the family home when he was 8 upon being caught fondling one of his sisters. A stranger then picked him up and repeatedly sodomized him. An American family adopted

him when he was 12. He ran away due to being molested by a male teacher. Lopez confessed to raping and killing more than 300 girls across South America and led police to graves of 53 of his victims in Ecuador, all between ages 9 and 12. At 18, he was gang raped in prison and claims he killed 3 of his rapists while in prison. (Source" Wikipedia).

MAGLIOLO, Michael

Born in Texas, Michael Magliolo was adopted by a couple named Campbell. His son states that while his father was in prison, he admitted to his son to having committed 18 murders – and that his father had a different motive for each murder but it had to do with sexuality and his feeling that the victim betrayed him or betrayed his trust in some way. Magliolo, his male lover and his wife had always had sex as a threesome, but when he found his wife and his male together in bed without him, he went out to his truck, got his shotgun, shot his male lover in the head which killed him instantly, then turned his wife over on her belly, stuck the shotgun up inside her and shot the gun, which took her longer to die. (Source: Postings by the son of Michael Magliolo on Serial Killer Central, 9-23-11)

MUNRO, James, 18 ("The Freeway Murders")

Born 6-17-61 to Anna Marie Massow, in Furth Byron, Germany, Jim was adopted in 1983 by Evon Charron and Leigh Munro, in Michigan. He has a low IQ and went to schools for the mentally handicapped. Although he admitted to *participating* in one of the "Freeway Murders"--serial killings of male prostitutes -- by restraining the victim, he explained he did so under threat of death by William Bonin who actually committed the murders and who was convicted and executed for the crimes. The Innocence Project of San Diego declined to represent Munro because of his *participation* in the crime. (Source: Innocence Project of San Diego, and Munro's documents and letters to AmFOR)

OKEN, Steven Howard, 25

Adopted at birth in 1964, Steven Oken was executed in Maryland on 6-17-04 when he was 40, as result of 1991 convictions for the 1987 murders of 3 women. Two weeks after murdering Dawn Marie Garvin, he sexually assaulted and killed his wife's older sister, Patricia Antionette Hirt. He then fled to Maine where he sexually assaulted and killed Lori Elizabeth Ward, a college student. He claimed to have had amnesia when apprehended but regained his memory when convicted of Garvin's murder. After his sentencing, defense therapists testified that he suffered from "a rare case of sexual sadism." Steve had become drug addicted by stealing drugs from the pharmacy owned and operated by his adopters. Steve's adopters told media they were committed to stand by their adopted son but did not attend his execution. (Sources: *The Baltimore Sun*, 2-6-03; "Help Save My Son!" Appeal from the family of Steve Oken, by Alice Kim, *The New Abolitionist*, Chicago, 9-2000, Issue #16 "Campaign to End the Death Penalty")

PUENTE, Dorothea (see GRAY, Dorothea Helen)

RIFKIN, Joel, 34

Joel's unwed teenage parents gave him up for adoption 3 days after his birth. He was adopted by Ben and Jeanne Rifkin. Joel murdered at least 17 women, mostly prostitutes. He pleaded "Adopted Child Syndrome" as a mitigating factor, as he grew up believing his mother was a prostitute who couldn't afford an abortion. (Source: "Dark Son," book by Denise Lang; and *New York Times* story, "A Novel

Insanity Defense for Joel Rifkin" by John T. McQuistin, 9-25-94)

ROGERS, Dayton Leroy, 22 ("Molalla Forest Killer")

Born in 1954 in Idaho, Dayton was adopted and raised in Oregon, along with another boy and 2 girls, by Ortis and Jasparelle Rogers. His adopters were devout Seventh Day Adventists who told their adopted children they had "an evil entity inside their bodies." Dayton beat his male adopter to death, stabbed a girl who rejected his advances, committed several rapes, was convicted of 6 stabbing/mutilation murders of young women and sentenced to Death in Oregon. (Source: "Shedding Light on the Dark Side of Adoption," book by Marsha Riben; and Dayton Leroy Rogers web-site; and "Serial Killers A-Z", http://www.geocities.com/verbal_plainfield/q-z/rogers.html)

SCHMID Jr., Charles Howard "Smitty" ("The Pied Piper of Tucson")

Born 7-8-42, as "illegitimate" and adopted by Charles and Katherine Schmid, owners of Hillcrest Nursing Home in Tucson, Arizona, Smitty had a difficult relationship with his adopters who eventually divorced. When Smitty tried to meet his biological mother, his female adopter, who was then raising him alone, angrily told him to leave and never come back. He did poorly in school despite being described as intelligent. "Smitty" was a short man who wore cowboy boots stuffed with newspapers and flattened cans to make himself appear taller. He used lip balm, pancake makeup, created an artificial mole on his cheek, and stretched his lower lip with a clothespin to make it resemble Elvis Presley's. He was called the "Pied Piper" because he was charismatic and had many friends in the teenage community of Tucson. Women liked him and he frequently met them at the Speedway, the main drag in Tucson at the time. He became something of a folk hero to kids who didn't quite fit in because he was older and "knew things." He was strange but livened things up in a desert town full of retired people. For a time, the members of his teenage couterie kept the secrets of his murders. Beginning in 1964, he murdered girls he dated and hid their bodies in the desert, including victims of a triple murder in 1965. In 1966, Schmid was found guilty of Murder and sentenced to Death. When Arizona abolished the Death Penalty in 1971, his sentence was commuted to 50 years in prison. On 3-10-75, Schmid was stabbed 47 times by fellow prisoners and died 20 days later. (Source: Wikipedia)

SELLS, Tommy Lynn, 16

Sells and his twin sister, Tammy Jean, contracted meningitis when they were 18 months old. Sells had a high fever but survived, while his sister died. Shortly thereafter, Sells was informally adopted by his aunt, Bonnie Woodall, in Holcomb, Missouri. At age 8, Sells began spending time with Willis Clark who would later be identified as a child molester. A homeless adolescent, Sells started traveling to find work by hitching rides, hopping trains, once stole a car, and held various menial labor jobs. Sells claims he committed his first murder at age 16. While working at as a "carny" (carnival worker) in Missouri in summer 1985, he met 29 year old Ena Cordt who, Sells says, invited him to her home where they had consensual sex. The bodies of Cordt and her 4-year-old son were found 3 days later. Other murders he is suspected of committing are those of Suzanne Korczin in New York (1987), a family in Illinois (1987), and a co-worker in Texas (1998). On 12-31-99, near Rio, Texas, Sells fatally stabbed 13-year old Katy Harris and slit the throat of 10-year-old Krystal Surles. Surles survived and Sells was apprehended from a police sketch. According to Columbia University forensic psychiatrist, Dr. Michael J. Stone, Sells claimed to have murdered at least 70 people. (Source: *Discovery Channel's "Most Evil"; and Crime Library "Tommy Lynn Sells, Serial Killer" and "Predator, Travels the U.S. Murdering"*)

SPANGLER, Robert Merlin ('The Black Widower')

Born 1-10-33 in Des Moines, Iowa, Bob Spangler's parents are unknown. He was adopted in infancy by Merlin and Ione Spangler and raised in Ames, Iowa. Spangler confessed to killing his first wife, Nancy, and their two children in 1978 and making it look like she had murdered the children before shooting herself. Spangler also admitted to killing his third wife, Donna, by pushing her off a cliff during a visit to the Grand Canyon in 1993. He died in prison of brain cancer at age 68. (Source: Researchers Emilee Houtz, Tara Gitman, Ryan Helm, Radford University Department of Psychology.)

SPECK, Richard

Born 12-6-41 in Kirkwood, Illinois, the 7th of 8 children, Richard Speck's father died when he was 6. His mother then married Carl Lindberg who informally adopted him and took out his drunken violent rages on Richard. In his teen years, he began boozing, fighting and whoring his way through life. Richard married and raped his wife who said he needed sex 4 to 5 times a day. Six months after their divorce, he murdered 6 nurses.(Sources: <http://www.mugshots.com/Historical/Richard+Speck.htm>)

STANO, Gerald Eugene, 27

Born in 1951 at Daytona Beach, Florida, Stano was taken from his mother at age 6 months and adopted. Stano murdered an estimated 80 young women – 41 were prostitutes, runaways, hitchhiking teenagers (the youngest was age 12) --from Pennsylvania to Florida, before his arrest at age 27 in 1980. He said *"Adopted kids like me, I now know, seek out rejection, and believe on some level that no one will keep them."* Prior to killing, he had sought help from 3 psychiatrists who never raised the issue of adoption and so didn't treat him. He was executed 3-23-98. (Source: "Dark Son," a book by Denise Lang)

TOPPAN, Jane, 31 ("Angel of Death")

Born in 1857 in Boston as Honora Kelley to Irish immigrant parents, Jane's biological mother, Bridget Kelley, died of "consumption" when Jane was very young. When she was 6, Jane's father, Peter Kelley, an alcoholic and eccentric (nicknamed "Kelley the Crack" as in crackpot) abandoned her and her 8-year old sister to an orphanage, Boston Female Asylum for indigent female children. Asylum documents note that the two girls were "rescued from a miserable existence," but there are no records of their time at the Asylum. Less than 2 years later, in 1864, Honora was informally adopted as an indentured servant in the home of Mrs. Anne C. Toppan of Lowell, Massachusetts and so renamed Jane Toppan. Her killing spree was thought to have begun in 1896 with her landlords, then in 1899 she killed her adoptive sister, Elizabeth. By 1901, she confessed to her lawyer to killing more than 31 people with morphine and atropine while working as a nurse in New England and that she derived a sexual thrill from laying in bed close to her victims as they died. (Source: *Wikipedia*).

TOOLE, Otis Edward, 14

Born 3-5-47 in Jacksonville, Florida, Toole is most known for the molestation-murder of Adam Walsh, the young son of John Walsh of "America's Most Wanted." Toole was abandoned by his family when he was 6 and informally adopted by his grandmother who raised him. His grandmother was a Satan ritualist who would do Satanic rituals with him and nicknamed him "Devil's Child." He was known to rape and for his cannibalism. He claimed he committed his first murder at age 14 by running over his gay pimp with his own car. He started traveling around the country in the early 1970s, allegedly killing at least 14 people over the years. Toole met serial killer Henry Lee Lucas in a soup kitchen in

Jacksonville; they became lovers who claimed to have killed hundreds of people together. When Toole was arrested, in 1984, and was sentenced to Death, he ratted out Lucas to get better jail conditions. Convicted of 3 counts of Murder, Toole confessed to 3 others, was a suspect in many unsolved murders, and died 9-15-96 of liver failure. (Source: http://www.allserialkillers.com/otis_toole.htm)

WALDON, Billy Ray, 23

Born in 1952, Billy Waldon scarcely knew his mother. In 1957 when he was 5, he was delivered to his grandmother who informally adopted and raised him “as her own” in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, teaching him the values she hoped would guide his steps through life. It is alleged that he was raised to believe his grandmother was his mother.

In 1985, when Waldon was discharged from the Navy, he had 14 years of service behind him as a First Petty Officer. One quarter Cherokee, he was described by his friends as a “brilliant man” who spent more time listening to others than talking about himself. If Waldon had a quirk it was his fascination with the subject of AIDS and a compulsive quest for knowledge that encouraged some associates to believe he was gay, though he had married and had 2 children.

In 1985, the death of Waldon’s grandmother appeared to be the trigger incident for an astounding shift in Waldon’s personality. [That was most likely when he discovered that his grandmother was not his mother.] A quiet, unassuming man by all accounts before her death, he changed dramatically in later weeks, like Jeckyll and Hyde. In 1985, Waldon launched a one-man reign of terror that claimed 4 lives and left 8 others injured from Tulsa, Oklahoma to San Diego. (Source: “Serial Killers Live Here” <http://www.francesfarmersrevenge.com/stuff/serialkillers/>)

WATTS, Carl “Coral” Eugene (“The Sunday Morning Slasher”)

Born 11-7-63 in Killeen, Texas, to Richard Eugene Watts and Dorothy Mae Young, his parents separated before he was 2. His was a stepparent adoption when his mother wasremarried to a mechanic, Norman Caesar, with whom she had 2 daughters. The family then moved to Texas.

As a child, “Coral,” as he was nicknamed, was a troubled child who “enjoyed” nightmares, fantasized killing girls, and was described as “strange.” He had undergone several psychiatric evaluations in his life, seldom resulting in a diagnosis of any specific mental illness, but it was determined he had a low IQ of 68 and that he “knows right from wrong.”

His victims were strangers, all females, ages 14 to 44. He would usually knock on their doors pretending to be looking for someone else, but also attacked them as they were entering their homes, strangling and stabbing them in the chest 20 to 50 times and, after the attacks, often drowned them as well in their own bathtubs. He said he murdered them because they had “evil eyes” and he wanted to “release their spirits.” Some of is victims who survived his attacks by”playing dead” stated that when he thought they were dead he “jumped up and down and clapped his hands.”

His first sentence was 60 years in a Texas prison resulting from a plea bargain in which he pled Guilty to only Burglary and Intent to Kill, but he was released in 2006 under Texas’ “good behavior” policy at the time, promising he would “kill again.” And he did continue killing. He was suspected of 100 murders and admitted to as many as 80 murders in Michigan, Texas and Canada.

Two years after eventually being convicted of Murder, he died in prison at age 53 of prostate cancer. (Source: Wikipedia; and “Coral Eugene Watts: The Sunday Morning Slasher,” by Rachael Bell, at <http://trutv/library/crime>).

WEAVER III, Ward

Born 4-6-63, he was a stepparent adoption. Ward's biological father, Ward Weaver Jr., a convicted alcoholic, rapist and murderer, abandoned him when he was 5 and his mother remarried. His admiration of his father seemed to be the main factor in his criminality. (Sources: "Ward Weaver II: A Life of Brutality," by Charles Montaldo, at About.com/od/current/op/weaver.htm; and Wikipedia)

WILKEN, Stewart

Born 11-11-06, in Boksburg, South Africa, Stewart Wilken killed prostitutes. It has been speculated that perhaps it was anger at his biological mother for deserting him and at his female adopter for not being the mother he wanted.

When he was about 6 months old, he and his 2-year-old sister were left in a phone booth, where they were later found by a domestic worker who took them to the home of her male employer, known only as "Doep," who subjected the boy to terrible abuse – burned him with cigarettes on his genitals, engaged him in acts of bestiality with his dogs and made him lick his penis afterwards. At some point, his sister disappeared and he did not know what happened to her.

When he was 2 years old, the neighbors, Mr and Mrs Wilken, adopted him out of compassion, named him Stewart Wilken, although he called himself "Boetie Boer." He failed the 3rd grade 3 times, was mocked by his peers because he was adopted, and when his teacher did not intervene on his behalf, but instead had incited the others further, he assaulted the teacher and was severely beaten by the principal in front of the other children. He often bit his female adopter as well as other children.

At age 8, he started smoking marijuana. At 9, a deacon sodomized him. That same year, Stewart's male adopter died and Stewart's female adopter, feeling overwhelmed by the difficult boy, sent him to a reformatory where he was locked up without clothes as punishment and the older boys sodomized him. In later life he was accused of sodomizing his own sons. (Source: http://www.crimelibrary.com/serial_killers/predators)

WOODCOCK, Peter (aka David Michael Kreuger)

Born 3-5-39 in Toronto, Canada, his mother, Wanita Woodcock, was either a 17-year old factory worker or a 19-year old prostitute, depending which document is to be believed. She was pregnant in 1938, allegedly by a 19-year old soldier.

WWII started when Peter was 6 months old. Four years later, Wanita gave birth to a girl who was adopted out and reportedly had a "normal" life, while the Children's Aid social worker allowed Peter's mother to keep him for a month to breast feed him. He was then sent from one foster home to another where he ended up with a twisted neck as result of a beating.

Peter recalls: "When I was put up for adoption, I was bounced around from place to place, ignored for long periods of time, left to lie in darkness," he explained. When he was 3, Frank and Susan Maynard decided to adopt him and raised him in their middle class neighborhood.

From age 7 to 12, Peter was treated for behavior problems at the Hospital for Sick Children.

In 1982 he legally changed his name to David Michael Krueger. When transferred to a medium security institution, he said he fell in love with a fellow psychiatric patient, Dennis Kerr, who rejected his advances, and during the first hour of his first weekend pass in 35 years, he sexually assaulted and stabbed Dennis to death. He was sent back to Oak Ridge where he murdered Wayne Mallette (age 7), Gary Morris (age 9), and Carole Voyce. Although it was estimated he actually murdered 100 children, he was prosecuted only for killing Carole Voyce and was acquitted by reason of insanity.

Having spent 53 years in custody, the majority at Oak Ridge, he died on 3-5-10, his 71st birthday. His following comment is noteworthy: *"I often wondered whether my natural mother wanted me."* (Source: Wikipedia)

WUORNOS, Aileen Carol Pittman ("Damsel of Death")

Born 2-29-56 in Rochester, Michigan, to Diane and Leo Pittman, Alieeen never knew her father who was incarcerated for petty theft. Her mother abandoned her and her brother, Keith. By age 10, she and her brother experimented sexually with each other, and by 11 she was having sex with neighborhood boys for money when she was raped by an older man.

Pregnant at 14, Aileen claimed her brother was the father. Her grandparents sent her to a home for unwed mothers to adopt out the baby boy. It was not so much the adoption that she objected to but that her baby boy was taken from her without her ever seeing him or having any say.

By age 15, Aileen and her brother went their separate ways, Aileen living on the road, hitchhiking and prostituting in Florida where she slept on the beach. A 70-year old retiree, Louis Feld, picked her up and married her, but because she would strike him when he didn't give her money, the marriage lasted only 9 weeks.

In 1978 at 22, she shot herself in the abdomen and although she told emergency room doctors it was not the first time she attempted suicide, she received minimal psychiatric care. She then spent 3-years in prison for Robbery and was released in 1983 to a life of alcohol and prostitution.

At 33, desperate for love and acceptance, Aileen turned to lesbianism at a biker bar. Aileen and Tyria Banks became an inseparable couple from then on, Tyria calling Aileen "her wife" and sharing a nomadic lifestyle, Aileen still prostituting and Tyria cleaning motel rooms. Between 1989 and 1990, Aileen shot and killed 7 men she had picked up along the Interstate for their money before capture in 1990.

In 1991, she confessed to the murders to protect Tyria but claimed she killed the men in self defense, and was sentenced to Death in 1992. Born-again Christians, Arlene Pralle, 44, and Pralle's husband befriended Aileen but were not allowed to visit her at first because prison rules restricted visits to "family members." So the Pralles legally *adopted* Aileen to have access to her. At age 45, Aileen asked the state to stop all automatic appeals and proceed with her execution by confessing that she had not killed in self-defense. On 10-9-02, Aileen was executed by lethal injection. (Source: "Biography" video of telecast at <http://www.biography.com>)

YATES, Robert Lee, 23 ('Spokane Serial Killer')

His was a stepparent adoption. Yates grew up on Whidbey Island, Washington, where his mother died when he was a teenager still in high school and his faher remarried Cordeller Yates, his stepmother. Records show that he was allegedly repeatedly sexually abused by an 11-year old neighbor boy when he was about 6 years old. He was the father of 5 children and retired Army helicopter pilot. In exchange for his life he pled guilty to Murder of 13 female prostitutes from 1975 to 1996, and was sentenced to Death in 2002.

Curiously, when the story was aired on "48 Hours," although it was mentioned that his grandmother murdered his grandfather with an axe, there was no mention of who raised him nor of his stepmother, Cordeller Yates, nor of his being sexually abused at age 6, only that his wife and the victims' families didn't have an answer as to "why" he killed prostitutes. (Source: "Kill and Kill Again," 48 Hours, 4-11-09"; "Serial Killers A-Z"; and Tracy Ellig, Staff Writer, Dateline, 11-14-01)

Mass Murdering Adoptees

*"I previously lost three grandchildren—
one from death and two through adoption."*

-Elizabeth Suff, on her son, William Suff's, death sentence, in "A Mother's Pain,"
(*The Press-Enterprise*, Riverside, CA, 11-15-95, p. A-10)

(Listed alphabetically, with age at time of crime if known, including attempted mass murder by bombers etc.)

Throughout recorded history, mass-murdering, genocidal villains have been depicted as having been abandoned and/or abused, or felt rejected by one or both parents in childhood - including adoptees - and often the mass killing is triggered by a new rejection of some sort. It is noteworthy that most "school shooters" are adopted or have had a family separation. His suicide during the killings may or may not have been planned but is also the result of finding no satisfaction from the killings. (Michaud, 8-25-99)

FREUND, William, 19 ("Terror Campaign" Random Shooter)

In the weeks before he donned a cape and mask and went on a shooting rampage in his Aliso Viejo neighborhood, killing 3 people at random, William Freund had reached out for help on Internet with more than a dozen messages at <http://wrongplanet.net>. He was asking for a "real life" friend, threatening a "Terror Campaign" and his own suicide. Freund is an adoptee diagnosed with Asberger's (a variation of Autism). He was described by his former employer as "incredibly smart, a deep thinker, but lacked social skills severely." Freund described himself online as "the only child of adoptive parents, a student at ITT Technical Institute in Anaheim who enjoys computers, role playing, fantasy, pugs, food, guns," and he had mentioned his prior suicide attempts, also stating "...my mind's sick with depression." Volunteers offered to contact his adopters but could not locate them. No mention of his biological parents, nor of William's desire to know about them, was mentioned in media reports. (Source: *Los Angeles Times*, 11-1-05, Front Page, and continued on A-12; and <http://latimes.com>).

HAMILTON, Thomas, 43 (School Shooter)

Informally adopted by his grandparents who raised him and made him believe they were his parents. Thomas Hamilton was told was his sister was actually his mother. On 3-13-96 at age 43, dressed in black and, wearing earmuffs to protect himself from the noise, he sprayed 105 bullets into a Dunblane, Scotland elementary school gym, killed 16 first graders and their teacher, and wounded 12 other children, before killing himself. (Source: <http://www.indystar.com/library/factfiles>)

HELDER, Lucas ("Luke") John, 20 ("The Smiley Face Mail Bomber")

Luke Helder was born 5-5-81 at Pine Island, Minnesota. CNN let it slip that Luke is adopted with the single reference to "the young man's adoptive father," the only clue, out of CNN's dozens of archived news posts about him at time of arrest. Later, a headline reads "Helder's Adoption Not Relevant" - Then why did the smiling, freckle-faced, lean cut, quiet, polite University of Wisconsin art major who turned 21 following his confession, plant 24 pipe bombs in rural post boxes in 5 mid-western states, injuring 6 people and which he had hoped would form a 3,000 mile "smiley face."

Some of the bombs were accompanied by his rambling notes about death "not existing" but being "the way to go to another life." Many adoptees view life and death as inconsequential

“non-events”—especially adoptees who kill. It was reported that Luke's adopters and authorities were “baffled by the disparity between how Luke appeared and the Luke accused of “domestic terrorism.” Letters accompanying some of his bombs that were full of anti-government control rhetoric also explained, “In avoiding death, you are forced to *conform*, you suffer mentally and physically.” And to his classmates he wrote “I'm dismissing a few individuals from reality, to change all of you for the better, surely you can understand my logic.”

If you're adopted, denying reality of one's own true identity is expected of the “well adjusted” adoptee and media tells him his adoption is “not relevant,” so, yes, for Luke, dismissing reality would be “logical.” One has only to listen to the words of Luke's music, written for his rock band “Apathy,” to understand what he was feeling—for example, in his recording, “Conformity” he says: *“It's a story how I'm supposed to feel because you told me so.”* And in his recording, “Back and Black” he asks: “Can we feel the pain?” (Source: *CNN.com*; Wikipedia; Jessica Reeves/ *TIME*, 5-9-02)

KNIGHT, Julian

Born March 1968 and adopted at 10 days old by an Army couple, Julian Knight's adopters moved frequently. At age 12, his adopters divorced. Girls with whom he had intimate relationships testified that not only was Julian upset and angry over his adopters divorce, but also he felt “profound unhappiness about having been adopted.” Both subjects reduced him to tears after heavy drinking. (Source: http://www.massmurder.zyns.com/julian_knight_04/html)

MOSES (The First Adoptee)

Biblical Moses, is a “victim's role model”—a child of two races, with physical handicaps and character flaws. He was born a Levite, from one of the 12 tribes of Israel, nearly put to death in a purge, sent floating down the Nile in a basket by his mother, rescued by an Egyptian princess and raised in the royal court “as her own.” The adult Moses is described as having speech problems, perhaps stuttering, his face was deformed “after seeing God,” and he ordered his legion to butcher the boys, massacre the mothers, and to rape the daughters. (Source: Book of Numbers, Chapter 31, “The Holy Bible”).

PAYNE, Eric, 18

Born Eric Hollie, 1-7-73, in Roanoake, Virginia, his father killed his mother and committed suicide when Eric was 4 months old. His aunt adopted him, but kept him as “her son” for only 6 years. He then went through a series of foster homes and at age 8 was again adopted, this time by Gerald Payne and his wife who decided when he was 14 they didn't want him because of his lying and “failure to respond.” He was convicted at age 18 in 1991 for Possession of LSD.

When released in 1997, he went on a rampage of hammer beatings, killing 2 women. A third victim and her son survived his attacks. He was then sentenced to Death. (Source: Kay Russell's “Ghost Dancer's Anti-Adoption Pages.” <http://www.geocities.com/Wellesley/9950>)

PERRY, Michael James, 18 (“Romeo”)

Jim and Gayle Perry adopted Michael when he was an infant. Diagnosed in second grade with “hyperactivity disorder,” Michael's adopters admitted him to several inpatient psychiatric facilities and residential treatment programs for troubled teens. On 10-24-01, Michael shot to death Sandra Stotler, 50, and is suspected of murdering Stotler's son, Adam, 16, and Jeremy Richardson, 18. Michael was sentenced to Death. (Source: <http://venus.soci.niu.edu/~archives/>)

WEISE, Jeff, 16 (The Red Lake Shooter)

Jeff Weise's father committed suicide. His mother was in a nursing home after an auto accident and his grandfather had been raising him. On 3-23-05, while on a mega-dose of Prozac "for depression," Weise went on a rampage, shooting to death his grandfather and the grandfather's companion. Then, armed with 2 pistols and a shotgun, he killed 9 people and wounded 7 before shooting himself to death at his school on the Red Lake Indian Reservation, the nation's bloodiest school shooting since Columbine 6 years prior. (Source: <http://www.antidepressantsfacts.com/casualties.htm>)

Adoptees Who Killed Their Adopters or Adoptive Relatives

(Listed alphabetically, with age at time of crime if known, including Attempted Murder)

"He reminded me of the man who murdered his both his parents, then when the sentence was about to be pronounced, pleaded for mercy on the grounds that he was an orphan."

-President Abraham Lincoln

An average of about 225 people kill a parent every year in the United States (according to research by Kathleen M. Heide, a professor of criminology at the University of South Florida, Tampa, in "Why Kids Kill Parents: Child Abuse and Adolescent Homicide"). While the majority of serial killers are adoptees, **the largest number of adopted killers appears to be in the category of those who kill their adopters and/or adoptive relatives:** 100 of the following 110 adoptees who killed their adopters and/or adoptive family members are American adoptees (3 Canadian, 3 in the U.K., 2 South Africa, 1 Russian, 1 in India).

As Keith Chul Weaver, who killed his adopters, explained: *"I know I made a hole in a lot of people's hearts and souls, but probably I had the biggest."*

ANDREWS, Charles D., 14

In 1981, Andrews murdered his male adopter and stepmother in Anchorage, Alaska. He was judged a delinquent minor and was committed to the custody of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. When he turned 20 in 1987, he was released from juvenile custody, and soon thereafter began a series of robberies and convictions. (Source: [Andrews v. State \[of Alaska\]](#), Appeal Opinion.)

ATKINS, Charles, 23, and Joseph, 27

Joseph and his adoptive brother, Charles, who was 4 years younger, were adopted by a White family; Joseph was adopted as a toddler, his racial heritage unknown--possibly Native American, African-American, or Puerto Rican.

According to trial testimony he got drunk and broke into the neighbor's house armed with a machete, a shotgun and a revolver. He shot Karen Patterson with the sawed-off shotgun while she was in bed. Then he chased her mother back to his house where he shot his male adopter. Five years earlier, the older Atkins had convinced parole officials to release his 27-year old adopted son from prison where he was serving a Life sentence for killing his 23-year-old adoptive brother, Charles; 15 years later, on 10-27-85, he killed the man who adopted him and a 13-year old neighbor in Charleston, North Carolina. He was executed at age 51 in Columbia, South Carolina. 1-22-99. (Source: *APB Online*, and *The Denver Post & Courier*.)

BAMBER, Jeremy, 40

Bamber was convicted of the shooting deaths of both of his wealthy adopters, Neville and June Bamber, who adopted Jeremy at age 6 weeks, his adoptive sister, Sheila Caffell, and her 6-year old twin sons, Nicolas and Daniel in Tolleshunt, at D'Arcy, Essex, England, in 1985. He was sentenced to 5 Life Terms. Jeremy claims he was wrongfully convicted and that his adoptive sister, a schizophrenic, did the murders, then committed suicide. After he was incarcerated, he attempted to connect with his natural parents but they wanted nothing to do with him due to the verdict of the court that he killed 5 members of his adoptive family. (Source: <http://innocent.org.uk/cases/jeremybamber/>)

BARNETT, David M.

Sentenced to "Death plus 2 Life sentences" for the 2-4-96 stabbing deaths and robbery of his adoptive paternal grandparents in their Glendale, Missouri home, Barnett claims, among other things, that his attorney failed to investigate and provide an expert witness to testify as to his biological family's extensive history of alcohol and other substance abuse, depression, and other mental illnesses, and his mother's lack of prenatal care. The jury was never informed of his traumatic and painful life experiences; the prosecutor used religious (scripture) references and matters outside the record; and his adoptive family's wish that he not be executed was ignored. The State contended that there is no right to effective assistance of counsel. (Source: State of Missouri v. David Barnett, St. Louis County).

BEANGE, Graham, 20

Police were called to a home where they found a man, 59, and woman, 57, badly hurt. The couple's adopted son, who lived with them, was arrested. Graham Beange, 20, was charged with 2 counts of Attempted Murder and two counts of Aggravated Assault. (Source: "Hammer Attack Kills Dad" by Jack Boland, *Sun Media*, Toronto, Canada)

BELMONTE, Gerard "Gerry," 21

In July of 2011, Gerard "Gerry" Belmonte was charged with First Degree Murder in the death of his adopter, Natalie Belmonte, 43, described as a hard working a real estate agent and mother of 3 who was good to children. She and her husband adopted Gerry, her biological cousin, from her homeland of Guyana when Gerry was 9 and his father (Natalie's uncle) died. When Gerry was 15, Natalie's husband, Andre Belmonte, was charged with Felony Child Abuse, stemming from his mistreatment of Gerry, later reduced to Contributing to Delinquency of a Minor, a misdemeanor. Andre pled No Contest and served a term on probation. Gerry, a blackout drinker and marijuana user, had several arrests on charges of Burglary, Larceny and Petty Theft. He pled Guilty to Petty Theft but Natalie pressed felony charges against him for allegedly stealing \$20,000 worth of her jewelry. Natalie's body was found in a marshy area of the woods that Gerry used as a shooting range. Gerry's behaviors periodically raised concerns about his mental health and he was placed under suicide watch. (Source: "Adopted Son Held in Mom's Murder Had Troubled History, Neighbors and Friends Say," *Sun Sentinel*, Miami, 7-27-11)

BOCOOK, Charles, 16, and Gladys, 14

Teenagers, Charles (aka Justin Workman/Justin Smith), and Gladys (aka Sarah), waited for the Bocooks to fall asleep before igniting the house afire and fleeing in their adopters' car. Their adopters were injured in the fire but managed to escape through a window of their mobile home in Sardinia near Cincinnati, Ohio. The adoptees were tried as adults. (Source: "Siblings To Be Sentenced for Attempted Murder of Adoptive Parents," *Associated Press /AP*, 11-14-00)

BOGESS, Clifford Holt, 21

Born 6-11-65, in Georgia, Clifford Boggess, a 6'2" redhead, was the 10th child born to Mary Elizabeth Mann, one of several children not by her husband. Mary abused drugs, alcohol and her kids--3 died a violent death. Clifford was at first left in the care of his 9-year old biological sister and with a biologicak brother later imprisoned for child molestation. He was then placed in an orphanage and, 2 years later, adopted by Steve and Shirley Boggess in Alabama.

When he was 4, his adopters divorced and he was sent to Texas live with his adopter's father who subjected him to beatings until young Clifford murdered him. He completed 12th grade and worked as a carpenter's helper and bookkeeper.

One of his adoptive brothers was jailed for child molestation.

The search for his biological mother and what she might reveal came too late--She had been dead for 20 years.

Boggess murdered an 86-year old store owner during the course of a robbery and was executed at age 33 on 6-11-98 in Texas, for 2 homicides in 1986, including that of his adopter's father who actually raised him. (Source: *Frontline, PBS Transcript "The Execution,"* 2-9-99, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/execution>; and Texas Department of Criminal Justice Offender Information website)

BOURGEOIS-GREER, Michael, 17

Michael Bourgeoiss-Greer, a Black child, was adopted at age 17 in Ohio, by a White couple, Terry Smith, 50, his wife Lucy Smith, 51. Michael shot and stabbed to death both his adopters. (Source: "The Truth at Last," http://thetruthatlast.com/newspapers/440_p05_interacial_adoption/)

CAMPBELL, Patrick, 20

Born in 1967 to a mother of 5 children in Michigan, in 1997 he killed his adopters -- Kenneth M. Campbell, 56, a stockbroker, and Anna May Campbell, 59 – by bludgeoning them to death with a hatchet and sledgehammer in their Farmington, Connecticut, home, then setting their bodies afire. His defense attorney and psychoanalysts claimed that anguish over his adoption as a small child contributed to his insanity.

Betty Jean Lifton, psychologist, and herself an adoptee, theorized that a series of rejections by his adopters and girlfriends caused his already "split self" to snap in fear of abandonment. He was allowed to meet and talk with his biological mother for the first time after his court hearing. After their meeting, he commented "If only I could have seen and talked with her earlier, none of this would have happened." He was sentenced to 45 years in prison. (Source: "Adoption Called Key To Killing" *Detroit Free Press*, 4-22-88; and "The Journey of the Adopted" by Betty Jean Lifton; and "Drifter Charged in Bludgeoning of Parents," by Nick Ravo, *New York Times*, 7-3-87)

CARTER, Sean, 18

Born 3/9/79, and taken from his mother in 1981, Sean was adopted at age 10 by Evelyn Prince Carter who threw him out of her house. He then lived with his 68-year old adoptive grandmother, Veedier Prince, until 1997 when, after he was incarcerated for Theft, he killed her by stabbing her 18 times and sodomized her.

His execution was stayed. He confessed that he "went off" during an argument with his grandmother after she told him to move out of her home in West Farmington, Ohio, according to documents filed with the court. (Source: State vs. Carter, 98-921;

CATLIN, Steven, David 19

Born in 1944 and adopted as an infant by Glenn and Martha Rose Catlin, of Fresno, California, Steve Catlin was raised in Bakersfield. His first arrest was at age 19 for Forgery and Theft after he dropped out of school and was drug addicted. Over time, he murdered several people, including both of his adopters and 2 of his 6 wives, Joyce Adeline Catlin and Glenda Kay Catlin, with Paraquat poison undiscovered because he had their bodies quickly cremated. Convicted on one count of Murder, he drew a term of Life imprisonment In Bakersfield, where other charges waited, prosecutors hoped to see him executed. (Source http://www.crimezzz.net/serialkillers/e/CHARD_WILLIAMS_ada.htm)

CHASE, Jeffrey, 17

Jeffrey Chase was adopted at 4 months in 1958, when adoption privacy was paramount and no information on biological parents was released. Jeffrey began exhibiting personality problems when he was 2 years old. Through the preschool, elementary, and high school years he displayed increasingly severe behavioral disorders. At 17, he assaulted a 4-year-old girl, choking and traumatizing her. He was tried for Attempted Murder, convicted, and sentenced to 30 years in prison. After serving 21 troubled years, he was released. Within 6 weeks he shot and killed his adopters. (Source: <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/9830/articulo15.htm>)

CLARK, Dilan, 14

Franklin Count, New York Police charged 14-year old Dilan Clark with the murder of his female adopter, 45-year old Karen Bourden-Clark. The victim's adopted daughter called 911. Dilan had fled the scene but returned to the house where he was picked up without incident. There was no official report on what sparked the argument but it was rumored that it was over his cell phone being taken away. Karen Clark was a guidance counselor for Flanders Elementary School and her husband is a member of the Constable Fire Department. The couple adopted both children from Guatemala – a girl when she was 15 or 16, and Dilan when he was 5 or 6. (Source: "Teen Charged With Stabbing His Mother To Death," <http://www.dreamindemon.com/2011/05/03/teen-charged-with-murdering-his-mother, 5-3-11.>)

CLARK, James B., 39

In August, 1996, James B. Clark shot to death his adopters and his ex-partner, Gloria Jean Morden, at the same time, in Gore Bay, Ontario, Canada, one month after being released in May 1994 on parole from having been incarcerated for 22 years of a 30-year sentence served for kidnapping and assaulting a 16-year old girl. Prior to that release he had asked NOT to be paroled, warning that he could not cope with release to his adopters. (Sources: "Delaware Executes Man Who Killed Adoptive Parents," *Orlando Sentinel*, 4-20-96; *Ontario Women's Justice Network Archive*, November 1998).

CLAYTON, Hugo, 14

Hugo Clayton was born and adopted from Guatemala when he was 13. In 2003, The Lexington County South Carolina teenager was sentenced to 10 years in prison after admitting stabbing to death his adopter, Debra Clayton, in her home in Red Bank. Investigators say the knife was found under the boy's bed. Authorities said Hugo would be kept in a juvenile facility until he turns 17 and then would be transferred to an adult prison. Prosecutor Dayton Riddle said the boy killed his adopter after being required to speak only English on the day of her death. Riddle said the boy had also been punished for not getting up to go to work with his male adopter. The youngest daughter of Keith and Debi Clayton

celebrated her 5th birthday without her mother or older brother. His adopter, Keith Clayton, said his faith has helped him forgive the boy. While police were pushing for the boy to be tried as an adult, the elder Clayton said he wanted his adopted son treated as a juvenile. He says his son deserves to be punished, but doesn't need to spend his life in prison. (Source: *Associated Press/AP*, 7-20-05)

COLEMAN, Alton

Coleman was sentenced to 112 years for killing his female adopter and other adoptive relatives, and also was sentenced to Death in 3 states for a 1984 killing spree. He was executed in Ohio. (Source: <http://www.mayhem.net/Crime/morg9707.html>)

COLLIER, Jovan (See ZIMMER, Peter)

COOKE, Joshua, 19

Born in 1983, Joshua was removed from his parents in 1984, at age 1, together with his adoptive sister, Tiffany, then age 1. In 1986, Paul and Margaret Cooke adopted Joshua at age 3 and Tiffany, then age 2, unaware that both children had been physically abused (beaten) in foster care. Joshua doesn't remember his parents who had been declared unfit and neglectful; his father, a male prostitute, repeatedly beat Joshua's mother who was also a prostitute diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic. Joshua was sentenced to 112-Years-to-Life for shotgun killing both his adopters, Paul and Margaret Cooke, both 51, at their Oakton, Virginia home, after a series of rejections.

During the entire 90-minute interrogation, Joshua offered only one detail suggesting any conflict with his adopters – They had always refused to give him and his adoptive sister any information about their biological parents.

Later, he revealed the physical and emotional abuse by his adopter who had never known her own father. In Joshua's adoption file was a photo and letter from his mother who had kept track of him, saying she loved him and asking him to forgive her. By the time he got to trial, Joshua had been diagnosed as schizophrenic without outward signs due to being "detached from the self." (Source: "I Don't Think They Deserved It," by Peter Pearl, *Washington Post*, <http://WashingtonPost.com>, 11-30-03, p. W-16.)

CORNE, James, 29

In Auburn, Washington, a severely depressed and schizophrenic drug user, Corne took a butcher knife, slipped behind his 54 year old female adopter, Peggy Corne, and, as horrified family members watched, stabbed her to death. Corne told police she was "pushing his buttons" and making him angry. (Source: "Man Gets 22 Years for Killing Mother," by Nancy Bartley, *Seattle Times*, 3-24-01)

COULSON, Robert Otis, 24

Born 3-11-68 in Rhode Island, the redhead Coulson and his siblings were adopted in Texas. Coulson completed 14 years of school and worked in sales. When Coulson was 24 he was convicted of the 11-13-92 murders of Robin and Robert Wentworth, 2 of 5 adoptive family members he killed for inheritance, including his adopters, by tying them up with plastic flex cuffs and suffocated them by placing plastic bags over their heads securing the bags with tape, He then doused the bodies and house with gasoline and ignited a fire in an effort to cover his crime.

Coulson's natural father wrote to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles asking that his son be spared from execution. He also told of the 'guilt' he has felt over the years for allowing his children

to be put up for adoption, blaming Texas for pushing him to do so." (Source: "The Death House," online source of Death Penalty news, by Robert Anthony Phillips; and Texas Criminal Justice Offender Information website)

COX, Johnnie Michael

Johnnie Cox was executed 2-16-99 in Arkansas for 3 murders -- that of his adoptive grandmother, Marie Sellers, 68, Margaret Brown, 36, and Billy Brown, 32, who he shot, stabbed and strangled, then set their home afire. (Source: http://prodeathpenalty.com/Pending/99/feb_execlist.html)

D'Aoust, Heather Marie, 14

Heather D'Aoust was 14 when she attacked her adopter with a claw hammer in their Scripps Ranch San Diego home on 5-25-08. During the attack, she struck her adopter, Rebecca D'Aoust, a school teacher and counselor, at least 25 times. When her male adopter came to his wife's aid, she attacked him too. He died the next day of head injuries sustained during the assault. D'Aoust, who has a history of mental illness, professes to not knowing why she did it, and said as much during sentencing for the crime in San Diego County Superior Court. Now 16, she was sentenced to 16 Years to Life in state prison for Second Degree Murder and Assault with a Deadly Weapon. She pled guilty in December 2009. San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis called it a "tragic case for everyone involved." Although the defendant professed not knowing why she killed ,to her sentencing judge, Superior Court Judge Michael Wellington, she told a San Diego County Probation Officer that she had planned to kill the whole family that morning, including her sister and the sister's boyfriend. "Hopefully, Heather will get the mental health treatment she needs while serving her sentence," Dumanis said. D'Aoust will be eligible for a parole hearing after serving 16 years. (Source: "Scripps Ranch Teen Girl Sentenced in Claw Hammer Attack on Adoptive Mother by Steve Perez," *San Diego Examiner*, 1-27-10)

DEGELLEKE, Patrick, 14

Born in 1974 in Ohio, Patrick DeGelleke was with his natural mother for the first 3 years of his life. His mother had turned to prostitution to keep food on the table and was gone from the house for long periods. He was adopted at age 6 by John and Judith DeGelleke. Unable to have children of their own, the DeGellekes built a family through adoption. They started in 1975 by adopting 9-year old twin girls, Robin and Renee. A year later, they adopted Patrick and his 3 natural brothers, Christopher, 9, Matthew, 10, and Phillip, 12, from foster homes in Ohio. The sudden creation of a family led to "ongoing strain" and the family began attending group counseling sessions at a nearby hospital. In 1984, his adopters died as result of the fire set by their adopted son, Patrick, then 14.

Patrick was tried as an adult when he turned 15. Expert for the defense, David Kirschner, PhD, a Long Island clinical psychologist, testified that the trauma of adoption and a fear of abandonment may have produced a psychotic, insane rage in Patrick when he set the fire. One aspect of the defense case offered by Kirschner was the concept known as "Adopted Child Syndrome," unproven and unrecognized in psychiatric manuals, other experts said. "Patrick's rage was not so much directed at the DeGellekes," Kirschner said in an interview. "*I believe he was really trying to destroy the adoption system which had upset his life.*"

Judith DeGelleke died that day but John DeGelleke survived for 10 days before he died from complications from his burns, according to a 1979 report presented at the trial. Patrick was a special problem, according to court testimony. He was a quiet, withdrawn child who could erupt into violent uncontrollable temper tantrums. He had few friends, and even his brothers seldom played with him.

They often beat him up. When he was 8, he told a school psychologist "My mind is weird." In school, he was disorganized, had concentration problems, and needed constant supervision. He would often stare blankly into space for hours at a time. He read "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and dreamed of running away, hiding in the woods and *searching for his natural mother*.

As a teenager, his disciplinary problems grew worse, and included truancy, theft and general rebelliousness, witnesses testified. His adopters filed a petition with Family Court, saying they could not control him and asking the court to intervene. Patrick said he never intended for anyone to be hurt but wanted people to think he died in the fire – so he could hop a train back to Ohio, *find his mother and live happily ever after*. He had an absence of feelings about his adopters who treated adoption with a sense of denial.

Patrick served 9 years, is now out and was last known to be living with one of his adoptive sisters. (Source: "Violence in Adoption," a talk by Donald Humphrey, adoptee/attorney, 9-23-92 conference of The American Adoption Congress; and "Expert Testifies Youth Killed Parents Because of Adopted Child Syndrome, *New York Times*, 2-18-88)

DIAZ, Monica, 16

Born 10-31-83, Monica was adopted by Richard Angel Flores, 42, and his wife, Sylvia Flores. Together with her high school boyfriend, she fatally stabbed Flores and 3 adoptive siblings allegedly because her adopters disapproved of her boyfriend who she had dated for a year. Students who knew them said her adopters were too strict. The mental health of Monica Diaz became the focus of the successful appeal of her sentence. The Court of Appeals changed Diaz' April 2004 sentence of Life Without Parole to a maximum punishment of 25-Years-to-100-Years in prison. (Source: Beth and Joe Matthews, *Los Angeles Times*, 7-27-00; and Los Angeles County District Attorney)

DiBENEDETTO-HEIKKILA, Matthew, 20

On 1-21-91, Matthew shot and killed his adopters, Richard and Dawn Heikkila, at their New Jersey home. On the shotgun shells he had written "Mom" and "Dad." After killing them, he brought his girlfriend, Linda Perez, to his home where his adopters' bodies lay, handed Linda her birthday gift, handcuffed her to him, and informed her that this would be her last night alive. But Linda managed to talk him into running away together. She just needed to get her passport, she said. Once at her house, her mother would not let her go with Matthew. He was arrested in Jamaica on 2-4-91.

About the time that Matt's adoption was finalized, Dawn Heikkila became pregnant with her son, Joshua. The Heikkilas had strong hopes of more pregnancies and more children of their own. These desires were no secret to Matthew and must have had a tremendous effect on how he felt about himself and his adopted status with the Heikkilas.

Dawn Heikkila had a habit of complaining about Matthew to friends and co-workers, though she seemed reluctant to go to her extended family for support concerning the adopted boy. On the day she was murdered, she had started a letter to her biological son, Joshua, in which she complained about Matt. There didn't seem to be anyone she was acquainted with who had not listened to Dawn complain about the boy she had adopted. She may have even encouraged Matt's antisocial behavior out of an emotional need in herself to gain sympathy from her associates to react to the crises he created and to continually "rescue" this adoptee throughout his life. At times, Mr. Heikkila, too, felt compelled to cure Matt of problems that he considered biological defects. It's not likely that Matthew was unaware of those feelings towards him. Other times, Mr. Heikkila believed that Matt just wasn't suited well to the Heikkila family. And he was correct in that assumption. Matthew had the genetic characteristics that

suites him to his own family, not the Heikkilas.

Matthew believed that the Heikkilas did not love him, especially Richard Heikkila. He also believed that the Heikkilas gave preferential treatment to their biological son, Joshua, born 9 months after they adopted Matt. It was as if the tall, fair-haired Josh could do no wrong and the medium, dark-haired Matt could do no right. Richard, Dawn, and Josh were athletic over- achievers with many awards -- unlike Matt. They were tidy; he was messy. They looked like each other and not like him. Sometimes Josh would tease Matt about his being adopted and his inability to measure up to the family academically. It must have been very painful for Matthew to grow up in this family with which he had nothing in common. Like many adoptees, Matthew was unable to bond with anyone, even in school. How could he possibly bond with this family who were all so dissimilar to him?

Matthew had a habit of lying, but consider his upbringing. He was raised with the lies that Dawn and Richard were his "parents" and that Josh was his" brother." They had pushed the fabrications that he was "special" and "**chosen.**" At the same time there seemed to be a sense of denial about his being adopted. To explain why Matthew looked so different than herself and her son, Dawn would say that he'd inherited Richard Heikkila's looks – an outright and obvious lie.

Psychotherapist David Kirschner's analysis of Patrick's "Adopted Child Syndrome" saved the youth from the Death Penalty. Matt hurt his case by writing some 90 letters -- to authorities, media and his former girlfriend-- giving graphic details of the murders, stating they were premeditated, and threatening to kill his former girlfriend, his adoptive brother, the prosecutor and others. The judge said he believed Matt would kill again if returned to society, so sentenced him to 2 consecutive 30-year terms, but he may be eligible for parole in 2014.

While in prison, in 1988, he obtained his GED, over 10 certificates in computer sciences, and was reunited with his biological mother (DiBenedetto), whereupon he changed his name to Matthew DiBenedetto-Heikkila. Since then he's been in touch with his biological father, Joe, and has had visits from his biological sisters and from his daughter, Gia, who he fathered when he was around 19 or 20. She was born just before he was incarcerated. Also while incarcerated, Matthew married his high school sweetheart on Valentine's Day 2008, but knowing that Matt could not get his sentence reduced, and wanting to have children, she divorced him in 2010. He worked training Golden Retriever dogs in prison, thanks to an organization at <http://www.GRRAND.org>, and is now a Certified Dog Trainer. (Sources: "A Horror That Shocked Bernards Township - Heikkila Murder Recalled After 20 Years Later" by Jacob Perry, *The Bernardsville News*, 1-28-11); *Los Angeles Times*, 4-27-93; "A Current Affair," *FOX-TV* 6-30-9;"Woman Said She Aborted Heikkila Child" by Laurence Arnold, *Courier News*, New Jersey, 1-12-93; "The Dark Son" by Denise Lang; and Matthew's letters to AmFOR)

DREYER, Henry Lee, 17

Born in 1967, Henry was abandoned by his mother who left him with his grandparents and they put him up for adoption at age 7. He was adopted by recently-divorced Carol Dreyer. On 1-29-88 when he was 17, Henry, together with his friend, Daniel Scott Whitlow, killed Carol Dreyer and her boyfriend, Gary Engleman, as they slept in their Carlsbad, California condo. Their bodies, along with bloody bedding, a metal baseball bat and a knife, were found in the trunk of a car in their garage. Henry and his adopter argued a lot and he had run away from home several times. He had stolen from her, her father and her boyfriend, and was on probation for a 1996 burglary at the time of the murders. Before his arrest, he bragged to friends that he and was caught on a security camera at an ATM machine, laughing while he withdrew \$520 from Carol's account. Henry and Whitlow gave away his adopter's jewelry to their girlfriends. It was reported that he joked about the slayings and even defecated on Engleman's body.

Two days after the murders, Henry surrendered and implicated Whitlow, admitting he slit the throats of the victims while Whitlow beat Engleman with the baseball bat. Whitlow was sentenced to Life Without Parole and Henry Lee Dreyer was sentenced to 2 Life Terms Without Parole plus additional years for enhancements. Henry criticized media for referring to Carol Dreyer as his "mother" stating that Dreyer and Engleman were not his "parents." (Source: *San Diego Tribune*, 1-30-98; and http://webspace.webring.com/people/au/um_2274/adoption_serialkillers.html#dreyer)

DUFF-SMITH, Markum, 28

Born 1-14-47, Markum Duff-Smith completed 14 years of school and indicated his employment had been as an "insurance investor." Court records showed that he wanted both his adopters, Gertrude ("Trudy") Duff-Smith Zabolio and Dow Zabolio, killed at the same time and had promised to pay Allen Wayne Janecka \$10,000 to do the murders. But Dow Zabolio had traveled to Austria on business. Trudy's strangulation death at her home in Houston's exclusive River Oaks neighborhood on 10-17-75 was made to look like a suicide. Suicide notes were found in her dresser drawer and for 4 years it seemed Markham had got away with murder. During that time, he squandered his \$90,000 inheritance and was not arrested until 1979 when he again sought out Janecka who then killed his adoptive sister and her husband, Diana and John Wanstrath, and their 14-month old son, Kevin, so Markum could gain control of the family's \$500,000 estate. Markum denied having any role until his confession moments before his execution by lethal injection in Texas on 6-29-93. (Source: Texas Criminal Justice Offender Information website)

DU PLOOY, Schalk, 18

Schalk du Plooy, drug addicted and alcoholic since age 12, murdered his adopters, Schalk Sr., 62, and Theresa du Plooy, 51, both alcoholic, *drug addicted pharmacists*, in Johannesburg, South Africa. Just before the murders, his adopters told him the regretted adopting him and that he should leave. (Source: "Addict Guilty of Killing Adoptive Parents, by Jeanne-Marie Versluis, *News24*, 11-3-11)

FUSS, Charles Allen, 36

Born 12-16-65, Charles was convicted and sentenced to Life Without Parole for the axe-murder of his adopter, Inez "Jackie" Fuss, in Georgia in 1996, allegedly after a quarrel over an \$1,800 phone sex bill. His adoptive siblings, Melissa and David, were also adopted by Jackie. His adoptive sister, Margaret, was Jackie's biological daughter. Melissa's biological mother, Sandra Race Cano (Domingues), accused Melissa of framing Charles for that murder and framing her biological brother, Joel Lee Domingues, for the 1999 murder of Kelly Fuss (David's wife). Jackie died without a will but DeKalb County Police believe that her estate was the motive for the two killings. Charles Fuss was diagnosed as "schizophrenic" and incarcerated in Augusta State Medical Prison. (Source: "Estate Dispute Led to Slaying, Police Say," *Atlanta Journal-Constitution Archives*, 6-17-99; and direct interviews with family members, Joel Lee Domingues and his attorney, Kathleen Cassady-Goodman, and Sandra Sauceda.)

GARNER, Joseph

In 1995 in Indiana, Joseph Garner killed his adopter, Paul Garner, by beating, cutting, stabbing him with a knife, and drove a dowel rod through his head, then ate part of his brain and skinned part of his body post mortem. He struggled with alcoholism and his female adopter, Charlotte Garner, said Joseph had stalked her and beat her after the couple divorced in 1988. Joseph claimed his male adopter sodomized him as a child. (Source: *Detroit Free Press*, 1-28-95.)

GEBAUER, John Frank, 15

Just 14 months before John Gebauer pled Guilty to fatally shooting his adopter, Alison Logan Gebauer, 47, and sexually abusing her corpse, a probation officer had recommended an intensive 45-day psychological diagnostic program but his adopters and their attorney rejected the plan. His defense attorney, Thomas Cooke contends that the boy suffers from a deep-seated psychosis that was never treated. His biological mother, Karen Parker, died of cancer when he was 6 and he was bounced through 5 foster homes in 2 years, had been sexually molested and treated after threatening suicide just before he was adopted by the Gebauers in 1999, one week shy of his 13th birthday, after they had taken in a foster child. At first, he talked to them like a baby and ran away from the Gebauer home 3 times. The charge was reduced to Third Degree Murder and the Rape charge was dropped. (Source: *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 10-15-02 and 12-18-02.)

GOODMAN, Sierra, 17

Born March 1984, Sierra was legally adopted by Melvin and Audry Goodman but never bonded with them. She had endured a "history of parental abandonment" from numerous foster and pre-adoptive placements. Termed a "victim of system abuse," Sierra, together with Darryl Headbird, 14, stabbed Gene and Carol Campbell, Sierra's former foster parents who had tried to adopt her in 1992, after Headbird had murdered his father. (Source: *Native American Press/Ojibwe News*, 9-14-01; <http://www.maquah.net/clara/Press-ON/01-09-14.html>)

HAGEN, Marjorie Caldwell

Although acquitted of the 1979 murder of her female adopter, Marjorie Hagen was still the prime suspect and was arrested in Ajo, Arizona, in 1991. She was convicted of insurance fraud and attempted arson. In 1983 she was also convicted of arson in Mound, Minnesota, and is suspected of killing her third husband, Wally Hagen, in 1992, and his first wife, Helen, in 1980. (Source: <http://www.x-communication.org/willextras.htm>)

HAMLIN, (first name not released), 10

Robert Hamlin adopted his wife Debbie's grandson when he was 6 months old. A few years later they took a granddaughter home from the hospital, calling both children "their own." On 2-25-05 the then-10-year old grandson put a shotgun to the head of adopter, Robert Hamlin, 42, and threatened to kill the woman he called "Mom," his adopter, Debbie Hamlin," who escaped with 2 of the boy's 4 siblings (the other 2 siblings were found in the house, unharmed). News reports commented that the boy, who fled to a neighbor's house, was "fairly calm" and was concerned only that "They're going to spank me hard." The boy was described as "an average 4th grader who didn't stand out." Debbie Hamlin feared he could be released at age 23 (in 2018) if convicted.. Debbie Hamlin reportedly said "I don't care what anybody says, they were legally adopted, they were blood anyway, but they were *my* kids." (Sources: "Child Shoots Father," by Chandra Brown, *KSN News*, 4-26-05; "Boy, 10, Is Charged with Murder in Shotgun Slaying of His Father," 4-28-05; "Kansas Town Shocked, Boy May Have Shot Dad," Carl Manning, *Associated Press Writer, Kansas City Star* "Mother Talks About Son Who Killed Husband," by Chandra Brown, *KSN News*, 5-6-05.)

HARGON, Ernest Lee

Earnest Lee Hargon was adopted by Charles Hargon. He was convicted of 3 counts of Capital Murder in the beating and shooting deaths of his adoptive cousin, Michael Hargon, Michael's wife, Rebecca,

and their 4-year old son, James Patrick, on Valentine's Day 2004. Ernest pled Not Guilty, but confessed to his ex-wife that he committed the murders and was angry that his adopter had written him out of his will in favor of Michael, Charles Hargon's biological nephew. On Death Row since 2005, Ernest Hargon was killed in 2007 by a Death Row inmate who stabbed him 30 times. (Sources: "Community Grieves Over Slayings," *Picayune Times*. Mississippi, 3-3-04, "Hargon Triple Murder Trial Begins" by David Kenney, *WLBT Channel 3 News*, *WLBT.com* and followup stories.)

HARPER Jr., Edward ("Eddie") Lee

Eddie Lee Harper shot both of his adopters to death on 12-19-92, and was executed 5-25-00, in Kentucky. (Source: *Kentucky Herald-Leader* and Rick Halperin; and *AfroCentric News* <http://www.afrocentricnews.com/html/execute.html>)

HARRIES, Thomas Ronald Lewis, 24

Neighbors in the small Carmarthenshire farming community in Wales (U.K.) did not take long to notice the un-milked cows in the field in October 1953. It was an unusual occurrence as 63-year-old John Harries was a most diligent farmer. Ronald Harries, 24-years-old and adopted nephew of John Harries, told people that his uncle and 54-year-old, aunt, Pheobe, had gone to London for a holiday and left him in charge of their farm in Cadno where they lived. Local police were not satisfied with the answers that he gave them and called in Scotland Yard.

They discovered that a check made out to Ronald from his uncle had been altered from \$9 to \$909. Detectives suspected that Harries had disposed of his elderly relations but it was too large a farm to search. They tied lengths of cotton thread across gateways and gaps in hedges. They then set about making as much noise as possible. The plan worked. Harries couldn't resist checking to see if the burial site was still intact and broke one of the threads. Detectives found the broken thread and soon discovered the graves of the couple. Harries was charged with both murders and came up for trial at Carmarthen Assizes in March 1954.

The circumstantial evidence was strong and he was found guilty and hanged at Swansea Prison. (Source : <http://www.real-crime.co.uk/Murder1/doch.htm#Harries,%20Thomas%20Ronald%20Lewis>)

HARVEY, Holly, 15

Holly stabbed to death her adoptive grandparents, Carl and Sarah Collier, with whom she had been living since her mother went to prison. The Colliers could not have children of their own so they adopted 2 babies to raise in their new home near Fayetteville, Georgia. More than 30 years later, they looked with pride upon their adopted son, Kevin, who is active in his church and followed his father's footsteps in working for Delta Air Lines. When it came to their adopted daughter, Holly, the Colliers initiated group prayer for her mother, Carla Harvey, a known trouble maker who had two daughters fathered by two different men. Carla was serving a 3-year prison sentence for possession of marijuana. Holly's father, a paraplegic confined to a wheelchair after an accident, could not raise her himself, so the Colliers took on the task of trying to straighten out the young girl's life despite her repeated attempts to run away from home. They found her and brought her back and they were trying to help her. In return for their help, police say, Holly and a friend, Sandy Ketchum, both 15, stabbed her grandparents to death in their home. Carl's body was found in the kitchen while his wife was slain in the basement. Kevin Collier was informed of his adopters' deaths while practicing in the orchestra at the First Baptist Church of Atlanta. A neighbor, Ivelyn Hanie, commented "Holly had said last Saturday that she was going to kill them... so I guess she did." (Source: *WXIA-TV*, Atlanta, GA, 4-14-05.)

HEATER, Naomi Kimberly, 27

Naomi Heater, who was adopted as an infant from South Korea, had a long standing drug problem and was enraged over her adopters' decision to take away her pickup truck.

Six years prior to killing her female adopter, Naomi had saved her adopter's life by donating a kidney for a transplant operation. (Source: *Associated Press/AP*, 7-7-98; *Sacramento Bee*, 1-10-99)

HEIKKILA, Matthew, 20 (see DIBENEDETTO- HEIKKILA, Matthew)

HELM, Roger Scott, 14

Born 6-13-69 in Arizona, Roger was 14 when he was tried "as an adult" for the murders of both of his adopters and his 16-yr. old adoptive sister in their sleep while he was high on LSD. Roger says his adopters viewed his adoptive sister as "could do no wrong" yet she had her own Adopted Child Syndrome problems, and viewed him as "could do no right." "My adopters barred my windows, bugged the phones, probably afraid I might try to find my real parents, and always lied about who my 'real parents' were. I frequently ran away. That my adoption was at the root of my problems never occurred to me. The Public Defender had no interest in protecting a child's rights and interests in adult court. Instead, the focus was to convince the child to plead Guilty, which I eventually did and I was sentenced to 88 years."

Roger grew up in Arizona's toughest prisons where violence was a common presence, the environment one of confusion, hate, rape, despair and lack of compassion. Yet he has struggled to remain optimistic and positive. He obtained his GED and took college classes when they were available. He studied as much as he could to attempt his own appeals in Arizona's Superior Court, Appeals Court, and State Superior Court, but his inexperience was against him and the courts denied him a new trial.

In 2009, he married while in prison, but she divorced him 9 months later.

AmFOR assisted Roger's lifelong search for his biological mother, Arlene Sharon Bell. But when she was told by prison officials why he was in prison, she refused contact with him, thus cutting off any possibility of locating his biological father or other family members. In Roger's 2004 letter, he said. "No one seems to comprehend the need to know who you are and where you came from. That's something only my Mom can answer. She's in no danger from me and if she doesn't want to know me, it's something I can accept because at least it was definitely said, ya know?"

Roger's case was riddled with errors that raise constitutional issues. His Public Defender did not bring out evidence or even investigate regarding the physical and mental abuse Roger endured from his adoptive family, nor considered the Adopted Child Syndrome defense that was successful in other cases of young adoptees who murdered their adopters, and who were tried as juveniles and released at legal age. The Prosecutor sought the Death Penalty only after Roger refused 2 plea offers. The Public Defender's office passed him around from one attorney to another 3 times and those attorneys never fully researched his case. His attorney never presented evidence that a police officer lied about his confession, never made an audio or video tape of his interview, destroyed his original notes, and never informed the court that Roger was questioned without an attorney present and was under the influence of LSD and was coerced by police. (Source: Helm's letters to AmFOR)

HITTLE, Daniel Joe, 39

Born 3-1-50 in Indiana, Daniel Hittle completed 14 years of school and worked as a welder. In 1973, in Minnesota, he killed his adopters. He served 11 years in prison and was paroled in 1984. In 1989

after a feud with his drug dealer and his wife, he began shooting at police, killing an officer before surrendering. Daniel Joe Hittle was executed 12-6-00 at Huntsville, Texas. (Source: David Carson, *December Press*, 12-13-00; and <http://www.clarkprosecutor.org/html/death/us/hittle679.htm>; and Texas Department of Criminal Justice Offender Information website)

HOSKINS, Robert, 15

In May of 1983 at Mineral Springs, Wisconsin, Robert stabbed to death his adopters and adoptive brother with multiple stab wounds, after discovering the year before that he was adopted. His adopters told him that his parents "didn't want him," that his mother was a "whore," and other degrading statements about her which bothered him so much that he began to resent his adopters. His male adopter, a boxer, often hit him in the face, stomach and ribs. (Source: *The Capital Times*, Madison, Wisconsin, 8-12-83)

HOWARD, Aaron, 19

Aaron Howard, an African-American adoptee, was found guilty of Second Degree Murder in the brutal 6-12-07 slaying of his Caucasian female adopter, Deborah Frankel-Howard, 61, in their west-end home in Ottawa, Canada. He was originally charged with First Degree Murder but The Crown was not able to prove the murder was premeditated. The young man sat expressionless in the courtroom and did not react much when the guilty plea was entered. Deborah Frankel-Howard had worked many years for Health Canada. She was found dead inside her home after family and neighbors noticed they had not seen her in several days. Howard had often argued with his adopter. Apparently in a rage one day, he bludgeoned her with a lead pipe. He then carried her body to a cold storage room in the basement and left her there for a week with the air-conditioning running.

At the time of the murder, Aaron Howard began what he described as "an orgy of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll," according to an excerpt from his diary that was part of a statement of facts submitted to the court. Howard revealed in his diary "In a fit of anger and insanity I brutally murdered my mother." (Source: Tony Lofaro, *Ottawa News*, DOSE.ca)

JAMES – (juvenile; first name was not published)

Gladys Joyce James, 68, told officers in 2003 that her adopted teenage son stabbed her at her home. He was charged with Second Degree Attempted Murder. Gary W. Burton, *Ashland City Times* Editor responded about this story: "I've checked our newspaper archives and this was the only information published after the incident. I haven't been able to find a follow-up on it, and given the boy's age, I doubt we would have published it at the time!." Neither has this writer found any followup since 2003 indicating whether the boy has since been released. (Source: *Ashland City Times* online, 9-4-03)

JENKINS, Joshua, 15

On 2-2-96, using a hammer, knife and axe, Joshua Jenkins killed 5 members of his adoptive family -- his adopters, their parents, and another child, in a Las Vegas home. Joshua was unhappy about being sent to the Vista del Mar boarding school for troubled youths in West Los Angeles. The slayings occurred after an argument with his adopter. Somehow Josh kept his 10-year-old sister, Megan, from discovering the carnage. He then cleaned the murder weapons, took a shower, changed clothes, set the place on fire and left.

Josh had always wanted to know about his parents but was never told. His adopters said they had a letter from his mother *but refused to show it to him* because of their desire to replace his parents.

For years, he had been hostile toward his adopters and said he thought his “birth” parents had abandoned him. When placed in Vista del Mar, he felt his adopters had also abandoned him. Four psychiatrists agreed that the boy suffered from chronic depression. Initially Josh pled Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity. Although all psychologists and psychiatrists who examined him agreed he was mentally ill, some did not consider him insane.

On 4-16-97, a day before his trial, Josh changed his plea to Guilty. His defense lawyer, Jack Campbell, said the plea change was in the teenager's best interest but was unusual because neither the judge nor the prosecutors made concessions and Joshua still faced a maximum of 140 years in prison. (Source: *Las Vegas Review Journal*, 4-17-97)

JETT, Jacob, 18

Jacob Jett was facing Life imprisonment after he allegedly hired 2 hit men to kill his adopters, Richard Parnell, 53 and Robin Parnell, 48, so he could inherit their money. Mrs. Parnell said “It came out of nowhere. He was a very good child.” She said she adopted Jacob as an infant and that he was their only child. (Source: “Adopted Teen Hires Two Hit Men to Kill His Parents So He Could Inherit Their Money,” *The Daily Mail* online, UK, 2-22-08)

JOHNSON, Lamont S., 21

When Bracey Johnson's brother died, he adopted his brother's freckle-faced son, Lamont. Although Lamont had a history of psychological problems, trespassing and resisting arrests, the boy was said to “act fine so long as he was on his medication.”

Lamont Johnson bludgeoned his male adopter, Bracey C. Johnson, to death with an axe. (Source: Katie Thorne, *The Augusta Chronicle*, 5-28-01 and 6-1-01)

JONES, Timothy Jason, 29

Born 6-23-75, in Alabama, Timothy Jones murdered his adopters, Nancy and Timothy Jones, in January 2004.

He was arrested after co-workers reported that Dr. Tim Jones, 31, was late to work. Tim Jones had been beaten and repeatedly stabbed in the carport of the house and Nancy Jones lay battered beyond recognition in her bed. Jason Jones was caught later that day driving his adopters' car in north Alabama. He crashed the car after fleeing from police. Neighbors said the young man had spent years in and out of various rehabilitation clinics for drug addiction. His adopters had recently taken away a family-owned sports utility vehicle from Timothy the night before their deaths.

According to trial testimony, police who were called to the home during the night said Timothy was belligerent and brandishing a knife in the Jones' yard at one point. Police took him across town and dropped off at a telephone booth as his adopters requested. Later in the night, he returned to the Jones' home, but elder Jones locked him in a basement room at his adoptive grandparents' vacant home. He later broke out of the home, walked back to his adopters' house, and attacked Tim Jones as he was leaving for work in the early morning. Timothy then attacked his female adopter with a weapon he told police he fashioned from pipe and other objects at his adoptive grandparents' house. Nancy Jones was beaten so savagely that parts of her jaw and teeth were found scattered across the room. Timothy told police in taped statements that he took money from her purse and bought crack cocaine, smoking it in the house before fleeing.

Timothy Jason Jones was convicted of Capital Murder by a Jefferson County jury and sentenced to Death. In his last statement to the jury, Jones said “I'm a monster. I have no remorse for what I did.”

I deserve to die." Timothy Jason Jones had registered on PrisonerLife.com seeking penpals. Another website stated that his attorney, John Wiley, had never provided him with his requested trial transcripts, never informed him of court decisions, never returned his calls. Another website states the Prosecutor at his trial told the jury he was a 'monster.'

Soon afterward, he committed suicide at Holman maximum security prison. (Source: Connie Baggett, *Mobile Register* Alabama 9-3-06)

KASTEN, Daniel, 19

Daniel Kasten, a 19-year old State University of New York student, used a rifle to murder his adopters, Edith, 48, and Joseph Kasten, 49, in Ronkonkoma, New York. In his confession to police, he stated Joseph Kasten had threatened to cut off financial support when his grades dropped. Daniel said there was a "lack of love" and that he also considered killing his adoptive grandparents and his 27 year old adoptive brother, Joseph Jr., and his brother's wife.

Daniel Kasten was charged with 2 counts of Second Degree Murder. (Source: "Couple Slain; Son Confesses," *New York Times/AP*, 6-3-87.)

KIMBLE, Paul 45

Born 9-2-54 in Pittsburgh, Paul Kimble knew nothing of his pre-adoption past and so wrote to AmFOR for assistance in locating his biological family. When last heard from, he had requested his non-identifying background information from Social Services.

Paul was convicted of Criminal Homicide in Pennsylvania in the stabbing death of his former live-in girlfriend of 10 years, Teresa Kimble, 42, the widow of one of Paul Kimble's adoptive brothers. Teresa had left Paul a month before her murder, because he had threatened to kill her and himself if she was to leave him. This was after years of enduring Paul's physical and verbal abuse, according to police. Despite the threats, she dropped by his house to drop off some clothes when an argument ensued.

After fatally stabbing Teresa in the heart, Paul stabbed himself in the heart, abdomen, throat and wrist, but survived. (Source: "Man Charged in Fatal Stabbing of Ex-Girlfriend," by Jeffrey Cohan, *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* at Post-Gazette.com, and Kimble's letters to AmFOR.)

KISLOV, Yaroslav, 12

Yaroslav Kislov hired 2 "hit men," ages 18 and 19, to kill his adopters in Volgograd, Russia, home to thousands of Russian orphans. (Source: *The Observer*, 5-26-02)

KOSLOW, Kristi, 17

Kristi Koslow murdered her male adopter's wife, oil heiress Caren Koslow, and attempted to murder her male adopter, Jack Koslow. (Source: "Teen Gets Life Term," *Pittsburgh Post*, 7-1-94)

LASCOLA, Dr. Raymond

Dr. Raymond Lascola murdered his wealthy female adopter. (Source: *Boston Globe/AP*, 10-8-80)

LITTLE JR., Charlie

Born Alexander Julian Morgan, in 1984 Charlie killed his adopters, Arlene and Charles Little Sr., with a shotgun and covered it up as a burglary. According to his teachers who testified at his trial, in his writing classes at school, Charlie Jr. was known to turn in very graphic, disturbing and violent stories

that freaked out his teachers. At his trial, the Judge had to throw out key evidence such as shotgun residue discovered on Charlie Jr's hands, so he was not convicted. Little later changed his name to his birth name, Alexander Morgan, and moved away from Iowa. In 1992, in Tennessee, he committed suicide by driving his car into a wall at high speed. (Source: Iowa v. Alexander Julian Morgan, 1986)

LONG Justin Ryan, 15

Justin Long stabbed to death his male adopter, Hoyt Long, after suffering horrific physical and sexual abuse by his adopter, resulting in mental illness. Long was sentenced to Life without Parole. (Source: <http://www.pscn.ne/application/osch/deliverdocument.asp?citeID=437217>)

LOSICCO, Richard, 28, and Terrence, 20

Richard Losicco murdered his male adopter, Pasquale Losicco, and critically wounded his female adopter, Anna Losicco. Richard's adoptive brother, Terrence, was serving a Life sentence for the 1980 murder of Helen Prou. (Source: "Shedding Light on the Dark Side of Adoption," by Marsha Riben.)

MARKS, Taylor Melissa Mary, 20

Taylor Marks was adopted as a young child by Kristie Marks and her husband, Bruce, who died in 2002. In 2009, prosecutors sought the Death Penalty against Taylor Marks, accused of plotting a Murder-for-Hire with friend Troy Purdie II, 19, to kill her adopter. Kristie Marks, 58. Police said Taylor offered Troy \$5,000 to kill her adopter, who operated a Visiting Angels home health care business, in order to inherit her adopter's wealth. Based on inconsistent stories, police obtained confessions. (Source: "Prosecutors to Seek Death Penalty in Murder for Hire Plot" by Phil Trexler, *Ohio Beacon Journal*, 11-5-09)

MARTINEZ, Alexander Rey, 25

Born 6-16-76 to a heroin addicted mother, Alexander Ray Martinez was placed for adoption with a family in which he was verbally, physically, and (he claimed) sexually abused by his adopter, Velma Griffin, who raised him when he was less than 1-1/2 years old until he was 9 years old. He dropped out of school after 8th grade and worked at a fast food restaurant until he was imprisoned on a 7-year sentence for attempting to murder his adopter and was released 8-14-95. On 8-12-01, at age 25, he sexually assaulted and stabbed to death prostitute Helen Joyce Oliveras, 45. A week later, he again attempted to murder his adopter by cutting her throat in what was called an "unprovoked attack." However psychologist Carmen Petzold found Martinez suffered from "numerous disorders" possibly stemming from his hellish childhood. Martinez told officials he was "beaten every night until my [adoptive] mother's hands hurt and she had to stop." Martinez halted all legal appeals and was executed at Huntsville, Texas, by lethal injection on 6-7-05. (Source: Clark County Prosecutor; And Texas Department of Criminal Justice Offender website)

McMULLEN, Jonathan, 14

On 9-6-01, at Elgin, Arizona, Jonathan Mullen murdered his female adopter, Kristina McMullen, by shooting her 5 times, and wounded his male adopter, Andrew McMullen, and adoptive brother, Jack McMullen. The teen pleaded guilty to Manslaughter, gave up his right to a jury trial, and has been locked up for years but he was never formally sentenced. On 7-7-05, the Arizona Court of Appeals decided who should sentence McMullen -- the judge he confessed to, or a jury. Frank Leto, a Public

Defender, said, "We are dealing with a brain-damaged 14-year-old who suffers from lack of impulse control, slightly retarded." (Source: *AZ Daily Wildcat*, 9-14-01; "Widowed Man Forgives Adoptive Son for Attack," *Charisma News Service*, 9-14-01; and *KVOA-Tucson*, 7-7-05.)

MENARD, Brandon Christopher, 21

Brandon Menard and his 2 siblings were adopted by David and Toni Menard because they were unable to resolve their infertility problem. In 2011, Brandon was sentenced to 3 consecutive Life terms Without Possibility of Parole for murdering his adopters and his 16-year old adoptive sister at their home on 8-4-06. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Ronald S. Coen also tacked on a 25-Years-to-Life term. Menard sat quietly and looked straight ahead throughout the sentencing hearing as the victims' relatives and friends gave emotional statements about the slayings of David Menard, 57, a real estate agent who was stabbed 17 times and shot once, and Toni Menard, 66, who worked as a nurse and who was stabbed 4 times, and their teenage adopted daughter, Ashley, who was stabbed 8 times. The defendant's older adoptive brother, Scott Menard, said he couldn't understand how his younger sibling could kill their adopters and younger sister, telling the judge their family life was "the best" and that "we didn't get mistreated." A motive for the killings remains unknown. (Source: "Northridge Man Sentenced for Murdering His Adoptive Parents, 16-Year Old Sister," *89.3 KPCC Newswire Services, Southern California Public Radio*, 6-2-11)

MILLER, George, 18

George Miller, an honor student, beat his female adopter to death with a baseball bat in an argument over grades. (Source: Marsha Riben, *New York Post*, 1-12-85, page 5)

MOORMAN, Robert Henry, 36

Born 6-4-48, Robert Henry Moorman, who was serving 9 Years-to-Life at the State Prison in Florence, Arizona, was given a 72-hour compassionate furlough on 1-3-84 to visit his 73-year-old female adopter. They stayed at the Blue Mist Motel in Florence. Moorman bound, gagged, strangled and stabbed her, then chopped the body into pieces and disposed of them in dumpsters throughout Florence. He was sentenced to Death on Aggravating Circumstances, Prior Conviction punishable by Life in prison, Pecuniary Gain, and Especially Heinous/Cruel/Depraved with no Mitigating Circumstances. (Source: <http://www.supreme.state.az.us/courtser/CrtProj/capsentguid/page50.html>)

MONKS, Christopher, 25

Christopher Monks was adopted at the age of 10 months. A victim of Aspergers (a form of Autism), Christopher hired Shaun Skarnes, 20, of Merseyside, to kill his adopters while they slept in their Lancashire home. The plan failed when Monks' male adopter woke to find Skarnes in his bedroom with a large kitchen knife and managed to disarm him. The pair were convicted despite that Monks' adopters fully supported their son and argued that his condition meant that he was unable to separate fantasy from reality and he never intended to have them murdered. Monks had met Skarnes online 3 months prior to the murder attempt in November 2008, and told him that he wanted his adopters dead because they were too over-protective and treated him like a child. The jury in July 2009 heard that Skarnes had gone to Christopher's home to play computer games and agreed to kill the adopters in return for sexual favors which he wanted to result in Skarnes allowing Monks to "bite off his penis." Both men argued they were just acting as part of role play but a jury at Creston Crown Court disagreed

and found them guilty of Conspiracy To Murder. (Source: "Parents Stand By Son Who Tried to Have Them Killed," by Mark Hughes, Crime Correspondent, 1-7-10.)

MOX, Gregory Richard, 21

Born 8-16-70, in Detroit, Michigan, Greg was convicted of bludgeoning to death his adopters, Richard Mox, 56, and Carol Mox, 54, who raised him since he was an infant. He then doused their home with gasoline and set it on fire in an attempt to cover up the murders.

Greg wrote "My reasons for my actions are complicated. I killed in retaliation for being brought up by people with whom I could not bond and who never made an effort to know me. My adopters wanted to have the child they could not have grow in my skin. My natural personality was unwelcome. When my intellect was sufficiently developed for me to realize this, the unspoken rejection became very mutual. Upon my further understanding that their 'remodeling' of me was partially successful, and that the imposed traits were among my very worst, I became intensely hateful. I believed I had plenty of reasons to justify my actions. I was told nothing of my origins. My adopter, when I asked him, assumed a smug, scornful, and at the same time greatly amused air, when he replied "I'll tell you this much. They were both college students." He so clearly enjoyed dangling the carrot beyond my reach that I never mentioned it to him again, thereby depriving him of entertainment at my expense. My older adoptive sister, Diane, first told me I am half French-Canadian and half German. Later, she said I'm actually Italian-Austrian and it is she who is French-German. I am far more Frankish than she. She has dark hair and eyes. I doubt she remembered correctly. Truly, I don't know, but I am curious. I was treated for drug addiction, including marijuana and briefly cocaine, from October 1988 to June 1989 or thereabout. My only previous conviction was for Breaking and Entering An Occupied Dwelling. I was never a violent man. My adopters suppressed emotion. I learned how to deceive psychiatrists and how to lie."

On 1-14-00, Sister Joanne G. Ales, ACSW, Director of Child Welfare, Catholic Services of Macomb, denied Greg's request for his pre-adoption background information from his adoption file despite it is permitted by Michigan statute, and refused to waive her \$60 fee charged for "non-identifying information," nor her \$250 fee to act as "confidential intermediary" in order to locate and contact Greg's biological mother in his behalf. When AmFOR sent Sister Ales a check for \$60 in Greg's behalf, she made several comments about prisoners that revealed her bias, including "Prisoners can get money." (Source: Greg Mox's letters to AmFOR; phone contact with Sister Ales; and *Detroit Free Press* archived newsclips.)

NGOMA, Wakhile, 35

Wakhile Ngoma gunned down his adopter, Primrose Ndlazi, a nurse at Leserdi Clinic in Diepkloof, Soweto, South Africa, and later turned the gun on himself. Wakhile's adoptive brother, Patrick, said he was battling to understand what could have driven Wakhile who he described as "very obedient," to do what he did, mentioning, "I spoke to him about 8 pm and he sounded drunk." (Source: *Gbozoa, Nigerian Social News Network*, 8-23-11)

NIIRANEN, Patrick, 37

Born 6-2-59 in Portland, Oregon, Patrick was immediately taken home by Henry and Mercedes Niiranen who adopted him and who had already adopted another boy. His adopters physically and emotionally abused him, beat him with bats, belts and paddles for minor things such as forgetting to

take home his school lunch bag. When Patrick asked about his biological parents, Mercedes told him he had been left on a bank of the Willamette River by gypsies, and that he was fortunate to be living with the Niiranens because he was unwanted at birth. He and his adoptive brother were finally placed in a home for battered children and, by teenage, he was living in foster homes, shelters, and the street, addicted to cocaine. Yet he married and had 2 sons. In 1980, he hired a private investigator to find his mother but the PI abandoned him. Subsequently, he asked his adopters to loan him money to help his pregnant girlfriend. When they called him "worthless" and said he would "never amount to anything," in a rage, he bludgeoned to death his then 77 and 74-year old adopters with a 3-pound sledgehammer, then spent all the cash in his adopter's wallet on a cocaine binge. At his trial, the judge gave his attorney limited access to his adoption file, but not his parents' identities. He did learn that his mother was 28, with long dark hair, had 4 children, was divorced when she became pregnant with Patrick and was seeing someone who would accept her 4 children but not the expected baby. She gave him up for adoption in order to assure support for her other children. In 1999, Oregon passed Measure 58 allowing Oregon's adult adoptees to access their original birth certificate. From prison, Patrick filed a request for his original birth certificate, insisting his mother has nothing to fear and "I just want to tell her I love her." (Source: Seamus McGraw, *APBNews.com*, 6-2-00.)

O'CONNELL, Brenda and Catherine, both 17

Muriel O'Connell, a two-time divorcee with no children of her own, adopted Catherine at age 11. Three years later she adopted Brenda, a girl of the same age. The two girls are not blood relatives but they lived together in the same orphanage in Guatemala prior to their separate adoptions. No one disputes that Muriel O'Connell did a noble thing by bringing 2 teenage girls from a Guatemalan orphanage into her home. No one disputes that the adopted daughters killed her, either. But on the first day of the trial, prosecutors and defense attorneys painted a different picture of the events leading to Muriel O'Connell's death on 8-6-06. Defense attorneys say the girls killed O'Connell in self defense after she attacked Brenda with a knife. They argue that O'Connell, 57, was abusive physically and emotionally to the girls. "On the outside things looked great," said Hillary Krepistman, who represents Catherine. "Things on the inside that nobody saw were not so good."

Prosecutors disputed Defense's claim that it would be very difficult for the then-15-year-old girls, both under 5 feet tall and less than 100 pounds, to overpower a 5'10" 188-pound O'Connell. Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Dawn Taylor said the evidence will show the girls actually strangled O'Connell while she was asleep in her bed. And it wasn't the first time they had tried to kill her. A few weeks earlier, the girls poisoned her vodka with a chemical solvent used in engine starter fluid. Taylor said.. (Source: "Trial Begins for Teen Girls Who Killed Mother" by Andria Simmons, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 10-8-08).

ORTIZ, Jeffrey R., 14

On 7-30-97, in Indiana, Jeffrey Ortiz strangled and bludgeoned to death his adopter, Rebecca Ortiz, with a sledgehammer. He then spent the day driving friends around in her car on a shopping spree with his adopter's credit cards to purchase a car, CD player, flowers, lunch and movie tickets for the group. Jeffrey told police that he had argued with his adopter over a \$1,000 bill he had run up on "900" phone sex calls, had stolen her money, forged her checks and taken her car without permission previously. The night before the murder, his adopter ordered him out of the house by the end of that week which likely triggered the murder. (Source: <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/opinions/archive/09109901.trb.html>)

PAGNAM, Brian E, 39

Brian Pagnam who said the CIA ordered him to kill his 85-yr old adopter in their Enfield, Connecticut home will spend 50 years in Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown, the state's only hospital for the criminally insane. The medical examiner said 85-year-old Robert Pagnam died from blunt-force injuries to the head and neck. Brian, the man's adopted son, was charged with Felony Murder, First Degree Robbery and Sixth Degree Larceny but was found Not Guilty of Murder by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect in the beating death of his adopter in 2006. Brian said his father was one of the September 11th terrorists and the CIA ordered him to do it. When a neighbor called 911, Brian who told the dispatcher "He was murdered...neutralized. I'm the one who neutralized him. I have the FBI coming." No clues as to what led to Brian Pagnam's mental breakdown were offered in media reports of the crime and sentencing. (Sources: *Journal Inquirer* 10-16-08 and *NBC-CT*, 1-4-09)

PELLEY, Robert Jeffrey, 17

Bob Pelley was found guilty of murdering his adopters, Reverend Robert Pelley, 38, and Dawn Pelley, 32, and also his adoptive sisters Janel, 8, and Jolene, 6, at the parsonage of Olive Branch Church of the United Brethren, near South Bend, Indiana. Investigators said Pelley was angry because his adopter had grounded him for stealing and would allow him to attend only his prom dance, missing other prom activities. Prosecutors alleged that during a 20-minute span on 4-28-89, Pelley shot his adoptive family members, disposed of the shotgun and shells, took a shower, put his clothes in the washer and left for the LaVille High School prom. The defense argued there wasn't enough time for him to have done all that and still make it to the dance and that no one could commit such a gruesome attack and still act "normal" during the prom events, as his friends testified during the trial. He was not charged until 2002, when authorities reinterpreted evidence. The state subpoenaed the Family and Children's Center seeking all Pelley family counseling records for 3 years leading up to the murders. The Center refused, arguing the records were protected information under counselor-client privilege, an argument the state Supreme Court rejected. (Sources: *Associated Press (AP)*, "Pelley's Quadruple Murder Conviction Overturned," and *South Bend Tribune* "Pelley Conviction Upheld," 2-20-09)

PETERSON, Angel

Angel Peterson threw a firebomb through a window while his adopters slept, trapping and killing the couple who adopted her 8 years prior. (Source: "Fatal Bombing Was Vengeance for Beatings Prosecutor Says," *Detroit Free Press*, 11-8-94)

PILATO, Michael, 15

Michaek Pilato, charged with Second Degree Murder and Arson, admitted he "poured gasoline throughout the interior of the Webster, New York, residence: and set it on fire with the intention of causing deaths. Killed were his 71-year old adopter, Carmen Pilato, and his brothers Peter, 16, and Joshua 12. Investigators offered no clues for his actions. Police said they had been called to the residence several times in the past year to investigate :missing person: situations: but declined to elaborate because the complaints involved minors. His adopter, Elaine Pilato, 59, and 13-year old adoptive sister, Elizabeth, escaped with injuries. Carmen and Ekaine adopted several children after their biological children were grown, Michael Pilato split his school day between high school and vocational school. A judge entered a Not Guilty plea and ordered a mental evaluation before sending him to a juvenile lockup to be held without bail. (Source: *AP/Huffingtonpost.com*, 2-7-11.)

POLLARD, Michel, 13

Michel Pollard was abandoned by her mother and adopted from Mexico at age 8 by Janet Tinoco and her husband, in Florida. At 13, for over a year, she had been poisoning her Janet and Janet's 2 biological children with insecticide. Pollard confessed that she sprayed bug spray on her Janet's food, sometimes mixing it with dog feces, and put soap in her water glass at the dinner table. Because the Tinoco family adopted Pollard, she can't be deported as she is legally their daughter. Neither can the teen be charged with Attempted Murder, only Felony Poisoning assuming "reasonable doubt" that the intention was to kill. (Source: "Adopted Teen Girl Accused of Poisoning Family," *WFTV.com*, 10-8-10)

PRIBBERNOW, Steven Jeffrey, 15

Steven Jeffrey Pribbernow was born Steven Jeffrey Lewis and adopted by Steven and Jessica Pribbernow prior to the 2005 adoptions of Justin McBride and his half-brothers Kevin and Kody Baden. In 2006, The Pribbernows divorced and soon afterward Jessica Pribbernow married Josh Saylor while retaining custody of the 4 adopted boys and her 2 biological daughters. On the morning of 8-4-09, Steven went on a stabbing spree, killing Justin McBride and injuring Kevin and Kody Baden as well as stabbing Josh Saylor. On 8-14-11, Steven pled Guilty to Murder and 3 counts of Intent to Murder and was sentenced to Life in prison with Possibility of Parole. Both his Defense lawyer and Prosecutors said they have no idea what caused him to do this. In 2004, the 3 other boys had been taken from their parents, Faith and Kevin Baden, on allegations of abuse and neglect and had been in several foster homes before being adopted by the Pribbernows. (Source: "Teens Stabbed in Coleman Were Removed from Arenac County Parents," by Tim Barnum, *Arenac County Independent*, Michigan, 8-14-11)

PRINK, Timothy, 20

Timothy Prink was convicted of shotgun slayings of 4 adoptive family members after an argument with his adoptive sister, Holly Prink, who had been calling him names and putting him down. She escaped being killed when his shotgun misfired. (Source: *The Desert Sun*, Palm Springs. 10-4-97)

REYNOLDS, Jacquiline "Nikki," 17

Adopted as at age 3 months, Jacquiline "Nikki" Reynolds never denied plunging a 14-inch blade into her 49 year old adopter, Billie Jean Reynolds, more than 25 times. She claims she was insane when she committed the 5-14-97 murder. Robert Reynolds, a commercial truck enforcement officer, said their relationship with their adopted daughter seemed fine until her high school years when her relationship with Billie Jean began to deteriorate and she exhibited mood swings. The adopters sought counseling for Nikki from a church minister. By early 1907, Nikki was dating fellow student, Carlos Infante. Fearing she may be pregnant, Nikki told her adopters she had been raped by a stranger. But after police determined that the story was fabricated, Nikki eventually confessed to her adopters that she made it up. Infante again ended his relationship with Nikki who then planned to murder him but had to eliminate her adopters in order to keep her scheduled time to kill her boyfriend. While she was stabbing Billie Jean, Nikki apologized and asked Reynolds "Are you dying yet?" When Reynolds was able to answer that she was dying, Nikki stabbed her several more times. Nikki then called 911 and confessed to the slaying. The Defense attempted to prove that Nikki inherited severe depression and psychological problems from her biological mother, Katrina Ramos. Ramos said she thought she was doing the right thing by giving her up for adoption and still loves her daughter. (Source: *The Sun Sentinel* and *Miami Herald*, 1997; and Court TV, 6-8-05).

RODRIGUES, Ricky, 29

Adopted as "Davito" by "Family International/Children of God" cult leaders, Karen "Maria David" Zerby and David Berg, Ricky Rodrgues was sexually abused since infancy by cult members and killed one of his abusers before committing suicide, in Blythe, California (Source: "After My Mother, All I Need is One Bullet for Myself," *TimesOnline*, 2-9-05; and *San Francisco Chronicle*, 1-17-05)

ROGERS, Dayton, Leroy, 22

Dayton Rogers beat his adoptive father to death. His story is under "Adoptees Who Are Serial Killers."

ROSS, Johnny, 12

Born in 1965 of Native North American/Ojibway ancestry, Johnny Ross was first adopted by an alcoholic woman in Winnepeg, Manitoba. He was removed from her custody by Children's Aid Society of Winnepeg for reasons not disclosed, and placed in 14 different foster homes, then adopted by a White family when he was 9. In 1977, after telling his female adopter that he "wanted out of the adoption," he first aborted his attempt to kill both adopters. Soon thereafter he attempted to kill his entire adoptive family but shot and killed only his adopter's sister, panicked and phoned 911. He was convicted for Second Degree Murder, released at legal age and returned to Canada at age 19 where he found his biological family. He wrote AmFOR that, after viewing AmFOR's website, he now understands his motivation for killing. (Source: Johnny Ross' records and letters to AmFOR.)

SAVIN, Ionut Silviu, 15

Ionut Silviu Savin from Romania killed his adopter by stabbing her 17 times before leaving his home to play Counter-Strike at a local internet café for 4 hours. Ionut was said to be 'dependant' on video games, which caused his mother to terminate his access to the Internet, a decision which lead to her murder. Ionut turned himself in to police custody, taking full responsibility for his actions. According to his male adopter and witnesses, Ionut had given up his studies and social life for the violent game, and missed over 200 classes in the past year. When interviewed, the supervisor of the Internet café that Ionut frequented stated that the boy would spend most of his time alone playing Counter-Strike, wearing a hood over his head. She also noted that the boy had a calm demeanor, never swearing when he lost matches or displaying an ounce of anger. He rarely interacted with the café's other patrons. His shocked high school teacher said that he had a "quiet and introverted" personality." (Source: "Video Game Addict Stabs Mother To Death, Plays More Counter-Strike," by Sol Invictus 1-18-10.)

SHERMAN, Timothy Scott, 19

Born 8-24-69, Timothy Scott was 19 in 1988 when he shot to death his adopters in their Maryland home as they slept. He was sentenced to 2 consecutive Life terms. (Source: "Young Killers," <http://karisable.com/youngmurder.htm>)

SINGLETON, James Joseph, 23

On 8-18-02, James Singleton killed both his adopters, Ralph Singleton, 55, and Sherida Singleton, 53, by stabbing them more than 50 times with a Chinese Militia sword, in their Rylie, Texas home. He was sentenced to Life in prison. Upon providing his confession, he said "I don't know why it should have happened." Asked "Why?" by his adoptive uncle, he reportedly replied "When you see an opportunity you take it. (Source: *KHOU, Texas/AP*, 2-4-05)

SKINNER, Tia Marie-Mitchell, 17

Tia Skinner, 17, will be tried as an adult on charges of Open Murder, Attempted Murder, and Conspiracy, along with her boyfriend, Jonathan Kurtz, and James Peterson, both 18, in the killing of Skinner's adopters, Paul Skinner, 47 and Mara Skinner, 44. Tia, who is Black, was upset with her adopters, who are White, because they disapproved of Kurtz ."(Source: *WIRT News* and *AP*, 11-54-10)

SMULLEN, Bruno Lorenzo, 16

Bruno stabbed to death his adopter, Warren Smullen, 57. He appealed his conviction unsuccessfully, claiming Battered Child Syndrome. On the morning of Saturday, 5-6-00, while several of his adoptive siblings remained asleep upstairs in the family home, Bruno stabbed his male adopter 22 times with a large kitchen knife. He then proceeded to attack and threaten his adoptive siblings when they investigated the noises they were hearing downstairs. After all 3 siblings escaped from their attacker, Smullen fled the scene.

Upon finding Bruno sitting on a street curb, the police read him Miranda rights, and interrogated him at a nearby hospital. Bruno admitted to the events of that morning, at which point police recorded a formal confession. He claimed that he was trying to kill his adopter before his adopter killed him and that his adopter was abusive, had said threatening things to him, and had hit him in the chest with a piece of wood.

Media reported: "The carnage inside the tidy, gray-shingled bungalow stunned even seasoned police investigators. Not one room, they say, was left without some trace of blood. For friends at St. James African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the horror of the stabbing death of 57-year-old Warren Smullen was magnified when they learned that Smullen's adopted son, a teenager who spent much of his time at worship or in youth group activities, had been charged in the slashing rampage." (Source: *Baltimore Sun*, 5-10-00; and Amicus brief filed in Maryland Court)

SONI, Gita

Gita Soni hired someone to kill her 73 year old male adopter, Adi Ardeshir Cursetjee, in Gamvedia, India. (Source: <http://www.mid-day.com/news/city/2003/june/54631.htm>, 6-2-03)

SPEARMAN, Josh, 18

Born and adopted at an early age in Romania, Josh Spearman was charged with Murder of his adopters, Daryll and Cherri Spearman, in Loganville, Georgia. Daryll Spearman was an Assistant Principal of Discipline and a counselor at Stone Mountain Middle School. (Source: "Josh Spearman, 18, Was Charged in the Deaths of His Adoptive Parents," 2-5-08, at <http://mydeathspace.com>)

STEINLICHT, Mark Ernie, 50

Both Mark Steinlicht and his adoptive brother were adopted as babies, 6 years apart. At age 50, when Mark shot his 44-year-old adoptive brother dead, Steinlicht's adopter, Gladys May Steinlicht, indicated that both her adopted sons "had not got along well. I think this has been pending for awhile." (Source: http://bend.com/news/ar_view%5e3Far_id%5e3D226.htm, 8-23-00.)

STODDARD, Daniel Paul, 19

Adopted in infancy by Patricia and Tom Stoddard, Daniel stabbed to death his male adopter. Prior to the murder, Daniel had been diagnosed as schizophrenic and bipolar. His adopters had sought treatment for him and he spent several years in and out of institutions. Daniel had told friends he was tired of his

adopters "throwing him around like a rag doll," and that he was going to "live with his biological mother in Virginia." Before the murder, he asked a friend for a place to stay but was told there was "no room." (Source: *Kootenai County News*, 4-2-01, *ICDVVA News Database* 8-31-02)

STRUEBING, Kurt Alan, 20

In April 1986 Kurt Struebing, a guitarist for his black metal band, and on drugs, killed his adopter, Dalee Struebing, 53, with a hatchet and pair of scissors. He was sentenced to 12 years for Second Degree Murder and released in 1994. He re-formed his band, "NME," gained international fame, became a trusting friend and doting father of one son. Kurt was killed at age 39 on 3-11-05 when he drove his car through 2 barriers and plunged 50 feet off the opening of a span bridge. Police investigators and motorists who saw the crash were puzzled why Struebing drove off the bridge. Friends said he didn't like to talk about his past and, for most it, "it didn't matter." Kurt's mission in life was to help others. "His humility was endearing" and "everybody respected the hell out of him." (Source: *Seattle Times*; http://seattlepi.com/local/215517_kurt11.html)

STURGEL, Timothy, 26

Jerry Sturgel, 51, who struggled for years to raise his troubled adopted son, Timothy, died after Timothy shot him just before setting the house on fire. When police finally made it into the house, they found two other victims: Sturgel's wife, Mary, 40, and Mary's daughter, Emily Hurst. Emily had a faint pulse when authorities pulled her from the smoldering house, but despite their efforts, she died at the hospital from her gunshot wounds. She was 13. When Timmy saw police, he raced around to the side of the house and slid inside the door as police surrounded the single-story ranch home. After a few minutes, he popped out the back door, pointed the weapon toward deputies and then quickly stepped back inside again. Moments later, the back door opened again; this time Timmy left behind the weapon and held his hands in the air. He surrendered. That's when police noticed smoke. Jerry Sturgel had 3 adopted children, and was also a foster father, though not at the time of the homicides. Timmy reportedly heard voices. Jerry Sturgel's patience with Timmy was wearing thin and he was about to put him out of the home. Timothy was charged with 3 counts of Murder. (Source: "Son Charged with Murder in Family Killings," by Carrie Whitaker, Alex Coolidge, Eileen Kelley, <http://Enquirer.com>, 1-24)

SUTTON, Christopher, 31

Christopher and his adoptive sister, Melissa, were both adopted as newborns by the Suttons. Minutes after John R. Sutton's adopted son was convicted of master-minding the bloody attack that left him blind and his wife, Susan, dead, a reporter asked if he still considered Christopher Sutton his son. He paused, saying finally "I cannot answer that question." Prosecutors say Sutton wanted his adopters' wealth and was still smarting about being sent to an abusive reform school, Samoan Paradise Cove Program in Samoa, where he spent 29 months in the mid-'90s. He hired Garrot Kopp to shoot his parents inside their Coral Gables, Florida house in 2004. Sutton showed no emotion until he testified in his own defense and cried when recounting his arrival at Paradise Cove. Jurors heard that boys there were hog-tied, left in cages, forced into hard labor and deprived of food. (Source: "Christopher Sutton Found Guilty in Plot to Murder Parents" by David Ovalle, *The Miami Herald*, 11-22-10)

SWARTZ, Larry, 17

Kay could not have children of their own, so the Swartzes adopted Larry and 2 other children. Robert Swartz was an anti-abortion activist who picketed Planned Parenthood offices and was eager to adopt

“unwanted” children. Larry’s adoptive brother, Michael, had been convicted in 1990 of helping to murder a Crownsville man (See SWARTZ, Michael, under “Adoptees Who Killed Strangers”). On 1-16-84, days after Kay Swartz had Social Services case workers remove his 15-year old adoptive brother, Michael, from their at Cape St. Clair, Maryland home, Kathryn threatened to do the same to Larry. Larry, the oldest of the Swartz’s 3 adopted children, then struck Kay on her head with a wood maul and stabbed her 7 times with a kitchen knife. He then turned on Robert Swartz, killing both his adopters in the belief that he would be “returned to the pound” next. Kathryn’s nude body was found by the family’s swimming pool. Police investigators found that Larry had, for years, suppressed anger against his devout Catholic adopters and their strict discipline. Larry was tried as a juvenile, pled guilty to Second Degree Murder, was sentenced to 12 years in prison, and was released after 9 years. He was well liked by the community, and had finally found happiness when he suffered a massive heart attack and died at age 38, on 12-12-04. At the time of his death, Larry was married and had an 8-year old child. (Source: “The Second Life of Larry Swartz: Friends Remember Murderer as ‘God’s Gift to Life,’” by MarylandMissing; Websleuths; “A Sudden Fury: The True Story of Adoption and Murder” by reporter Leslie Walker.)

SWOFFORD, Jerry, (mental age of 10)

Described as a “mentally retarded youth,” on 12-26-83 Jerry Swofford stabbed his 68-year-old adopter, Oren Swofford, 6 times with a butcher knife while the victim lay sleeping. The youth was home on Christmas furlough from a mental health facility. (Source: “Fulton Jury Awards Retarded Youth \$50,000; Released Mental Patient Killed His Adoptive Father,” *Atlanta Journal*, 6-17-88).

TANKLEFF, Martin (“Marty”), 18

(See TANKEFF, Marty, under “Adoptees Wrongfully Convicted”)

TERHUNE, Cameron Richard, 24

Cameron Terhune pleaded not guilty to murdering his adopters, Ken and Diane Terhune, and was taken into custody several hours after a SWAT team found the bodies inside a home near Del Rio Country Club. He was charged with 2 counts of Murder and several enhancements. The complaint alleges that Cameron Terhune used a firearm. Authorities gave no possible motive in the killings. (Source: “Man Pleads Not Guilty in Modesto Killings” *Modesto Bee*, 1-20-09, and *KCRA-Channel 3*, 1-21-09.)

THOMASSON, Bradley Ryan, 17

On 9-22-89 Bradley Thomasson shot to death his adopters, Judith Ann Thomasson, 50, and Ray E. Thomasson, 57, in their beds at their Lewiston, Idaho home and was sentenced to 22 years in prison. On December, 2011, Bradley was released. His adoptive brother, Matthew, expressed disappointment with the legal system but wished him well (Source: *AP/Lewiston Tribune*, 1-13-12).

THORNTON, Jamie Grant, 16

Born 9-7-77, Jamie Thornton shot his male adopter, Gerald Thornton, with his high powered rifle at his home. (Source: *Daily Times*, Watertown, New York, 8-1-94)

TOMASSONI, Kathryn Marie, 12, and Tammie Marie, 11 (“The Cinderella Murder”)

Kathryn Tomassoni shot to death their abusive adopter, after Child Protective Services and school authorities ignored the girls’ several pleas for help in Sun Lakes, Arizona. Defenders of the 12-year

old Kathryn says she was a horribly mistreated waif and driven by years of violent abuse to kill her adopter, Lydia Tomassoni. Investigators hired by defense lawyer, David Theut, led TV cameras through the filthy, urine-soaked Tomassoni home to show the squalid conditions under which Kathryn and Tammie, adopted by Lydia and Sergio Tomassoni when the girls were 6 and 5, were forced to survive.

CPS insisted that Kathryn and Tammie were "only mildly neglected" and sought to avoid blame for failing to recognize that the sisters were abused and not taking immediate steps to stop it. ("Source: Management Hairdresser Witnesses Mother-Daughter Scrap Hours Before Murder," by Darrin Hostetler, *Phoenix New Times*; and "The Cinderella Murder" by Dick Donovan, *Weekly World News*, 5-25-93.)

TURNER, Carlton Akee, 19

Born 7-4-79, a very apologetic Carlton Turner, a laborer from Salt Lake City, Utah, was executed in Texas for the fatal shootings of his adopters a decade prior, at their Irving, Texas home. Turner, who is Black, was adopted as an infant, by a White couple. He completed 9th grade and worked as a laborer. On 8-8-98, he first shot his male adopter, Carlton Turner, Sr., 43. He said he committed the murder in self defense after repeated instances of abuse. "I felt my mother couldn't live without my father," he said, explaining why he next killed his female adopter, Tonya, 40. He was convicted by an all-White jury. Turner had a disciplinary problem as a juvenile and at age 14 sexually assaulted an 8-year-old boy. His adopters were retired from the Air Force. (Source: AP in *The Dallas News*, Huntsville, TX, 7-10-08; and Texas Department of Criminal Justice Offender Information website)

VAN DUYNE, Arnell, 16

Arnell was born 4-4-85 to Blendell Van Duyne and Purnell Parson who was slain while working as a security guard, Arnell Van Duyne was adopted at age 12 from foster care. He is incarcerated in New Mexico for killing his female adopter, Norma Young, in Clovis, California. He was sentenced to Life Plus 21 Years" for related crimes. Blendell Van Duyne says she "never abandoned" Arnell, but had given temporary custody of Arnell and his older brother to his aunt and uncle. He ended up in foster care after reportedly sexually abusing a younger sibling and was described as "a walking time bomb." The Youngs were never advised of his behaviors from emotional trauma of feeling abandoned. Investigators wanted to also charge Arnell with raping Young but do not know whether the sexual attack was before or after Young was dead. Young's husband learned that Arnell missed his biological mother with whom he has maintained contact off and on since incarceration. (Source: "The State of Our Children," by Tom Archuleta, *Albuquerque Tribune Reporter*, 2-14-02)

VILLAREAL, Juan Alberto, 44

Juan stabbed to death his female adopter, Hilma Villareal, in Falfurrias, Texas. Described as having no remorse, he was sentenced to 80 years in prison (Source: *Corpus Christi Caller Times*, 8-21-03)

WALLACE, Marcus, 38

The central Pennsylvania man was charged with Murder in the home invasion beating death of his female adopter. Police said that on 12-10-10, 38-year old Marcus Wallace broke into Consuela Wallace's apartment in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and attacked her, leaving her in a coma. Marcus Wallace was charged with Murder. (Source: Associated Pres/s AP, 2-17-10.)

WEAVER, Keith Chul, 14

Keith Weaver admitted to stabbing murder of his adopters, Anna May Weaver, and Raymond Clair Weaver, and his adoptive sister Kimberly, and to raping a teenage adoptive relative. Keith was one of 2 Korean orphans adopted by the (White) couple whose biological son described Keith as a "self centered, callous, juvenile delinquent." Weaver's feeling of rejection became a festering mental illness. He is quoted by Katherine Ramsland ("The Childhood Psychopath, Bad Seed or Bad Parents?") as follows: *"I know I made a hole in a lot of people's hearts and souls, but probably I had the biggest."* (Source: "Psychologist: 'Weaver's Mind Snapped,'" 3-12-92; and "Lawyer Wants Teen Accused of 3 Murders Tried as Juvenile; 9/7/91; and "Weaver Tried as Adult" 6/23/93- *Intelligencer Journal*, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.)

WELCHE, Lee Roy, 15

Born 7-15-76 in Niles, Michigan, on 6-15-92 Welche shot and killed his female adopter, Brenda Welche, during an argument over household chores. He first shot her in the chest, then reloaded the shotgun, shot her once in the side and once at close range in the head. Welche showed no remorse. Psychiatrists attributed the murder to a history of abuse, but Judge John T. Hammond said there was "no excuse for killing, even if his 'mother' was abusive." Lee reunited with his biological mother after imprisonment. (Source: "Teen Son Sentenced as Adult in Slaying," *South Bend Tribune*, 5-21-92.)

WILLIAMS, Tavares Eugene, 21

Tavares Williams is serving Life in prison in Florida on First Degree Premeditated Murder for beating his adopter, Barbara Roth, to death with a baseball bat on 1-24-02 in Gainesville, Florida. She was a former social worker who had been assigned to Williams' family when he was a child and adopted him in 1998. (Source: <http://www.alligator.org/pt2/050124williams.php> and Tavares' letters to AmFOR)

WOLMARANS, Frederik, 20

Adopted at age 2 weeks, Frederik Wolmarans was charged with the stabbing/strangling deaths of his affluent adopters, Koos and Erna Wolmarans, in Durban, South Africa. (Source: *Dispatch Online* 3-14-00 - <http://www.dispatch.co.za/2000/04/11/southafrica/charged.htm>)

WOODHAM, Luke, 16

Luke Woodham went on a shooting spree at a Mississippi school on 10-1-97, after killing his divorced adopter, Mary Woodham, 50, by beating her with a baseball bat and slitting her throat. (Source: <http://CNN.com/US/97101/02/miss.shooting.folo>)

WRIGHT, Mitchell, 18

Mitchell Wright was an altar boy, adopted by Donald and Delphine Wright. Mitchell set up his 15-year old sister, Donette, to be raped and beaten by a friend and left her to die under a log. Donette was half Mexican and the Wrights say Mitchell became hostile toward Blacks and Hispanics after learning his natural mother had given birth to a Black baby and kept that child after putting Mitchell up for adoption. (Source: Marsha Riben, *The News Journal*, NJ, 4/85)

ZIMMER, Peter, 14

In 1983 when he was 14, Zimmer brutally murdered his adopters, Hans and Sally Zimmer, and his 10-year old adoptive brother, Perry, by shooting Hans and stabbing Sally to death. He stabbed Perry 25

times. He served just under 5 years at Ethan Allen School for Boys in Wisconsin, avoiding the state penitentiary because of his age. He refused psychiatric help and, upon release at age 19, gained his adopters' \$177,000 estate, changed his name to Jovan Anton Collier, and started a new life with his 19-year old "counseling volunteer," Belinda, from the Boys School. They married and had a daughter, Nicole, who grew up not knowing about her father's gruesome past until she was 22.

More recently, 41, Zimmer, living under the name Collier, was convicted of stalking and threatening his ex-girlfriend, Candy Williams. She did not know about the murders, nor that he was married, until the stalking. He served 3-1/2 years for that conviction in Florida.

Collier told *ABC News 20/20* "I honestly had abandonment issues my entire life. I never felt I was part of anything. I was reminded that I was adopted a lot, told that my mother was a whore, trailer trash and such, when, in fact, she was a realtor living with an affluent cosmetic surgeon in Atlanta when she found me." When his biological mother, who searched for him for years, found out about his past, she abandoned him once again. (Sources: Chris Cuomo, *ABC News 20/20*, and *The Daily Mail* online, 11-13-10, and *St. Petersburg Times*, 5-18-10)

Adoptees Who Killed Their Biological Parents – Why It's Rare

While it may be argued that not many adoptees kill their biological parents' because their parents' identities are known to them, adopted killers are telling us other reasons why they did it. Following are the few documented cases of adoptees who killed their biological parents and why.

BORDEN, Lizzie

Born 7-19-1866 in Fall River, Massachusetts, Lizzie Borden's mother died when she was 2 and her sister, Emma, informally adopted and raised her.

When their father, Andrew Borden, remarried, the sisters were made to live in separate quarters at the front of the house while Andrew and his new wife resided in the rear. Conflict increased between the two daughters after Andrew informed them he was going to divide his properties among relatives before his death and after he killed Lizzie's pet pigeons.

Although Lizzie was acquitted of the murders of their father and stepmother, both of whom Lizzie was suspected of killing with a hatchet, there was evidence not heard at trial and she remained a notorious figure in American folklore, and in a child's rhyme, "*Lizzie Borden took an axe and gave her [step] mother 40 whacks, and when she was done, she gave her father forty-one.*" (Source" Wikipedia)

HALE, Bill ("The Osage Killer")

Bill Hale was a serial killer of 8 people and suspected of killing his biological father - See detailing about Bill Hale under "Adopted Serial Killers."

HENDRICKS, Billy Lynn, 40

Born 3-23-61 in Austin, Texas, Billy, who is part Native American (Apache and Comanche) and part Caucasian, was adopted as an infant and raised, not knowing his mother, in the Pentecostal Church. In 2007 his female adopter died which he said hit him very hard emotionally.

On 12-8-01, Billy Lynn strangled his biological mother to death at her Shreveport, Louisiana home, during an argument over money. He said he tried CPR unsuccessfully, then drove his mother's car to his adopters' home in Edmond, Oklahoma.

The next day, his adoptive sister, Elizabeth Buck, contacted Edmond police. According to Buck, Billy told her he and his mother had been drinking when he choked his mother and passed out. Billy was convicted of Second Degree Murder and sentenced to Life at hard labor without parole. (Source: Louisiana 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals 9-22-04 and Billy's letters to AmFOR.).

SELLERS, Sean, Richard, 16

Born 5-18-69, in California to 16-year old Vonda Bellefatto, Sean Sellers' parents divorced when he was 3 or 4 and remarried. On 3-5-96, Sean shot and killed his abusive alcoholic male adopter, a truck driver, Paul Lee Bellefatto, 43, and biological mother Vonda Bellefatto, 32, perhaps as collateral damage, while they slept.

Six months prior, on 9-8-85, he had killed a Circle K convenience store clerk. He said he did it "just to see what it feels like to kill someone" and that he has "multiple personality disorder."

The jury that convicted him never heard about his abusive childhood. His mother frequently left him with friends while she and her husband traveled on cross-country truck driving jobs. Sean was moved 30 times by the time he entered high school and despite being intelligent and doing well in school, he became emotionally distant due to repeatedly having to lose friends.

After his alcoholic uncle took him hunting and subjected him to such things as pulling off a racoon's head by its feet, Sean began to practice Satanism, drinking blood of animals, and became detached from reality. On 2-4-99 when he was 29, Sean Sellers was the first and last person to be executed for a crime committed under age 17 since California reinstated the Death Penalty and his execution drew international attention. (Source: Clark Prosecutor's website)

WADDELL, Nakisha, 15

Nakisha Waddell, a 15-year-old Wythe County girl, pled guilty to stabbing to death her mother, Vaughne Roxanne Thomas, 42, in a fit of rage, then burying her in their backyard.

A prosecutor described how Waddell flew into a rage and attacked her mother with a hunting knife when the mother called her "too chicken" to do it. "Something snapped," the daughter told an investigator. She tried to burn the body, but then doused the flames in a panic when smoke started seeping from some of the 43 stab wounds. Thomas was upset over phone calls Waddell had made to her "real father." [Hers was a stepparent adoption.] The arguing worsened and, according to Waddell's statement, her mother grew so angry she threw a small figurine at her, bruising her arm. "She would verbally abuse me every day and call me a screw-up," Waddell told investigators. (Source: *Times-Dispatch*, 12-15-04.)

Adoptees Who Killed Strangers

(Listed alphabetically, single incident killings, including some attempted murders by adoptees, with age at time of crime if known.)

ABDELA, Daphne, 15

Daphne Abdela, the adopted daughter of a millionaire food-service executive, lived with her wealthy adopters in a co-op on Central Park West, one of Manhattan's prime strips of real estate. Christopher Vasquez's home was a brownstone on the other side of the park, in a working-class neighborhood on the border of Spanish Harlem. At night, the two 15-year-olds liked to disappear among the park's sprawling fields and pathways, into a shadowy world of drunks and stragglers. That's where they apparently met up with Michael McMorrow, a single, 44-year-old real-estate agent with a history of

alcoholism. They shared some beers, and then something went wrong.

Vasquez slit the man's throat with a four-inch folding knife and, while Abdela urged him on, hacked off the man's nose and most of one wrist. Then, after they cleaned out the dead man's wallet and burned his identification, they tried to gut the body and dumped it into a lake, hoping it would sink. Instead, cops found the corpse bobbing peacefully, under a full moon.

Abdela attended a Jesuit high school on the Upper East Side. Students at the school say she was defiant and aloof, and she was ultimately expelled. She reportedly had a drinking problem and told police she originally met the murder victim at an AA meeting. (Source: "Drinking And Death After Dark," by Brad Stone and Matt Bai, *Newsweek*, 6-9-97)

BAER, Kenneth

A graduate of Thomas University, Philadelphia, Baer killed his girlfriend, Marina, 45, whom he called "My lover, my *mother*." In his mind, he was killing his adopter.

He said he hit his female adopter several times when he was between 12 and 15. (Source: "Shedding Light on the Dark Side of Adoption" a book by Marsha Riben)

BEARDSLEE, Donald

Donald Beardslee was a homeless man diagnosed as schizophrenic when he was convicted of murdering an elderly woman who was an exact "double" for the adopter he had come to hate.

Beardslee was the child of an affair between a married White woman and an African-American man. For the first year of his life, he had been locked in a back room of the woman's home as an object of shame, and then was given up for adoption.

He was first spared execution and incarcerated in a state mental institution, but because California re-instated the Death Penalty in 1978, he was executed by lethal injection at San Quentin Prison on 1-14-05. (Source: "Another Death in the Dark Hours" by Al Martinez, (*Los Angeles Times*, 4/24/05)

BENNETT JR., Robert Lee, ("Handcuff Man")

A serial torture-killer, Robert Lee Bennett Jr., was 22 months old when he was adopted by a childless couple, a successful attorney, Robert Bennett, and his homemaker wife, Annabelle Maxwell Bennett. Both adopters appear to have loved him and were close to him. For two decades, Robert Lee Bennett Jr., operating in Atlanta, Georgia and Tampa, Florida, preyed upon gay male prostitutes and men he apparently thought were prostitutes. The attacks are believed to have started in 1968. Bennett paid the prostitute to merely take a drink of vodka, which must have seemed like an unusually easy way to earn a few dollars. Additionally, the well-spoken man told the prostitute that a study was being conducted on the effects of drinking a certain amount of alcohol and asked him to take part in this "research" for \$50 or \$100. Whatever the ruse, the drink was spiked and the prostitute quickly lost consciousness. He awoke to a horror. Often a victim found himself handcuffed and burned on his genitals or legs. Sometimes the attacker put cigarettes out on the victim, other times flammable liquids.

Victims were reluctant to press charges. They were prostitutes and didn't want to draw attention to their profession or homosexuality.

The *Atlanta Journal Constitution* ran a story naming Robert Lee Bennett Jr. as the suspected "Handcuff Man." The next day, Tampa police requested information from their Atlanta counterpart, and they later charged Bennett with an attack on a Florida man, who had been doused in gasoline and lit on fire. The victim had survived, but the injuries were so severe that both of his legs had to be

amputated. There were other incidents but he always managed to retain his affluent lifestyle.

Young Bennett is remembered as an outgoing teenager, involved in many organizations. Never an athlete, he was not among the most popular boys in school, but neither was he the victim of bullying. For his high school graduation, his male adopter gave him a picturesque \$167,000 house located by Lake Wesauking. Bennett appeared to have grown into a bright and accomplished young man. He graduated from the University of Denver in 1969 and went on to earn a Master's degree in political science from the University of Virginia. However, in 1971, while studying there, he was charged with indecent exposure. Records about this case have been expunged.

At age 29, he married Sandra Powell and told her that he was impotent. The marriage was one of convenience for both parties. They enjoyed each other's company and he treated her like a princess. According to Powell, despite their troubles, they discussed *adopting a child*, but never followed through on their plans.

In September 1982, Bob Bennett Jr. was arrested and charged with the murder of 24-year-old James Lee Johnson, a dishwasher who had been shot. On 2-24-92, Bennett appeared in an Atlanta courtroom and pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated assault. The sentence was 17 years in prison to run concurrently with the 17-year sentence that he was to serve in Florida for the attempted murder of Gary Clapp. The notorious Handcuff Man was initially put into solitary confinement, partly because he feared other prisoners.

While the Handcuff Man's sexual dysfunction may explain his choice of victims, it does not explain his barbaric cruelty. He is not known to have expressed remorse for his crimes or any concern for the damage done to his victims. He never would in so many words admit doing these things although he pled guilty.

Bennett died of a stroke on April Fool's Day 1998. He took the reasons for his hatred of male prostitutes, and the genesis of his extraordinary cruelty, with him to his grave. (Source: "Handcuffed and Helpless" by Denise Noe, *Crime Library* http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/serial_killers/)

BRUSTER, Michael, 19

Born 11-30-84, Michael grew up in Washington Park, a small neighborhood in East St. Louis, with 5 younger brothers and 2 younger sisters. Michael was adopted at age 9 when his father was incarcerated for Life. He has been searching for his mother, Cora Simms. He wrote that he kept his pain over everything that happened to him as a child to himself and it built up over time.

In 2005, at age 19 he was convicted of Murder and Robbery with a 20-year sentence and expects to be released at age 41. (Source: Michael Bruster's letters to AmFOR.)

CANNON, Joseph John, 17

Born 1-13-60 in Texas, John Joseph Cannon's case history was considered "exceptional" by psychologists in terms of the brutality and abuse he had been subjected to as a child. Such was the depravity and oppression of his upbringing that Cannon thrived better in prison than he ever did in his home environment. At age 4, Cannon was hit by a truck and suffered a fractured skull, a broken leg and perforated lungs and was subsequently placed in an orphanage from age 4 to age 7. The head injury left him hyperactive and resulted in a speech impediment. He was unable to speak clearly until age 6. He also had learning disabilities, was unable to function in the classroom, was expelled at age 7 and received no other formal education. At ages 7 to 8, he was sexually abused by his male adopter (his mother's 4th husband) and regularly sexually assaulted by his grandfather from age 10 to 17 when he was diagnosed as suffering organic brain damage from sniffing glue, solvents and gasoline, and

schizophrenia. He was treated in psychiatric hospitals for these conditions and for severe depression.

At age 15 he attempted suicide by drinking insecticide. At age 17 he was tried as an adult for the 1977 murder of Anne Walsh. By the time he was executed, Joseph Cannon had learned to read and spent more than half his life on Death Row. He was executed in Texas in 1998. (Source: Amnesty International "Document" USA [Texas] "Death Penalty, Legal Concern: Joseph John Cannon," Publication AMR 52/13/98, UA 80/98 2-26-98)

CARTER, Marcus, 23

Born in 1968, Marcus was a part Korean and part African-American adoptee. His father was a Black soldier, his mother Korean. When his father abandoned her, she gave him up for adoption, partly because of the stigma of the bi-racial affair. Marcus was tried for First Degree Murder of Amelia Lewis in Wayne County, N.C., in 1991 when he was 23. The murder involved an attempted rape. Marcus had been identified as a suspect in a rape elsewhere the night of the murder and by association was implicated in the Lewis murder.

Carter's life up to his conviction was a mess. His adopters, who were soldiers stationed in Korea and Shirley Hill, soon split up. Hill came back to Goldsboro with Carter when he was 4.

Carter saw his biological father on and off for several years after that, but when the father remarried and had other children, Carter started getting in trouble and his father disowned him--a fact Hill didn't know until his trial. She believed the source of his troubles was trying and failing to win back the affections of his male adopter. Marcus was sentenced to Death but his execution was halted and his sentence commuted to Life Without Parole on 11/21/00. (Source: "Death Watch," <http://indyweek.com/durham/2000-11-15news.html>)

COTTON, Marcus B., 22

Born 2-28-74., Marcus Cotton was on drugs since age 5 as result of his adopter being drug addicted and habitually abusing him and his siblings. He completed 9th grade and worked as a laborer. Marcus had convictions for Drug Possession and Attempted Murder prior to his conviction in 1996 for the shooting death of Assistant District Attorney Gil Epstein, 27, in the course of a robbery when he found Epstein's gold badge in his wallet while robbing him in a parking lot. Cotton was executed in Texas (Source: *Houston Chronicle*, 11-5-97;Texas Department of Criminal Justice Offender Information website)

DALZELL, Andrew, 20

Born in 1977, Andrew was 7 weeks old when Juanita Dalzell Mullen and Michael Dalzell, her husband at the time, adopted him. Juanita had two miscarriages, one stillbirth and their one child died at 2-1/2. The Dalzells brought Andrew to Chapel Hill when he was 10 months old. By Juanita's own account, Andrew grew up to be a troubled young man. A bright, former special-education student with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Andrew bounced from school to school and class to class, trying to find his niche. Early in his childhood, she said, he suffered from depression. Numerous visits to psychologists and various medications failed to lift his mood. When Andrew was 18 in 1995, his male adopter, Michael Dalzell, died of pancreatic cancer, and George Mullen became his new male adopter. Andrew, who was active in The Church of the Holy Family in Chapel Hill, gave up on a God that he felt gave up on him. He dropped out of Northwood High School in Chatham County and later got his GED. He had few social skills, few friends and didn't get along with his female adopter. He spent much of the following decade in her house, visiting chat rooms on the Internet, with brief interruptions by short-lived attempts at finding work. He lived on his own for only 5 months, in an apartment for which

his adopter footed the bill. When Andrew was 20, he was charged with Murder in the 1997 disappearance of Deborah Key, 38. Juanita Mullen claimed officers had been out to get her son for years and forced him to make his confession. (Source: "Prison Longhouse" website)

DEVLIN, Michael, 40

Adopted as an infant, Michael Devlin knew no other family than James and Joyce Devlin. The Devlins, a stay-at-home mom and an insurance executive, became foster parents and also adopted 5-year-old Brian, who recalled family vacations at the Devlins' Lake Michigan cottage as the happiest times of his life. Although Brian Devlin, estranged from his adoptive family, left home at 17, he said he couldn't have asked for better parents and had no memory of his brother, Michael, behaving badly at home. Brian said he, not Michael, was the problem child, hanging out with the wrong crowd in his early teens, drinking and using drugs. He described his younger brother, Michael, as a normal kid, "a quiet dude," who was somewhat big for his age, who had no friends aside from his siblings. Michael attended both Catholic and public schools.

Brian said he doesn't want to believe that the younger brother with whom he once played Army men and fixed bikes, kidnapped Shawn and Ben at gunpoint, as alleged by the Washington County prosecutor. "We never used guns; there were no guns in the house," Brian said. "We were a very Catholic, very Christian family. I'm trying to give Michael the benefit of the doubt."

None of the Devlins has visited Michael in jail, according to visitor records at the Franklin County jail. Even Brian Devlin said he has nothing to say to his brother. (Source: "Devlin Brother Recalls Warm, Loving Family" by Cheryl Wittenauer, *Desert News/AP*, 1-28-07)

DOWDELL, Richard, 27

Richard Dowdell's 16-year old mother put him up for adoption after his 19-year old father abandoned them. His Canadian adopters divorced when he was 4. Convicted in Wyoming in 1997 of murdering Cpl. Wayne Martinez, Dowdell said he got an adrenalin rush out of killing the officer and that given the chance he would try it again. He described the killing as "fun." Counselors testified he was suicidal and defense attorney Mark Voss portrayed Dowdell's life as "a series of rejections." (Source: *The Billings Gazette*; <http://venos.soci.niu.edu/~archived/ABOLISH/rick-halperin/july98/0501.htm>)

EASTLACK, John Patrick

John Eastlack was adopted from foster care at age 16-months by Katherine Norgard. He was not diagnosed until age 30 with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. The FAS diagnosis is the reason that a Pima County, Arizona judge reduced his Death sentence to Life in prison for the brutal 1989 murders of Kathryn and Leicester Sherrill in Tucson. In 1999, he was hospitalized from numerous stab wounds inflicted by other inmates. (Source: *Tucson Citizen* online, "A Ticking-Bomb Baby," April 1999)

FEARS, Randall Alan

Born in 1963 as Gregory Inman, and adopted at birth in St. Louis, Randall Fears was seeking his biological parents, Linda Jean Inman and Jerry Adams. Randall said he feels his adopters knew that he was available for adoption through friends of theirs and that his mother was young and very ill when he was born. He would like his mother to know that he's okay, medically, but would like to know his pre-adoption medical history. Randall was convicted of First Degree Murder and sentenced to "Life Without Parole Plus 3 Life Sentences." (Source: Randall Fears' letters to AmFOR.)

FOELL, David

A Native American born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, David was adopted as a child by the Singletons and sexually abused by his male adopter. Foell is serving a Life sentence in Iowa for the 2-19-91 contract killing of his friend's, Chris Oltman's, 69-year old grandmother, Marian Atkinson, by stabbing her 16 times (Source: <http://www.judicial.ia.us/appeals/opinions/20101128/00-1536.asp>)\

FORD, Patrick Hunter

Adopted at age 6 weeks by a St. Louis News Anchor and his wife who later divorced, Patrick was convicted of the 1991 Burglary and Rape-Murder of Nora Lee Attaway. His attorney contacted his biological mother who he never met. She spoke of her love for him but she has not had direct contact with him nor provided any information about his father. (Source: Ford's own letters to AmFOR and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newsclips, 10-28/29-92 and 3-94)

FORMAN, Joseph "Jay," 16

Joseph Forman was described as a boy who was eager to please but who constantly felt rejected since discovering, at age 11, that he was adopted. Forman murdered Janice Graffone in New Jersey. (Source: "Forman Labeled a Problem Child," *Trenton Times*, New Jersey, 5-26-82)

GERLACH, Clayton

Born 6-7-78 in Sedro Wooley, Washington, under his birth name Clayton Daniel Perkins, he has been seeking his biological mother, Corina Perkins. Clayton was convicted for Second Degree Murder which he claims was accidental. (Source: Clayton Gerlach's letters to AmFOR)

GOODMAN, Spencer Corey, 22

Born 10-28-68 in Germany, Spencer Goodman was adopted at age 1 by Barnard Goodman and his wife. He completed 12-1/2 years of school and worked as a restaurant manager. His first incarceration on 2-3-89 was for Burglary. Paroled on 6-22-89, he began a 5-year sentence on 9-11-90, paroled 12-5-90, but parole was revoked for a violation. The day after his 7-1-91 release, instead of going to his halfway house, he just started walking. Eventually he ended up in a Walgreens' parking lot in Houston, and as Cecile Ham, 38, was getting into her Cadillac, he knocked her unconscious "because his feet hurt and he wanted some transportation."

He said "I don't know why I did it, but I know that I was lost. I then put her in the trunk of the car." He drove her car to Ft. Bend, Colorado, before stopping to break the woman's neck. Later, he dumped the body in a field. Police tracked him through his use of her credit cards in Texas and he was captured after a high speed chase on 8-7-91.

Spencer Goodman's adopter, Barnard Goodman, 62, testified that his immediate family fears Spencer, who, at his own request, remained outside the courtroom during his adopter's testimony. In a letter written earlier that year, the elder Goodman told his adopted son the whole family loved him when they adopted him. "I tried so hard when you were young to turn you around," the letter read. "We couldn't turn you around and you continued to do things that were against our laws, God's laws and the laws of society." The adopter and other family members left the courtroom after his testimony. Assistant District Attorney Fred Feldman, in closing arguments, called Spencer Goodman "society's worst nightmare." On 1-12-00, Spencer Goodman was executed in Texas for the stabbing death of Cecile Ham. (Source: <http://www.clarkprosecutor.org/html/death/US/goodman605.htm>)

GRANT, Matthew, 19

Matthew Grant's mother died when he was 7 and he was adopted by Gail and David Grant, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Abused and neglected and diagnosed with ADHD as a child, he was convicted 12-2-04 for killing Sheriff's Deputy, Mark Tucker, with a shotgun, to avoid being arrested for violating his probation on a prior conviction for breaking into cars. Relatives said "He almost never expressed any emotion. He had learned, from the time he was a child, to keep it bottled up inside." (Source: *The News Observer*, 12-2-04.)

HALL, Edwin Ray, 26

In 1988, Hall was a child in the custody of what is now the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, when an Emporian couple, Don and Carol Hall, were parents of 3 daughters and adopted 7-year-old Edwin. "I felt like we could make a difference, help someone out," Carol Hall said. "I love kids." Some of Edwin's behavioral problems were evident during the short time he lived with the Halls prior to his adoption, but the Halls carried through with the adoption plan. "You think you can give them love and all those things they didn't get, like support," Carol said. "It may work with some, but with him, it didn't." Edwin seemed to care for his new family, but even with their love and support, the behavior problems could not be overcome. "He continued to act out at home and at school. Basically, he was just real defiant," Carol said. Long before Edwin Ray Hall, 26, was charged with Aggravated Kidnapping and First Degree Murder in the death of Kelsey Smith, 18, Edwin's behavior problems escalated instead of diminishing and by the time Edwin was 15, he initiated an incident that made it impossible for him to stay with his adoptive family. Carol did not want to reveal details of the episode. "After the incident, Edwin did not remember it happening," she said.. The Halls realized that the teenager had become a potential danger to other members of the family. They had exhausted all of their options and decided they would have to give him up for the safety of all concerned.

The Halls had no contact with Edwin after he was returned to SRS custody, until one day when Edwin called the family and Carol made arrangements to meet with him. She wanted to talk with him and see how he was doing. After the meeting, she felt satisfied that the young man had gotten control of his life. Later, seeing a photograph after his arrest, she realized that the suspect in the Overland Park murder was her former adopted son. We would never have dreamed in a million years that this would happen. (Source: "Adoptive Family Remembers Defiant Child" by Bobbi Mylnar, *Kansas City Times*, 6-8-07)

HARR, Bryan Andrew, 27

Born 5-14-74 in Detroit, Michigan, under the name Patrick Charles, Bryan Harr is serving Life sentence in Michigan. He received non-identifying background information on his biological parents and knows father's first name "Leon." Criticism by a woman friend was the "last straw" stemming from his feelings of abandonment that triggered his killing her. He was convicted of Murder and sentenced to Life Without Parole. (Source: Andrew Harr's letters to AmFOR).

HAUSER, Daniel Patrick, 25 (aka Dan Hanser/Halise, Jonathan Tork).

Born 7-24-70 in California, on 1-1-95, Daniel Hauser strangled to death Melanie Rodrigues, 21, in Florida. He stated he did it from "an urge to kill." Although his adopters, a California college teacher and a copier salesman from Oregon, visited him on Florida's Death Row, they stated they "find the situation too painful to talk about," and apparently support his decision to be executed. His adopters stayed out of the legal fray but his biological mother, Zainna Fawn Crawford, helped him obtain a

temporary stay of execution. Hauser had been telling his mother and lawyers to "butt out," and his state funded lawyers called his 8-25-00 execution by lethal injection "simply suicide." (Source: *Daily News-NW Florida*, Jeff Nevell, 8-23-00; and Florida Department of Corrections web-site)

HEDLUND, Charles Michael, 27

On 3-10-91, Hedlund and his adoptive brother, James Erin McKinney, brutally beat, stabbed and shot 40-year-old Christine Martens in her home during the commission of a burglary. On 3-23-91, Hedlund and McKinney burglarized the home of 65-year-old James McClain and shot him in the head while he was asleep in his bed. Hedlund was convicted of Second-Degree Murder for the killing of Mrs. Martens, 2 counts of First Degree Burglary, and one count of Theft and First-Degree Murder for the killing of McClain for which he was sentenced to Death. During his appeals, Hedlund questioned the lack of weight given to his mitigating circumstances. Specifically, testimony was given during the punishment phase of his trial about the physical abuse his adopter inflicted upon him daily during his childhood. Although Hedlund never claimed this excused his actions, he pleaded with the court to allow these circumstances to lessen his punishment to Life in prison. In Arizona, the trial judge is allowed to determine the significance of mitigating factors. While acknowledging that Hedlund's adopter beat him and frequently reminded him of his "illegitimacy," the trial judge held that, "there was no evidence of a causal relationship between the abuse and the murders." Subsequently, despite significant emotional and mental problems, he was sentenced to Death, but on 2-20-02 his execution was stayed. (Source: <http://ncadp.org/debalertaz01.html>)

HOADLEY, Darrell, 21

Darrell Hoadley was sexually abused by his male adopter and was taken away from his female adopter, Luella Eisenbarth, for about 3 years, due to her alcoholism and hitting him with a belt. Darrell's lawyers said he developed emotionally only to the level of a 12-year old. On 4-22-00 he was convicted along with Briley Piper, 21, and Elijah Page, 19, for participation in the 3-13-00 beating/stabbing death of Chester Allan Poage, 19, allegedly to rob Poage's mother's house. (Source: *Midwest News*, Rapid City, North Dakota, AP, 5-19-0)

HUNGERFORD, Brandi Lynn

Brandi Lynn Hungerford was adopted from South Korea and brought to Grand Rapids, Michigan. How the adopted daughter of a machine shop foreman would go from having dreams of being a nurse in one of America's most conservative Christian enclaves to dancing nude for an outcall service as a licensed escort in Phoenix, using stage names "Eden" and "Tiara," is a story of dashed hoped and tragic choices. Making \$1200 per week as an exotic dancer, much of the money went to pay for her adopter's chemotherapy. Her adopter's illness and the nature of her work changed Hungerford. She became sullen, cold and materialistic. By the time her adopter died in 2001 she was almost a completely different person. Together with Robert Donald Lemke II, a male dancer, she robbed and murdered Tempe, Arizona multi-millionaire Rick Chance in 2002. (Source: "The Murder of Rick Chance," by Mark Gribben, *TruTV, Crime Library* online)

JONES, James L.

Born 9-30-79 in Mississippi, James' mother died during his first year in 1980 and he was raised by his father until age 5 when, in 1985, his mother's parents obtained court ordered custody and adopted him which was finalized when he was 6. They raised him for only 4 or 5 years and then he was moved from

relative to relative. His sister was adopted separately but he located her years later. When he was 11, he had several foster homes. At 12, he was returned to his father due to being described as "behaviorably unmanageable." He says his father then put him out on his own during his teenage years

In 2001, when he was 21, James began searching for his mother's relatives but it was not until 2003 that his mother's brother came to California to visit James who was then incarcerated in the County Jail. He's been in contact with his mother's side of the family ever since, but has not heard from his father. James was convicted of First Degree Murder for which he is serving a sentence of 25 years to Life in California, with earliest possibility of parole in 2027. (Source: James Jones' letters to AmFOR.)

KING, John William, 24

Born in Mississippi, John King was adopted at age 3 by Ronald King and his wife. They moved their adopted son and their daughter to Jasper, Mississippi, a racially mixed town. When he was 15, his female adopter died. At age 17, King was arrested for Burglary and was sent to a correctional boot camp where youths are subjected to military-style discipline.

After release, King, most of the time jobless, drifted and was soon back in court, his probation revoked, and he was given an 8-year prison sentence. In prison, King met Lawrence Brewer and they became associated with a small circle of inmates using the name of the North Carolina-based Ku Klux Klan faction, the Confederate Knights of America, involved in a racial conflict between White and Hispanic prisoners in 1995. Upon release from prison, King, Berry and Brewer drifted from one low-paying job to another in Texas with no future, blaming their economic problems on Blacks and Hispanics, leading to the 3 men chaining a Black man, James Byrd, Jr., to the back of a pickup truck and dragging him behind the vehicle for miles, then leaving Byrd's dismembered, decapitated body at a Black cemetery.

The systematic dehumanization of King has been blamed on the psychological components of adoption, prison and racial poisoning. (Source: "Racist Killer Sentenced to Death in Texas Murder," by Jerry White, *World Socialist Website*, 2-26-99.)

KNOLLER, Marjorie

Knoller was adopted as an infant by a dentist and a homemaker who was a former beauty pageant queen. Knoller and her husband, Robert Noel, both lawyers, were convicted of involuntary manslaughter after a judge overturned the jury's verdict of Second Degree Murder in the dog mauling death of Diane Whipple. Described as "introverted," and "showing no remorse," the prosecutor cites 52 instances of Knoller lying in court. (Source: 11-2-03 "An Eccentric Pain" at *Court TV* site, http://www.courttv.com/trials/dogmaul/background-c_defendants.html)

KOMISARJEVSKY, Joshua A., 26

Born 8-10-80, Joshua was adopted at 2 weeks by Ben and Jude Komisarjevsky, an elementary school librarian, were wealthy, devout Christians, in Cheshire, Connecticut. A troubled, withdrawn, learning disabled child, on drugs at 11, Joshua learned he was adopted at age 14, when he was also being repeatedly raped by a boy his adopters took in as a foster child. That's when he also began robbing occupied homes at night. His adopters had repeatedly told him those who engage in homosexual acts would be condemned to hell. At a halfway house, he teamed up with Steven J. Hayes, a drug addict who also suffered repeated childhood sexual abuse, also beginning at 14 when he, too, began burglarizing homes, and at 15 had been committed to a psychiatric hospital.

On 7-23-07, Joshua and Steven together committed a home invasion resulting in the Rape and Murders of Jennifer Hawke-Petit, 48, and her daughters Hayley, 17, and Michaela, 11. William Petit, though beaten with a baseball bat, escaped before the home was set afire as police moved in on a tip and captured Joshua and Steven. Both were sentenced to Death, Joshua on 1-27-12. Emotionless throughout his life, he expressed remorse for the murders. His defense attorney said he inherited a "mood disorder" from his biological family, exacerbated by his adopters, but never received psychological treatment despite "flinging desks" at his 5th grade teacher, using drugs from age 11, being raped at 14, and 9 robbery convictions. Instead, his adopters home schooled him, prayed and sent him to a faith based program. Prior to his last arrest, Joshua had been awarded sole custody to his then-5-year old daughter. (Sources: *New York Times*, 7-12-07; *New Haven Register*, 10-28-19; *CT Bulletin.com*, 11-22-11; *AP* 1-27-12)

KREUTZER, Paul W., 20

Born 2-22-72, Paul Kreutzer was adopted by the Kreutzers at age 3. When the Kreutzers punished their adopted son, they would squeeze his fingers with a pair of pliers and place him in a wooden box for long periods of time. They frequently hit him with various objects, punished him for bed wetting by drinking his own urine, and punished him for sexual preoccupation by making him have sex with the family cows. He ran away from home at age 14. On 9-2-92 Paul murdered his neighbor, Louise Hemphill, who he first sexually assaulted and strangled to death, then stabbed in the neck 3 times and struck her on the head 3 times with a baseball bat. The state's psychologist, Richard Gowdy PhD, testified Kreutzer suffered from Sexual Identity Disorder, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PSTD), and Borderline Personality Disorder from past physical and emotional abuse. Kreutzer was executed 4-10-02, in Missouri (Source: <http://for.missouri.org/fornew/april2002/april2002.html>)

LACEY, Terrell L., 17

Born in 1980, Terrell Lacey's mother died when he was 11 and her parents informally adopted him; he never knew his father. He did learn that he has 2 half-sisters. He said he dropped out of school in 9th grade, and, coming from a rough area of St. Louis with no good role models, he got involved with "the streets." At age 17 he was convicted of First Degree Murder, 3 First Degree Assaults and 4 counts of Armed Criminal Action, for which he was sentenced to Life Without Parole. When last heard from, he was working on obtaining his G.E.D. in prison. (Source: Terrell Lacey's letters to AmFOR)

LAGRAND, Walter 25, and Karl 26

(not related to adopted killer Michael LeGrand)

Walter and Karl LaGrand were born out of wedlock in Germany on 1-26-62 and 10-10-63, respectively, to a mother of German nationality, Emma LaGrand, and [different] fathers of U.S. nationality. A U.S. citizen serviceman stationed in Germany with the U.S. Army, Masie LaGrand, subsequently married their mother and adopted Walter, Karl, and their half-sister. In 1967, Masie LaGrand brought his German wife and 3 adopted children to the United States, to Tucson, Arizona. Walter and Karl had difficult and deeply troubled lives. As children, they repeatedly experienced rejection by their adopters. During their early years in Germany, their care was at times turned over to institutions. After they moved to the United States, this pattern continued. Their female adopter took little or no interest in the brothers and welcomed their placement in foster care. Their male adopter had been abusive and had abandoned the brothers, their adoptive sister, and his wife. Arizona State records contain numerous details of how the brothers felt rejected, angry, and frustrated by their situation. Eventually the brothers

drifted into anti-social and ultimately violent criminal behavior, culminating in the murder during their attempted armed bank robbery in Marana, Arizona, on 1-7-82. Ken Hartsock, the bank manager, was murdered by slashing of his throat and 23 other stab wounds. Dawn Lopez, a bank employee, was also murdered. Karl was diagnosed with several mental disorders. Walter was executed in Arizona in 1999 according to his own choice of method -- the gas chamber -- apparently as a protest against the death penalty – it took 18 minutes for Walter to die. Karl, had been executed by lethal injection the week before on 2-24-99. (Source: "LaGrand Case, Germany v. United States of America," 3-2-00.)

LAJOS, Domingo y De la Cruz

Phillipine Adoptee, Domingo Lajos, was convicted, along with Ronnie Cortes y Duano, for Rape-Homicide of Nonieta Lepitin of the Phillipines on 9-17-90. Lepitin was hacked to death with a machete. (Source: http://www.lawphil.net/jvdjuris/juri1993/sep1993/glc_105010_1993.html)

LANG, Scott, 17

Adoptee, Scott Lang, was arrested and charged with Murder of Richard E. Hosking, 55, assaulting Hosking's daughter and Theft of his car. (Source: *St. Petersburg Times* 5-26-01)

LEE, Eric, 18

Eric Lee's adopters testified he had problems in childhood. His biological family testified as to their substance abuse. An expert testified as to Eric's mental disorder. Eric was convicted in Illinois of First Degree Murder of a police officer, and Aggravated Vehicular Highjacking. (Source: Illinois Case #87089, 2-16-01)

LEGRAND, Michael, 26,

(not related to adopted killers LaGrand brothers)

Born in 1973 as "Clarence Michael Myers" while his drug-addicted American parents were in prison, Michael was taken in by his mother's sister, Donna Legrand, and her husband Paul Legrand, a Frenchman. In 1977 when his mother, Judith Myers, was released from prison, Michael was returned to her. She divorced his father in 1980 and married his former cell mate, Jose Raiford. Raiford brutally beat and sexually abused the 9-year old Michael (according to his mother's and sister's testimony) and his mother abandoned him to state custody.

Paul Legrand found the boy, after a 2-year search, in a state home for emotionally troubled children, his personality completely changed. "You couldn't touch him, you couldn't hug him," Legrand later testified. Still Legrand adopted him in 1986. By the time Michael was 15, he started using drugs, was hospitalized several times and was homeless.

On 5-17-99 in a suburb of New Orleans, Louisiana, Michael killed his friend Rafael Santos, stabbing him more than 40 times with a plastic knife, screwdriver and pencil. His attorney, Ben Cohen, said Michael should never have been charged with Capital Murder, that it was politically motivated by officials to appear tough on crime. Michael has never seen France yet France's vice consul in New Orleans, Louisiana, asked France to recognize his claim to citizenship, and provided Michael's adoption papers to a French Court to determine his citizenship, while his U.S. attorneys argued that he should receive a new trial for Second Degree Murder. (Source: *AP*, 10-19-03, <http://www.soulfulchemistry.com/adoption.html>)

LONGO, Christian, 27

Joe Longo, Christian's adopter, said Christian "was previously an admitted forger, liar, con artist, thief, philanderer, rubber-check writer and more. There can be no explanation for his actions. Even when he pushed us away, we were there for him and his family when they needed us. He gave little back but lies and eventually abandoned us completely." Sounds like all was not well in this adoption. *CBS "48 Hours"* aired a detailed report about Christian Longo, the murders, and his conviction -- never once mentioning Longo's adoptive status nor why he rejected his adopter [in keeping with "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" media policy censoring of the "A" word]. See also "Adopted Child Syndrome" at <http://amfor.net/acs> (Sources: *Detroit News* 3-20-03 and "Longo's Father Makes Public Statement," <http://kgw.com> 4-16-03; and *CBS 48 Hours*, 5-31-05).

MANN, Warlito G.

Adoptee Warlito Mann was sentenced to 50 years, in Indiana, for stabbing death of his girlfriend, Shelly Meriman on 9-15-99 when she wanted to end their relationship. He pled guilty with mitigating circumstances of a "prior troubled life." The Judge noted his "lack of remorse." (Source: <http://www.state/in/us/judiciary/opinions/archive/02190103.msm.html>)

MARCUS, Aaron

Born 8-21-76 in Torrance, California, Aaron was adopted at birth and wanted to find any biological family members. Aaron said he has made mistakes. He was convicted of Murder with an earliest possible release date in 2021. (Source: Aaron Marcus' letters to AmFOR from Soledad Prison.)

McCRAY, Alvario Samell, 17

Alvario's female adopter commented to reporters: "He is troubled by being given up by his mother and desperately wants to find her." Alvario stated "I love my adoptive mom with all my heart but there is something inside me that wants to find out where I come from."

At age 17, Alvario, then of Panama City, Florida, slashed the throat of a female store owner during a robbery. She survived and Alvario was convicted. Upon release, Alvario shot to death Victor Murphy, who was Alvario's partner in the store robbery and who Alvario blamed for testifying against him at trial. Murphy served 10 years, and Alvario served 14 years in prison. Alvario eventually confessed to the shooting and was sentenced to 30 years for Manslaughter.. (Source: *News Herald*, 7-17-97; and NewsHerald.com 2-22-11)

MILLER, DeWayne

Born in 1979 in St. Louis, Missouri, DeWayne Miller was adopted by his godmother named Miller. DeWayne had been seeking his biological mother, uncertainwhether her first name is Linda or Macy, last name Brown and his older sister. He was convicted of First Degree Murder during an attempted Armed Robbery. (Source: DeWayne Miller's letters to AmFOR.)

PITTS, Shayne J., 18

Shayne Pitts was adopted by a millionaire executive after his biological father, a suspected drug dealer, vanished 14 years prior. Shayne was indicted on a First-Degree Murder charge for allegedly slaying his pregnant girlfriend, Melody Derosia Waters, 19, at the home of his adopter in Concord, New Hampshire. (Source: Bob Hohler, Staff Writer, *Boston Globe*, 4-19-91)

RAMOS, Marcelino

Marcellino Ramos was given up at birth by his mother who had syphilis and bore 11 children while working as a prostitute and drinking heavily. When he was 5, his male adopter died. His female adopter called him "senso" or "idiot," his IQ being between 62 and 75. She died when he was 14 and Ramos and a half-brother struck out on their own, selling bottles and their own blood to make money for food. Ramos was convicted in the shooting death of a store clerk during a robbery. (Source: "A Third Reprieve," by Sara Catania, *LA Weekly*, <http://www.laweekly.com/ink/printime.php?eid=39918>)

REESE, John Loveman, 27

Born 3-29-65 and abandoned at an early age, John Loveman was then adopted. At age 7, he witnessed his male adopter murder his female adopter. He never saw his male adopter again and was raised by an adoptive uncle until age 14, then by another adoptive uncle until that uncle's death, caring for the adoptive aunt thereafter. On 1-28-92, he strangled to death his girlfriend's best friend, Sharlene Austin, and was convicted in 1993 in Florida of First Degree Murder, Sexual Battery and Burglary. He is on Florida's Death Row. (Source: *Reese v. Florida Appeal*.)

ROGERS, Anthony L., 39

Anthony Rogers testified that his biological parents were "a Dutch businessman and a Saskatchewan Indian whore," that he was adopted at birth by the hospital delivery room nurse and a Marine, that his male adopter physically abused him since age 6, and that his adopters over-medicated him to the point that he became an "amphetamine junkie."

Rogers was convicted in Tennessee of Assault with Attempted Second Degree Murder and pled guilty to Aggravated Assault in the severe beating of his live-in girlfriend, Glenda Wright Maples, on 1-8-89. Rogers said that if the word "bastard" had not come out of her mouth when he caught her in a compromising position with a dog, this would never have happened, admitting he "lost it" when Maples said "Bastard." That was the button she needed to push and knew it. He pled guilty to Aggravated Assault. Source: State Records at <http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/opinions/tcca/PDF/021/rogersang/pdf>

REEVES, Randolph, 23

Reese was taken from his Omaha Indian reservation on 2-8-56 and adopted at age 3 by Don and Barbara Reeves who raised him as a Quaker. He was convicted of stabbing to death a pregnant family friend. (Source: *Omaha World-Herald*, 1-1-99.)

"SLD," 13

Known only as "SLD," his mother, a prostitute, was a heroin addict who physically abused him. He was in foster care from age 2, adopted in 1993, expelled from several schools and diagnosed as suffering from a chromosome abnormality. Intellectually impaired, he had indecently exposed himself several times and stolen women's underwear.

In 2002, at age 13, "SLD," Australia's youngest killer, abducted a 3-year old toddler from her bed, then placed her on the driveway, took off her diaper, stabbed her in the chest and threw her body down an embankment "because her parents were always telling him to keep off their grass." He was jailed for 20 years, eligible for parole in 10. The Judge said there was no evidence of remorse from the boy. (Source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8-31-02;

SAUNDERS, Peter, 16

Born 1-17-67, Peter Saunders was adopted and felt again abandoned by his divorcing adopters. At age 16, he raped an 84-year old woman but charges were dropped. At age 22, he was convicted of raping and killing Elisa Totoni, 65. In 1995, he sent a threatening letter and bomb-like device to US District Judge Blanche Manning who had dismissed his suit against prison officials 3 weeks earlier and so 50 years was added to his Life sentence. (Source: *Chicago Tribune*, 12-13-89 and 3-2-05)

SAWDON, John, 16

Sawdon, an adoptee with low IQ, had previously been involved in minor crimes. He had become so violent at home that his female adopter wondered if he was suffering from a mental illness or if he was on drugs. He was sent to a probation service charity for teenagers. There, he met Rebecca Peeters, 16, who abused alcohol, was violent and had run away from home several times. Sawdon and Peters, together with Jermaine James, 16, who had been thrown out of his home by his violent father, all pled guilty to the beating murder of teenager Terry Hurst--a kind-hearted foster kid who had a speech impediment and mental age of a boy 4 years younger. Both James and Peters had been seen "taking white pills" at the time of the murder. The only motive offered was that Sawdon resented Hurst because Hurst had dated his girlfriend. He had made several death threats against him. The 3 teens were each sentenced to 15 years' detention. (Source: <http://SheffieldToday.co.uk>)

SHARE, Catherine "Gypsy," 27 ("Manson Family Girls")

Born on 12-10-42 in Paris, France, Cathy Share was the oldest of the "Manson girls." She also came from the most interesting, and perhaps most tragic, background. Her Hungarian father and German mother were members of an underground resistance movement against the Nazis during World War II. Before the war ended, though, they killed themselves in an act of revolutionary suicide. Young Catherine was sent to an orphanage until, at age 8, she was adopted by an American psychologist and his wife.

By all appearances her life for the next several years was relatively uneventful. She attended Hollywood High School where fellow Mansonite, Nancy Pitman, would later go before Cathy dropped out and became an accomplished violinist, as had been her biological father. This all changed when her female adopter, afflicted with cancer, committed suicide during Catherine's teen years. Cathy, as she was called in high school, was then left to care for her blind male adopter until he remarried. It is not surprising that she then began to drift. Having nearly completed a degree in music, she dropped out of college, married, divorced, and wandered around California, picking up bit film roles here and there. It was through one of those roles that Cathy Share met Manson associate Bobby Beausoleil. Cathy, Bobby, and Bobby's wife Gail lived together as a threesome. When Bobby introduced Share to Manson, though, it was love at first sight. Then dubbed "Gypsy" by Manson, she and the others came to live at the Spahn Ranch in the summer of 1968. She quickly became one of Charlie's most loyal fans, using her keen intelligence and storytelling abilities to bring others into the fold, including Leslie Van Houten and Linda Kasabian. Though she has said in recent years that she knew nothing of the murders at the time, it is widely believed she helped bury the remains of Manson victim, Donald Shea, and abandoned his car on a side street in the LA neighborhood of Canoga Park. Gypsy gave birth to her son, Phoenix, on 1-5-71. She has said that fellow Manson Family member, Steven Grogan, was the father. She bounced back from the birth just in time to perjure former friend Linda Kasabian on the witness stand, saying that Linda was the orchestrator of the Tate murders and not her beloved Charlie. In a 1994 interview with prosecutor, Vincent Bugliosi, Share said that she had only said what fellow cult

members told her to say after threatening to drag her behind a truck. Whether that statement is true or not, Gypsy did not exactly stay on the side of law and order following the trial. In the summer of 1971, Share and associates were all arrested for shooting at cops after attempting to rob a gun store in Hawthorne, California. Share was released after serving 5 years and eventually became a born-again Christian in the style of former cohort Susan Atkins. Today she is married to her third husband and lives under an assumed name in Texas. (Source: <http://charliesfamily.tripod.com/gypsy.html>)

SHELLMAN, James, 11

Jimmy Shellman was 11 years old when he killed a 9-year old girl near Afton, Oklahoma, in 1958, and hid the body. He said it happened while in a rage from upon learning his adopter was actually his biological aunt. He confessed to the crime 45 years later, in 2003 ,when he was 56, after a conviction on Burglary and drug charges, at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Joplin, Missouri. (Source: "Delaware County Man Confesses to 1958 Slaying," NewsOK.com, 10-7-03.)

SMITH, Eric, 13

Born in 1981 and adopted by his stepfather, as a toddler Eric Smith threw temper tantrums and banged his head on the floor. Eric's biological mother, Tammy A Smith, said she took a drug to control her epilepsy while she was pregnant with Eric. A psychologist, Stephen Herman, said he's not suggesting that the drug would have caused Eric to be violent, but he does believe the drug caused Eric's ears to be low set and caused his developmental delays, which profoundly affected his self-esteem. He had speech problems, was held back at school, and, for years, his bright red hair and freckles made him a target for bullies at school. As a teenager, he was seen pedaling his bike around town for hours on end--alone. When he asked for help with his anger, his adopter did not seem equipped to give it to him.

Eric's redheaded, freckled baby-faced looks, and his age, were so completely at odds with his horrific crime that he almost got away with murder. In 1994, at age 13, Eric Smith was convicted of choking and battering the life out of 4-year-old Derrick Robie and sodomizing his victim with a stick. He then arranged Derick's body. The left sneaker had been removed and was lying near Derrick's right hand. And his right sneaker had been removed and was lying near Derrick's left hand. It almost looked like the body had been posed in that position. Because of the sexual nature of his crime, the question of whether Eric had been sexually abused was repeatedly raised at trial, but repeatedly denied. However, there was testimony that Eric's older sister, Stacy, was sexually abused by their male adopter.

A jury unanimously found Eric guilty of Second Degree Murder. He was sentenced to the maximum of 9-Years-to-Life in prison. The expert witness psychologist, Stephen Herman, testified that Eric had an explosive Sudden Rage Disorder and low self esteem. "Literally deadly rage and anger," said Herman. "After the episodic rage, the child may appear to be normal." He says Eric's pain and rage overwhelmed him. Eric showed no remorse.

His defense attorney believes Eric Smith should now be released. "The issue isn't what kind of disturbed child was he then," says Attorney Betzjtomir. "The question is what kind of young man is he now? Because that's the question the parole board faces." She credits the enormous change that she sees in Eric to the intensive counseling that he received during the 6 years he was at Brookwood Juvenile Detention Center. Eric was transferred to Clinton Correctional Facility, an adult prison, when he turned 21. His case has been reviewed every 2 years and Eric has repeatedly been denied parole. After several years in prison, Eric finally admitted that he had been sexually abused by his male adopter. (Source: "Why Did Eric Kill?" (CBS 48 Hours, 12-10-04 and 2010 update.

STEIN, Steven, 26

Born 3-6-68 in New Jersey, Steven Stein's 16-year old mother lost him to adoption at birth. During his first year, Steve was first placed in 3 foster homes before his adoption by the Steins who raised him in Phoenix, Arizona. Convicted for a death that occurred during a robbery, he has been on Florida's Death Row since 1994. (Source: Steve Stein, Appellant v. State of Florida, Appellee, Case No. 78,460, 4-7-92; Florida Department of Corrections web-site; and Steven Stein's letters to AmFOR)

STEINMAN, Garry

Garry Steinman's female adopter left when he was 7 and his male adopter cared for him at Lake Michigan. At age 8, Garry stabbed to death a boy for kissing a girl he liked. He served 22-1/2 years in California, Nevada, and New Jersey for Armed Robbery, Burglary, Receiving Stolen Weapons, and admitted to Murders he was never convicted of, as he killed the witnesses. He's now a prison minister and activist for prisoners' rights. (Source: "In Depth: Awakening," *Las Vegas Review Journal*, 6-3-03)

SWARTZ, Michael

Michael was one of 3 children adopted by Kay and Robert Swartz because Kay could not have children of her own. Michael's older adoptive brother, Larry, was convicted of murdering their adopters in 1984 when Kay had case workers remove Michael from their home 9See also SWARTZ, Larry, under "Adoptees Who Killed Their Adopters") Michael had drug and behavioral problems that landed him in the Crownsville Center Hospital Center. In 1990, Michael was convicted First Degree Murder for helping to murder a Crownsville man over a jar of coins. He is serving time at the Maryland Correctional Institution at Hagerstown. (Source: "The Second Life of Larry Swartz" by MarylandMissing, WebSleuths; and "A Sudden Fury" by reporter Leslie Walker)

THOMAS, Douglas Christopher, 17

Born 5-29-03, just after his parents divorced, Douglas Thomas was 2 years old when his mother left him to be adopted and raised by his grandparents. He never knew his biological father.

At age 12, several close relatives, including his adopters, died suddenly. He was shuffled back to his biological mother, though the two of them did not get along. Thomas had an extremely difficult childhood and in 1989, at 16, he attempted suicide. By the time he met Jessica Wiseman, 14, Thomas said he was so desperate for love he would have done anything his new girlfriend told him to do. Wiseman's parents tried to break up the couple and her father threatened to kill him.

On 1-10-00 at age 17, after smoking some marijuana, he murdered James and Katherine Wiseman with a shotgun while they slept. He confessed without advice of counsel while high on drugs and alcohol and was sentenced to Death. Jessica Wiseman, 14, was tried as a juvenile and released when she turned 21. Douglas Christopher Thomas was executed in Virginia on 1-10-00 at age 27. In 2005, the Death Penalty for juvenile was abolished. (Source: <http://www.clarkcountyprosecutor.org/html/death/us/thomas60.htm>)

THOMAS, Nigel

After complaining of abuse at the hands of his male adopter, Nigel Thomas was placed with another family. He was one of 3 teenagers who pled guilty to Manslaughter in juvenile court in connection with the stabbing death of Jason Robinson, 16. Nigel was given a suspended sentence to be served under his male adopter's supervision. (Source: SouthCoastToday.com, 6-10-95)

TOMBS, Jennifer, 16

Adopted as a baby by an unmarried Pastor, Madeline Tombs, Jennifer shot her childhood friend, Tanya Lavallais, in the head 5 times. (Source: "Crime Stories," *CourtTV.com*)

TRIPLETT, Marvin Matthew, 25

Born 4-7-64 in Aiken, South Carolina, and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, Marvin wrote AmFOR that he doesn't know for sure where he was from originally. He requested AmFOR's assistance in locating his sister, Peggy White. At the time he wrote AmFOR, Marvin had been on Death Row 12-years. (Source: Marvin Matthew Triplett's letter to AmFOR.)

TROIANO, James ("Jimmy") Anthony, 18

Born on 5-26-70 in Dorchester, Massachusetts to Judith and Robert Troiano and adopted out of an orphanage at age 4, Jimmy Troiano served 10 months in jail for Burglary before he was charged with aiding Ricky Kasso in the Satanic ritual torture-murder of Gary Lauwer, 17. Fifteen to 30 teenagers were aware of the murder, some were even witnesses, but none breathed a word.

Jimmy was described by teenage school friends as a failure in school, arrested repeatedly for Burglary, and that he "ran, dealt and dusted" with Ricky. Jimmy was always kind of wild, always doing strange things. But he was a nice kid. Initially, Ricky and Jimmy, both on drugs at the time of the murder, were both charged in the Murder. Jimmy was alleged to have held down the victim, while Ricky tortured and stabbed him 30 times. Ricky hanged himself in jail. Jimmy was acquitted of Second Degree Murder. (Source: "Satanic Cult Killing," by David Breskin, *Rolling Stone* magazine online, 1-22-84, p.30.)

VAN DYKEN, Fred Daniel, 26 (aka Long Soldier)

Born 5-4-58 at Helena, Montana, to Native American parents, and named Long Soldier at birth, Fred Van Dyken was later adopted by the Van Dyken family and grew up in Montana. Fred took his mother's name after being reunited with her, and is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) tribe. Convicted of the 1984 shooting death of Missoula Montana Sheriff's Deputy, Allen Kimery, at a traffic stop, Fred Van Dyken was sentenced to Life Without Parole. (Source: *The Missoulian*, 1-22-85, and Long Soldier's own website.)

VAN STRUM, Jordan, 15

Carol Strum said her adopted bi-racial son, Jordan, was mercilessly tormented with "nigger" by kids and adults in rural Oregon. At age 15, Jordan killed a friend's grandfather and was sentenced to 25 years in prison. (Source: "When Teens Fall Apart," *Newsweek*, 3-99, p.43.)

WHITE, Miriam, 11

Miriam White stabbed to death Rosemarie White, a 55-year old hairdresser. At the time of the stabbing, Miriam was living with a woman who hoped to adopt her. She said she ran away because she wanted to be in a juvenile home and not with her adopters. (Source: *Philadelphia Inquirer*.)

WOODRUFF, David Wayne

David Woodruff's mother abandoned him at age 18 months. His father's girlfriend then gave him away to a customer at the coffee shop where she worked. There was evidence of cigarette burns on his legs and diaper area at the time. David Wayne Woodruff and John Joseph Romano received the Death

Penalty for First Degree Murder committed during an armed robbery. (Source: Kansas Courts website <http://www.ks.courts.org/ca10/cases/2001/02/99=6310.rtf>)

WORLEY, Ron, 20

Ron Worley was adopted by his biological grandmother, and was lied to about his parents' identities. He was beaten by his adopter and abused by his adoptive brother. On 4-8-01, he killed Joyce Wroczynsk, afraid she would "tell others he was gay" and he would lose his adoptive family. (Source: "Maximum Sentence: Killer Gets Life Without Mercy," by Rachelle Bott, *Charleston Gazette*, wvgazette.com, 2-28-02)

YUSKOFF, Joe

Born 9-14-64 in Washington state as Joe Hope Valdez, Jr., Joe and his sister, Deann, were together in several foster homes before being adopted together by Dick and Sandy Yuskoff when Joe was 5. Joe found his father as result of accidentally meeting his older half-brother, Shannon. Shannon had been told that their mother, Teri Glace English, was his sister, until he learned the truth at age 18 and never recovered from that shock.

After Joe's parents separated, his father served in Vietnam and he also lost contact with his mother, who formerly lived on the Tulalip Indian Reservation in Washington. Joe and his sister were physically and emotionally abused while in care of foster families as well as by their adopters. At one foster home he was locked in a chicken coup at night while the foster father sexually abused his sister. She still has a tough time with relationships and he still fears the dark.

The Yuskoffs, had no children of their own, treated him and his sister like slaves and forbid them to ask questions about or even mention their biological family. They beat Deann when they discovered she had written a letter seeking contact with her biological parents. Joe was incarcerated 3 times and says he has met many adoptees in prison who have a sense of loss and not belonging-- feelings with which he identifies and for which he sought counseling. (Source: Joe Yuskoff's letters to AmFOR)

Special Cases, Special Victims - Fetus Abductions

From 1987 to the present, there have been at least 15 cases of women so obsessed with wanting a child that they faked pregnancy and then, desperate to produce the baby, killed pregnant women and abducted the babies by cutting the fetus from the mother's womb. In each case, the perpetrators had dysfunctional family relationships. Of particular interest are 3 cases in which the killers are known to be adoptees raised with the idea of "entitlement" to someone else's baby. Missing pregnant women who have not yet been found may have met the same fate.

PIERCE, Darci

Darci Pierce felt rejected by her unknown biological mother and suffered early childhood abuse. According to Michael Stone, a specialist in forensic psychiatry at Columbia University who tracked the case, Darci was desperate to have a child of her own to "prove" she was a better mother than either her adopter or her biological mother, when she kidnapped and killed Cyndy Ray, cutting her open and removing her unborn baby who survived. (Source: "Lullaby and Goodnight" by Dean Hughes, and "Confessions of Crime, Lifetime Cable TV, 5-3-92).

MONTGOMERY, Lisa

Lisa Montgomery's defense attorney told jurors that she suffered from "Pseudocyesis," a false belief of being pregnant and that condition, and the brutal and sadistic treatment she received at the hands of her male adopter, all were at play in Montgomery's mind when she went to Bobbi Jo Stinnett's home to look at a puppy and something horrible snapped. She stabbed the mother-to-be to death and cut out her unborn baby who survived. Montgomery then reportedly went around town showing off the baby as her own. (Source: "Opening Statement, Lisa Montgomery Trial," 10-4-07)

GRAVES, Jennifer Irene

Jemmifer Graves, an adoptee and child care worker, shot Ronnie Katrina Holton in the head and kidnapped Holton's 6-month old son because Graves was obsessed with having a baby (Source: "Baby Crazed, She Shoots Mom for Tot." by Maki Becker, *The Daily News*, 6-29-02)

Adoptaphobia

So great can be the anguish over being adopted and not knowing about one's biological parents and pre-adoption existence that even non-adopted children who fantasize and fear they "must have been adopted" have exhibited "Adopted Child Syndrome" behaviors, even murdering, as in the case of at least two well known serial killers, Gary Gilmore and Arthur Shawcross (as detailed, below). This phenomenon may exist because society views adoption with both curiosity and ambivalence, and bestows superhuman attributes upon the adoptee in children's literature and in mythology (Moses, Hercules, Oedipus, Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, Orphan Annie, Tarzan, The Emerald Forest, Graystroke, etc.). Like the adoptee, the child who falsely believes he is adopted is preoccupied with fantasies about origins and feels helpless with a dual existence.

GILMORE, Gary Mark

Born 12-4-40 in McCamey, Texas, serial killer Gary Gilmore was the second son of Frank and Bessie Gilmore. In the 1960s, upon finding a second birth certificate that stated his name was "Faye Robert Coffman," Gilmore thought he was "illegitimate" or "someone else's son" and *adopted*.

Gary's father had christened him "Faye Robert Coffman" because his father used the name "Coffman" to avoid the law as the family wandered through Texas. His mother claimed that Frank was "the illegitimate son of magician Harry Houdini," which his brother, Mikal, said he believes is false. Gary's father, a con man, gypsy, alcoholic, brutal autocrat and abusive husband who had many previous wives and children he never cared about nor supported, decided that Gary was "not his son" but the progeny of someone who his wife, Bessie, knew. It seemed a way for him to detach from him. Before finally abandoning his sons, he frequently whipped them with a belt. Their mother would not protect them and began to beat them as she was beaten.

In 1976, just after being paroled, Gary killed 2 men on 2 consecutive nights in Utah, and, when convicted, gained notoriety by insisting that he be executed without appeals. On 1-17-77, in Utah, Gary Gilmore was executed by firing squad. (Source: *Associated Press/ AP articles, "Forensic Files/Court TV;" and Wikipedia*)

SHAWCROSS, Arthur J.

Born 6-6-45 in Kittery, Maine and raised in Watertown, New York, serial killer, Arthur Shawcross, wondered if he was adopted. He stated "I don't know any of my life history; I was illegitimate," but

also that his mother was already pregnant and forced to marry, and that she “took it out on him.” He certainly displayed Adopted Child Syndrome behaviors from an early age, including pathological lying, truancy, stealing, fire-setting, sexual promiscuity, under-achievement. He claimed his aunt sexually molested him when he was 9 and that he had sex with his younger sister.

Although the serial killings of mostly prostitutes is attributed to childhood abuse and Vietnam War experiences, he said *“Some looked like my mother.”* Shawcross also carried more than 10 times the normal amount of a brain chemical called kryptopyrole. He died in prison 11-10-08 from a heart attack while serving a Life sentence for Murders of 11 women. (Source: “Misbegotten Son: the True Story of Arthur J. Shawcross,” by Jack Olsen, p. 208, 468; and *Los Angeles Times/AP*, 2-2-91; and “Arthur Shawcross Biography” at [Biography.com](http://www.biography.com))

17. ALTERNATIVES TO ADOPTION

Alternatives to the current system of adoption would include support for families in danger of losing their children for economic reasons, individualized custody (not ownership), kinship fostering, temporary and permanent child guardianship, an open system under uniform fair laws guaranteeing uniform rights, true and uniform birth records, joint public-private partnerships for family preservation and program oversight, and removing financial incentives for separating children from their families.

Kinship Care and Custody

Twenty years ago, joint-lobby efforts by Association of University Women, Planned Parenthood and AmFOR resulted in California becoming one of few states which enacted a "Priority in Placement" statute enabling biologically-related family members, particularly the grandparents, to have priority in placing children whose parents cannot care for them.

Today, under the California Family Law Act, grandparents have rights often referred to as “Grandparents’ Rights,” if the grandparents have established a loving and bonding relationship between the grandparents and their grandchildren, in which case the courts may find it in the children’s “best interests” to allow the grandparents to be joined in contested family law and visitation cases and allow the grandparents custody or a visitation schedule. Yet baby brokers and courts in every state, have more often opted to “send a message” that the child is somehow “better off” adopted by strangers.

Guardianship vs. Adoption

In Washington state, more than 80% of children interviewed in a guardianship survey indicated they were very happy with their guardianship arrangements. About 86% of Washington children remain with their guardian until age 18.”

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The term ‘legal guardian’ means the “caretaker” in the relationship. (42 USC. 675 (7)).” Temporary and Permanent Legal Guardianship, of the elderly, the disabled, and of minor children, actually pre-dates adoption in American law. Temporary Guardianships are for emergency situations. Permanent Child Guardianship can help lessen the separation trauma, sense of loss and identity conflicts that develop when children are adopted, particularly if they are old enough to remember their parents or

cherish their own heritage, because private guardianship allows for the continued involvement of the biological parents in the lives of their children, at the court's discretion. Guardians can be relatives, friends or others who know the child. In California, grandparents may have priority in determining placement of a child for permanent guardianship or adoption. When married, either one or both spouses may be named Guardian. Major decisions regarding school, medical treatment and consent for other major life decisions are made by the Guardian. Parents retain rights such as choice of religion, visitation, consent to adoption, when parental rights have not been terminated.

Accountability

Unlike adoption that requires no monitoring once the adoption is finalized, Guardianship requires accountability. Ada County, Idaho enhanced accountability by establishing a Guardianship Monitoring Program that utilizes community volunteers for oversight as "eyes and ears" of the court to improve accountability as they monitor the care received by the most vulnerable in the population – the elderly, disabled, and minor children. The volunteer "Court Visitors" receive extensive training that provides them the ability to audit accountings, research case files, visit guardians and their wards, and report back to the court. The volunteers are trained in areas such as communications skills, interviewing techniques, abuse identification, physical and mental health issues, and community resources. Since its existence, the program has made huge strides in determining the status of hundreds of people who need help of a guardian or conservator. Reports are more timely, action in problem cases is prompter, and people are better served thanks to this crucial service.

The discovery that relatives will adopt if fully informed of their options came about as result of efforts to create alternative permanency options that built upon the cultural traditions of informal kinship care and informal kinship adoption among African-Americans.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) then defined the term "legal guardianship" as meaning: "a judicially created relationship between child and caretaker which is intended to be permanent and self-sustaining as evidenced by the transfer to the caretaker of the following parental rights with respect to the child -- protection, education, care and control of the person, custody of the person, and decision making. However a 1994 Illinois study by the Delegated Relative Authority (DRA) found that willingness of kin to adopt fell off sharply for children over age 11.

Although the preference for adopting younger children continues, significant gains have been made in the number of older children achieving permanence through legal guardianship. When a child cannot return home, at whatever age, guardianship provides more legal protections for the child not found in adoption, including mandatory reporting, and the child does not permanently lose his biological family connections. Legal guardianship initiatives at the state level have been instrumental in helping thousands of children achieve permanence.

Post-permanency services and supports are important to the long-term success of these placements. Despite that AFCARS data indicated an increasing preference for guardianship in FY 2000 (a 77% increase over FY 1998), guardianship lost popularity amid hype from the adoption industry and may be due to generous cash subsidies available to adopters and the fact that guardianship is not as *profitable* as adoption for public and private agencies and attorneys.

Guardianship Costs and Subsidies

Guardianship is less expensive than either foster care or adoption. Costs of casework services, public

guardianship administration, foster home licensing, and judicial review are no longer incurred when the child welfare case is closed. Without an attorney, the costs to obtain a Guardianship status are small – for instance: court filing fees (usually under \$200); an investigation fee (about \$450) which is used to pay an investigator to determine whether the applicant is an appropriate guardian for the minor child (in Alameda County, California. The main problem with handling this process alone is the requirement that all of the minor's relatives be properly notified of the hearing by "service of process." If the prospective guardian cannot discover the address of the minor's relatives, the form must indicate "due diligence" in attempting to locate them.

There are circumstances which require an attorney to handle guardianship procedures: (1) if the child's parents or some other party is likely to contest the guardianship; (2) if the minor has substantial assets (more than \$5,000); (3) if the minor lives in one state but the prospective guardian resides in another state; (4) if the minor is physically, mentally or emotionally disabled' (5) if the minor is Native American; or (6) if the guardian plans to move the minor out of state. Attorney fees may be charged either as an hourly fee (for example, \$150 to \$300 per hour, depending on the attorney's experience and skill, which may involve from 5 hours to 20 or 30 hours), or for a "flat fee" that may be as little as \$1,000. Clients who cannot afford attorney fees can contact their local volunteer Legal Aid program. In any event, Domestic and even International Guardianship (where allowed) is less expensive than Private or Independent domestic adoption which can range from \$20,000 to \$60,000.

There are different kinds of financial help that a Guardian can obtain to help care for the child: Welfare, Foster Care payments which often pay more than Welfare payments). Kin-GAP (Kinship Guardian Assistance Payment) pays the same as Foster Care Payments if you are related to the child in a dependency case. SSI (Social Security Income) or State Disability (SDI) payments are available if the child has a disability, and also MedicAid (known as Medi-Cal in California).

In one version of "subsidized guardianship," the court appoints co-guardians to act in behalf of a child when the parents cannot do so. Co-guardians may be family friends or relatives. The co-guardian is like a caseworker in a "family preservation project" but with access to the family that no outsider can hope to achieve within time limits imposed on those efforts. (Source: New York City Comptroller, Office of Policy Management, "A Model For Subsidized Guardianship, " by Matthew Grosser, Diane Pausell and Regina Poreda, NY May 1995; Merrill Schwartz, "Reinventing Guardianship: Subsidized Guardianship, Co-Guardians and Child Welfare," Institute of Justice Inc., June 1993).

Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parenting

The courts have struggled with the realities of the child's situation versus the desires of the adults in cases of gay, lesbian and transgender parenting. Presently, one of the gay, lesbian, or transgender partners **adopts** the child of his/her partner, the child being conceived by donor insemination in the case of lesbian co-parents or by a surrogate in the case of the gay co-parents. Again, it is the child who must "adjust" – in this case, not only to the burden of his abnormal status of being a legal fiction with secret origins, but also to his co-parents' struggle for sexual identity and acceptance.

. In 2010, Kansas State University College of Human Ecology Family Studies Professor, Walter Schumm, knew that publishing a study arguing that children of gay parents tend to be gay also is an unpopular thing to do, to say the least. In 2006, Paul Cameron, who admittedly believes gay parenting is injurious to society, published such a paper that was met with virulent response from the academic and popular press. The Southern Poverty Law Center even called him a Nazi. But Schumm's study

is a meta-analysis of existing work. First, he extrapolated data from 10 books on gay parenting, whereas Cameron had only browsed 2 of them and offered no statistical analysis. Schumm noted that he would come across passages on children of gay parents who said they were “adamant about not declaring their sexual orientation at all,” yet these people were categorized as “straight” when the passages could easily imply “gay.”

When Schumm’s study restricted the results so that they included “only children in their 20s” -- presumably after they’d been able to work out any adolescent confusion or experimentation -- 58% of the children of lesbians called themselves “gay;” 33% of the children of gay men called themselves “gay” whereas only about 5% to 10% of the children of straight parents call themselves “gay,” Schumm says. (Source: “Study: Gay Parents More Likely to Have Gay Kids,” by Paul Kix, 10-17-10.)

Why place the burden of adoption “make believe” on a child? Why not raise the child honestly, as his/her guardians, or parent-plus-guardian as the case may be, rather than as “two mothers” or “two fathers” plus a surrogate biological mother, etc? It is not only the legal lies of adoption, anonymous donor-assisted conception, and the surrogate process, that must be addressed, but also the false sense of “entitlement” to someone else’s child as part of the “American Dream” that bad law encourages.

DARLING, Gia

Gia Darling was born a boy in Guatemala. At age 2, he was **adopted** by an American single woman. At age 15, Gia socially transitioned to being female and started taking “street hormones.” Three years later she had breast implants but has not yet had genital “reassignment surgery.” However she has had 45 surgeries to feminize her face and 100 other procedures on hips, buttocks, breasts, chin and cheeks – at a cost of over \$150,000, done by a Beverly Hills plastic surgeon, Dr. Toby Mayer.

Gia Darling has appeared in many porn films and also many television shows. She won the Transsexual Performance of the Year Award in 2006.

And she has **adopted** 2 Maltese babies. (Source: Wikipedia; and <http://farlingmodel.com>)

Adopt A Family

As early as the 1950s, Jean Paton, adoptee and social worker, published adoptees’ stories and issues in *“The Log, Newsletter of Orphan Voyage”* and in her books, “The Adopted Break Silence,” and “Orphan Voyage.”

Referring to adoption as “colonialism,” Paton suggested an alternative may be to “adopt a family.” Paton wrote: “Merge the two families for the good of the child. Let the child have contact with both families with responsibilities shared. Instead of legal conflict, which makes very lucrative profits for lawyers, let there be a core of people who know how to encourage reconciliation in these situations. Let the child know his name from the outset and that he is loved and cared for by everyone involved. For this to succeed, we must learn adoption all over again *and give it a new name*. It is ridiculous for a society to spend thousands of dollars over the custody of one child who needs less conflict rather than more. In the same way that we now advocate getting the government off our backs, let us also get the lawyers, facilitators and lobbyists out of adoption. Instead, let us find wise reconcilers and put them to work. We would save money, save souls of children, and give peace to those who bring them into the world.”

Decades later, The Women’s Alternatives Center’s “Adopt A Family” program was hailed a success (See “Model Programs That Work,” in Part 1).

18. THE OPEN RECORDS and ANTI-ADOPTION MOVEMENTS

*"Before I built a wall I'd ask to know what I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offense;
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That wants to tear it down."*
—Robert Frost, "The Mending Wall"

The Open Records Movement in America, which challenges the falsification and sealing of adoptees' original birth records, was preceded by an Anti-Adoption effort that challenges the constitutionality of adoption itself. To help understand the goals of both movements, one has only to review the meanings of the accepted definitions of the terms associated with these movements, as defined by popular dictionaries. What are now termed "anti-adoption" issues were first advanced by Jean Paton through her writings published in the early 1950s, especially in her *"Log of Orphan Voyage"* newsletter. Webster's Dictionary defines the terms most often used to support sealed records:

- o **privacy** – (the state of not being seen by others)
- o **confidentiality** – (unaccountable)
- o **secrecy** – (concealment; the condition of being secret or hidden; the habit of keeping secrets)

When these terms are used in "privacy laws" and "confidentiality" policies, *against the wishes of the person being "protected,"* or to withhold a record *from the person named in the record*, one must understand WHO and WHAT is actually protected (or unaccountable). **Shouldn't a "show cause" be required to seal a vital record, rather than to open one?**

In response to pro-adoption activists' claims that "sealed records imposed by state law protect the biological mother's privacy, in *Doe v. Sundquist* (1997 FED App. 0051 P) the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit found that information concerning a birth is not protected from disclosure by the Federal Constitution, and privacy does not encompass a general right to non-disclosure of private information. A [biological] parent's privacy, or anyone's, can be adequately protected by tort law, including restraining orders. Statistically, only 1-2% of relinquishing mothers found by their adult adopted children refused contact with them, according to the experience of both state-run and private search-and-reunion entities, many having more than 100,000 registrants annually. The preponderance of mothers searching for their children over the past several decades, and their publicized reunions, would seem to refute the adoption agencies' allegations that the mothers "required anonymity."

Many 1950s and 1960s relinquishing mothers were blindfolded during labor and delivery to *prevent* maternal bonding, yet, decades later, they searched out and were reunited with their adult children - living proof of that failed experiment. Those few mothers who *accept* the adoption industry's permission to legally abandon their children "and never look back" may have a genetic or hormonal "short circuit" - perhaps permanent postpartum depression or separation trauma akin to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), both of which have been reported and which would explain the few who have dispassionately responded "I do not feel I am his/her mother."

The following definition is based on the Merriam-Webster Dictionary 2nd College Edition:

- o **an-ti-adop-tion** - (an-ty-adop-shun) (against adoption) n. 1. the normality of the intact, assisted or extended biological family; adj. to refuse to choose and bring into certain relationship; specifically, to refuse to permit a non-related person or persons to take into the non-related person's or person's family by legal or illegal process and raise as that person's or persons' own child. 2. to reject and not use (the ideas, policies or practices of adoption) as one's own; 3. to not choose adoption (in favor of truer

expressions of custody which do not commodify children and which do not remove a child's equal protection rights for life in exchange for a home and care).

Several countries do not practice adoption. In America, the term “anti-adoption” began to take hold when National Council For Adoption (NCFA) used it to refer to anyone who was in opposition to its policies and activities. NCFA also referred to AmFOR and its thousands of supporters at the time, as “*that small noisy group.*” In “Anti-Adoption Activists Defy Popular Opinion,” by Dru Sefton (*Newhouse News Service*, 8-11-04), readers were asked “Who could oppose placing an unwanted child for adoption?” and answers: “An entire movement, it turns out, fighting with a primal passion to expose what activists insist is adoption’s darker side - the lifelong trauma of mothers coerced into surrendering their babies, adoptees denied their heritage and made to feel they had been unwanted, and, they say, a billion dollar industry that focuses more on money than youngsters’ welfare.”

Who We Are

“Every immoral law must be disobeyed.”

-Jack Kervorkian, “right to die” activist

Both the Open Records Movement and the Anti-Adoption Movement are composed not only of adoption-affected individuals and the organizations that represent them, but also individuals and organizations concerned about violations of basic civil and human rights. People who are “anti-adoption” may also be members of “open records” organizations and vice-versa. “Open records” groups and individuals who were primarily search-support groups began to proliferate and network as they defied government by circumventing sealed records laws to help adoptees and parents to reconnect postadoption. Mouvement Retrouvailles, headquartered in Quebec City, is Canada’s equivalent to the American Open Records Movement.

Open Records Movement Organizations (by year founded):

- o **1954 - Orphan Voyage**, founded by Jean Paton;
- o **1973 - Yesterday’s Children**, founded by Donna Collum
- o **1973 - Adoption Forum**, founded by Penny Partridge
- o **1975 - International Soundex Reunion Registry (ISRR)**, founded by Emma May Vilardi, is the oldest and largest existing free and voluntary reunion registry for adoptees, parents and others.
- o **1976 - Adoptive Parents For Open Records (APFOR)**, founded by Carol Gustafson
- o **1976 - Adoptee Liberty Movement Association (ALMA)**, founded by Florence Fisher;
- o **1976 - Concerned United Birthparents (CUB)**, founded by Lee Campbell;
- o **1978 - The American Adoption Congress (AAC)** was initiated by Jean Paton, who, together with Margaret Lawrence and David Sadoff, comprised it’s first board of directors.. AAC became the umbrella organization for groups that were interested in lobbying for open records legislation, but with changes in leadership were seen more as an umbrella for adoptee-parent search businesses, some netting as much as \$60,000 a year on family search services
- o **1980 - Origins -USA**, co-founded by Mary Ann Cohen and Marsha Riben
- o **1980 - Adoption Triangle Ministries ; 1987 - ALARM Network**, founded by Sandra K. Musser
- o **1989 - Americans For Open Records (AmFOR)**, founded Lori Carangelo
- o **1996 - Bastard Nation**, a new generation of adoptees engaged in open records reform founded by

a Usenet news group that included Shea Grimm, Marley Greiner, Lainie Petersen, Damsel Plum **o 1999 - Adoptees and Birthparents for Open Records Nationwide (ABORN)**, co-founded by Gen Goad and "Jeep Driving Genius." Those who assailed "Jeep's" preference for anonymity were quickly squelched by a reminder that neither are adoptees' true identities known—even to themselves.

Anti-Adoption Movement Organizations (by year founded):

- o 1989 - Americans For Open Records (AmFOR)**, founded by Lori Carangelo, a mother
- o 1998 - Adoption: Legalized Lies**, founded by Jessica DelBalzo who is neither an adoptee nor parent. She was a college student outraged by the civil rights violations inherent in American adoption.
- o 2004 - Mothers In Exile**, founded by Kay Russell. a ,other;
- o 2006 - Pound Pup Legacy**, co-founded by Kerry Semon, RN, and adoptee, and Neils Hogeveen, abused adoptees, is a relative newcomer to the anti-adoption scene and is devoted to uncovering cases of adoptees who have been abused and/or killed by their adopters.
- o 2011 - Adoptive Mothers Against Adoption**, founded by Jody R. Landers, an adopter of 6 children, with the focus being "to recruit 100 adoptive moms to raise funds and create a world where the adoption of orphans is not necessary."

Adopters Against Adoption

Adopters are still lured by the false assurance that "with love, any child can be raised to meet the adopter's expectations." Rhetoric about the benefits of adoption can only be believed if you discount the fact that adopters are subject to the same problems of living as biological parents. Today, adopters may be married, single, well educated or borderline illiterate, lead mainstream or alternative sexual, social and spiritual life-styles, and be of a different race and nationality than the child they adopt. Adoptive couples, like biological couples, may divorce or otherwise abandon the child due to change in finances, substance abuse problems, or disenchantment with the child as his dissimilar personality or so-called "attachment disorder" emerges. **For the past two decades, only 16% of adoptees are being raised in "two-parent" adoptive families** ("Living Arrangements of Children, Fall 1996," Census study report by Jason Fields, released 2001). In the 1970s, adopters were encouraged to tell their children of their adoptions but to "sugar coat" it with a "*chosen child*" story that reinforced their perception of having been first rejected by their original parents. Being "special" isolated them. Now-adult adoptees adopted in the 1970s through '80s are rebelling against the unrealistic expectations and prohibitions of the adoption industry, particularly the expectation of lifelong secrecy as to their origins.

A Brief Chronology of Adopters' Issues

1955 - "THE ADOPTIVE PARENTS COMMITTEE" was the first formal "adoptive parent group" started in the New York City metropolitan area and it is still active today.

1957 - "TRANSRACIAL ADOPTEES GAIN SUPPORT FROM CANADIAN ADOPTERS" - Some adopters involved in intercountry and transracial adoption in Montreal, Canada, started a group. The adopters felt they needed a support group to help them deal with special issues that accompanied these kinds of adoptions. This type of networking rapidly became popular throughout

Canada and the United States.

1960s - "AMERICAN ADOPTERS JOIN SUPPORT FOR TRANSRACIAL ADOPTEES"

Adopters in several cities began to form organizations. Until then, adoption in the United States was almost exclusively restricted to healthy Caucasian infants.

1970s - When adoption expanded to other kinds of children -- those who were older, had developmental disabilities, and were from other countries or of mixed race -- it became evident to adopters that they needed help beyond that provided by agencies.

1980s - "ADOPTIVE PARENTS FOR OPEN RECORDS (APFOR)." headquartered in New Jersey, was becoming very vocal nationwide in support of "open records" for their adult adopted children, and they participated in American Adoption Congress conferences and marches on Washington, assisted adoptees' searches for their biological families, and provided support to adoptees coping with complexities of adoptee-parent searches and reunions and the expression of the normal adolescent need for autonomy and independence, as well as support for cases where adoptees were not told early and learned of their adoptive status later in life. Information and experiences exchanged by the adopters was invaluable.

2000 - "ABOLISH ADOPTION" was first expressed in "*The Open Record*" newsletter, published by Americans For Open Records (AmFOR). AmFOR's website included its "Abolish Adoption" position and its "Abolish Adoption" petition. Adopters began providing their experiences as well in support of "abolishing adoption" for AmFOR's website and "Abolish Adoption" Petition:

- "We adopted a 3-year-old girl, who turned out to have severe Reactive Attachment Disorder. The system was unprepared to support her or us, only to move one more child from "place A" to "place B" and justify their existence." --Jo Cunningham, Lower Lake, California

- "My husband and I have recently adopted an infant through open adoption. I feel that the government should not interfere with the 'birth' parents unless it is a proven case of abuse/neglect" --Gina Mason, Raleigh, North Carolina

- "I'm the adoptive mom and have a firsthand view of damage adoption can do. My adopted daughter has a right to know her 'birth' family but her 'birth' mother refuses and denies this is all true. How could she do this to my lovely adopted daughter?" --Jeanne Johnson

Adopters' Lawsuits Highlight "Wrongful Adoptions"

2000 - "ADOPTIVE FAMILIES CLAIM STATE BETRAYED THEM," by Jill Atwood, *KSL-News* (12-10-00) web.ksl.com/dump/news/cc/dcfs.htm - Several Utah families who opened their homes to the most troubled children in the foster care system, now say they are victims of betrayal by the State of Utah. These families actually adopted these special needs kids with the understanding that the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) would always be there,. But now a lawyer representing 5 of these families in a lawsuit against the state says this is a blatant case of broken promises. They claim social workers deliberately misled them about the true condition of the children, and now the state won't pay money it said it would pay to help treat those kids.

2001 - "ABUSED BOY'S ADOPTIVE PARENTS SUE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES" by Phuong Ly, Staff Writer, *Washington Post* , 11-1-01 - The adopters of a Germantown boy who was tortured by his biological father and the father's girlfriend, in one of the most gruesome abuse cases in recent Montgomery County history have filed a lawsuit against county Social Services officials. The adopters -- identified in court papers as Eric and Catherine Doe -- are seeking \$10-million to pay for

continuing medical expenses of the boy, referred to as Richard Doe, now 10 years old. The Does became Richard's foster parents in April 1997 and adopted him in June 2000."

2001 - "ADOPTION, A CAUTIONARY TALE," by Nancy R, California (therabbits@cox.net). My husband and I adopted two children from birth - Evan, now 13, and Julia - now 11. The adoptions were "open" adoptions and we had met the parents. My son is Caucasian and my daughter Caucasian/Hispanic. They are both beautiful children. The young biological parents filled out the health forms for the adoption process. There were some gross omissions. It was complicated by the fact that our son's mother was herself adopted at age 2. By the time our son was 4, he was seeing a neurologist and was diagnosed with developmental delays of unspecified origins. In the meantime, our daughter who had the colic from hell the first 10 months of her life was not out-growing the "terrible twos." By age 3, I was taking her to see a therapist who diagnosed a "child/parent relationship problem." Our daughter continued to have a hard time of it and at age 6 she came to me with a red mark on her neck and showed me how *she tried to commit suicide by hanging herself*. She cried that night for 4 hours straight. She was put on Prozac. My son had been diagnosed as ADHD and was also on medication for that. Well, it made him psychotic. My daughter was also subsequently diagnosed with partial complex seizures. In the years since our children were adopted, we learned some of the following: Our daughter was born with cocaine in her system (hospital let us leave with her, never telling us). She has an older brother with lots of problems and rage. The mother of my son is a diagnosed "sociopath." His father, now in his early 30s, is barely functional and his mother describes him as having been her "problem child." I love my children and my life wouldn't be as enriched without them. **But I would never adopt again or advise adoption."**

2002 - "ADOPTER EXPLAINS 'WHY I'M ANTI-ADOPTION'" (Interview with Sheila Grove, 12-29-02, who adopted Melody DiLorenzo). Sheila explained: I'm finding out that I'm not alone in my feelings and views. I see more and more adopters supporting 'open records' but I think it's time that adopters also begin an honest dialogue about adoption itself. With AmFOR's help, we told television viewers why my husband and I support her efforts to find our adopted daughter's mother and I said to local prime time TV viewers. 'If I had adopted a dog, I would have known more than I am allowed to know about my own adopted daughter!'" I also see that the problems are not magically cured by opening a sealed record decades after an adoption, nor by our children finally meeting the mother they've never known--though they still need to do so. I knew that our daughter's stab wound was self-inflicted--one of many suicide attempts of the past 3 years, during which she had not found her mother, and which included slashing her own throat and wrists. We told her she was adopted as soon as she was old enough to understand what 'adopted' meant. She seemed to just be resigned to the fact that she was with us. We were misled by the adoption industry that adoption is a 'quick fix' for the child's and parents' problems. And that all a child needs is love to 'adjust' to loss of a biological reality and to strangers becoming her 'new parents' despite that she was so physically and emotionally different from us. Had I to do it over again, I would have opted for Legal Guardianship, or remained a foster parent, rather than burden our daughter and us with the inequities that the adoption system imposed on all of us. I wish we could call adoptive parents "custodial parents" which I think is more correct. We have custody of the child and only that."

2002 - "PARENTS SUE AFTER DISCOVERING ADOPTED CHILDREN HAD BEEN ABUSED" by Shana Gruskin, *Sun-Sentinel*, Florida (7-18-02) "It wasn't until they noticed their then 3-year-old son cringing at the sound of a squeaky bed that the Garcia-Bengocheas suspected something was seriously wrong with the 3 children they'd adopted from the state's foster care system. The sound,

the boy told his adopters, reminded him of the nightly sexual abuse he and his older brothers suffered at the hands of their former foster father, Hector Rosa. A false light was cast on these boys' background by the department,' Block said. 'It was a slick marketing job so they can dump these children on the adopters. And that's what they did, they literally dumped these kids. The boys also broke their adopter's jaw, tried to poison her, and intentionally injured their older, previously adopted brother,' Block said."

2003 - "WRONGFUL ADOPTION" - Adopter, Joanna Block-Gianini, wrote: "I adopted a boy from Connecticut DCYF. After destroying my home and my life, I could take no more and made the state take him back. They tried to charge me with neglect. They couldn't prove it though. I did pay a lawyer a lot of money to not go along with their bullying tactics. This boy told a state social worker he was homicidal and until she asked him 4 or 5 times if he was sure he was homicidal he said he didn't think so. I had him leave my home. My sister, a third year law student, discovered recently that he was on Risperdal. They said it was for PTSD. It is for schizophrenia and I now realize that is what he has definitely. I'm going to pursue a case against the state of Connecticut for "wrongful adoption."

2007 - "ADOPTER SUPPORTS ABOLISHING ADOPTION" - Adopter, Richard T, Elmore, in South Dakota, wrote: "My wife and I cannot have children though we want them very much. We tried everything for 15 years to no avail. Still, I am morally opposed to adoption and would like to see it abolished. Perhaps then fewer people would call adoption "just as good an alternative."

2011 - "ADOPTIVE MOTHERS AGAINST ADOPTION" by Jody R. Landers at <http://jodylanders.com/2011/08/adoptive-mothers-against-adoption/> - Landers, an adopter of 6 children, is mobilizing 100 adoptive moms "to raise funds and create a world where the adoption of orphans is not necessary." Their first project being to raise \$170,000 - one dollar for every mother that lost her life last year in Africa during childbirth - toward preventing the loss of natural moms. Maybe we'll begin to make a statement to the world that we're profoundly touched by adoption. We love adoption but our ultimate goal is that adoption is no longer necessary. Collectively, it could be a powerful statement." Adoptive Mothers Against Adoption have been developing resources such as "Living Goods," revolutionizing health care in Uganda with a model that can scale and spread over Africa. One women posted to Landers' website: "My youthful desire to adopt has been hindered by the very thought that the money I spend to adopt one child could save so many 'birth' mothers' lives."

What Adopters Can Do

"Sealed records are a form of child abuse."

- Sharon Kaplan, BSW, MS, adopter, and Director, Parenting Resources, Tustin, CA.

Nancy Verrier, MA, MFT, adopter, and author of "Primal Wound," writes: "It is important to recognize that the adoptee was present when the substitution of mothers took place. The experience was real. That he does not consciously remember the event should not detract from this truth. S/he is not abnormal, sick, or crazy. His/her feelings are an appropriate response to the most devastating experience one could ever have: the loss of the mother. The adoptee's loss must be acknowledged, validated, and worked through, so that s/he can gain a new attitude toward it and begin to gain a sense of Self (who s/he is), self-esteem (how s/he feels about herself), and self-worth (how s/he believes s/he is valued by others). Only when we set aside our denial, when triad members acknowledge their pain, when clinicians recognize the *differences* between biological and adoptive families, can we proceed to healing with understanding, insight, honesty, and courage." **Never say: "We chose you. Remember: the child was first un-chosen" by the mother and would never choose this.**

“We’ve spent \$100-billion annually incarcerating people.”
-Joel Dyer, “The Perpetual Prisoner Machine.”.

III Prisons

1. FOLLOWING THE DOLLARS

Sales of products produced by the Prison Industrial Complex in 2011 totaled over **\$2.6 BILLION**, while paying prisoners as little as \$2 per day for their labor. The states and federal government spend about **\$74-BILLION** a year on Corrections and nearly 800,000 people work in the prison industry (“Billions Behind Bars,” *CNBC*, 10-11-11). Use of prisoners as slave labor does not make up the deficit from constructing new prisons, now overcrowded in California and elsewhere.. The greater pricetag is the loss resulting from the fact that prisons have replaced the university as the state institution of priority in America.

A recent Bureau of Prisons (BOP) report estimates that federal prisons house roughly 210,000 inmates. Early releases in California ordered by the federal court, still delayed, may require federal authorities for enforcement. The average prison term is about 5 years. Each prisoner costs the system about \$24,000 per year, or \$65.75 per day. The cost to house a prisoner in a state prison varies from state to state from \$24,000 to \$45,000.

To really make a dent in federal spending, and our outrageous incarceration rates, the Department of Justice could support more fundamental changes to our penal system. At a minimum, there should be lenient sentencing framework for non-violent offenders and decriminalization of ‘victimless’ conduct that, if regulated, would provide much-needed tax revenue. At maximum, legalization and regulation of increasingly accepted conduct, like online gambling or use of non-addictive ‘soft’ drugs, would result in cost savings to the Department of Justice.” (Source: “Recession’s Effect on Federal Prison Sentences,” *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, 3-2-11).

The real money is being made by the thriving prison drug trade. Neither prisoners nor authorities hesitate to talk about it openly. Like drug cartels on the street, it’s always been the guards who do most of the drug smuggling in prisons, with less than 10% coming in through visitors. (“Junk in the Joint: The Real Dope of the Prison Drug Scene,” by Jennifer Wynn (et al), *Prison Life Magazine*, Jan-Feb, 1996). The Prison Guards Union is now a major player in politics, especially in California. For example, when Greg Strickland, District Attorney of Kings County, prosecuted some Corcoran guards for the “greet the bus” staging of inmate combat, California Corrections Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) waited until election time and put \$30,000 behind his opponent. Strickland went down. California Attorney General, Bill Lockyear, tried to put through a bill giving him power to police the prison system, telling legislators in Sacramento that local DAs had admitted to him privately they didn’t dare go up against the CCPOA. Boards of Corrections in many states have proven to be totally ineffective in providing oversight. They police their own, shutting out researchers, media, public officials, the public, avoiding scrutiny and accountability. The trade-off is that closed prisons must deal with violence, corruption, racism, boredom, and other problems exacerbated by overcrowding. (Source: The Gulag Paradigm, by Alexander Cockburn, *Albion Monitor*.)

Privatization, A Double Edged Sword

"There is a host of intellectuals and others who believe that sacrifices of freedom are needed in the name of efficiency."

—Raymond Blackburn, U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Privatization and the Prison Industrial Complex is not necessarily the answer to government inefficiency. Like the adoption industry, the prison industry avoids public scrutiny of its day to day abuses to its captives and of the illicit activities of their captors. And because it has been advantageous to use prisoners as free or cheap slave labor, prisoners, like adoptees, have become a commodity subject to "supply and demand." More than a decade ago, nationwide investigations of federal agents and federal state prosecutors revealed they have knowingly hidden evidence and done other illegal acts - often leading to wrongful convictions, retrials and appeals that cost taxpayers millions of dollars. Tax money is also diverted from the housing and rehabilitation of prisoners to salaries of staffs characterized by high turnover and graft (in "Federal Prosecutors Routinely Break the Law," *Los Angeles Times*, 11-22-98, p. A-24) and "Hidden Evidence Problem Tackled" (*Los Angeles Times*, 1-11-99, p.A-10)

Privatized or Managed Care means negotiated quality of care for a specific segment of the population for a negotiated price. The argument for privatization stresses cost reduction, whereas arguments against it focus on standard of care and the question of whether a market economy for prisons also lead to a market demand for prisoners (tougher sentencing for cheap labor, as is the case in poorer Southern states). One, if not the key issue, is who designs the managed care system.

The three leading corporations in the private prison business in the U.S. are the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), the GEO Group, and Cornell Companies. Such private companies comprise what has been termed "the Prison-Industrial Complex." The evil legacy of "efficiency" through privatization is easily hidden. An example of a privatized "Super Max" prison of the future, at Huntsville, Texas, was shown on *the ABC-News* special "Nightline" series, "Crime and Punishment, Part II." Termed an "Ad Seg" (Administrative Segregation) prison, the prisoners are considered too dangerous to live in the general prison population. Over \$2-billion of federal prison construction funds was spent, primarily in Texas, where there is no pay for prisoner labor and fewer prisoners are released early. As a result, the prison population tripled within 7 years and there was increased violence, gangs, and killing of prisoners and guards. With no human contact, the inmates placed in solitary confinement were suffering from acute sensory deprivation. Only 13% of Ad Seg prisoners were incarcerated for Murder. Most were incarcerated for Burglary and for drugs and were sent to Ad Seg because they caused trouble in prison or were victimized and requested solitary confinement to avoid assault and sodomy. It's a constant routine of restraints and strip searches, with the ever-present threat of chemical restraint (pepper spray in the eyes) if the prisoner doesn't immediately comply.

In privatized prisons correctional officers are often poorly trained, underpaid and in fear themselves. With a starting salary of \$18,000 per year, guard training time was reduced and standards were inevitably lower. In "Private Prisons: Are They The Answer?" (*Albuquerque Journal*, 9-27-98, A-1), Loie Fecteau reported: "Many tout efficiency of privately run institutions, but others question accountability of the growing industry." Opponents of the trend toward private prisons, such as Democratic gubernatorial challenger Martin Chavez, said real costs of using private prisons to house inmates are unknown. Opponents of private prisons, like Chavez and Senator Cisco McSorley (D-Albuquerque) said private prison operators are interested primarily in the bottom line. The new prisons are understaffed and guards are inexperienced." The privatized Corrections Corporation of America

(CCA), unregulated and unaccountable until 1998, so mismanaged its Ohio prisons that prisoner deaths resulted.

"FOX Files," (*FOX TV Network 7-30-98*) reported the brutality and killings at the \$40 million Ohio prison privately run by CCA. Prisoners of varying violence levels were transferred there from overcrowded Washington, DC prisons, and inexperienced guards were hired with no regulatory entity to oversee the prisons. CCA had reported \$54-million in profits in the previous year. Despite that some private prisons have pioneered innovative programs, such as the therapeutic drug treatment program at the women's prison owned by Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) in Grants, New Mexico, the problems have outweighed the benefits. CCA reportedly manages 82 prisons with 73,000 beds in 26 states, including Puerto Rico, Great Britain and Australia — raking in about \$500-million annually. No other company has benefitted more from the private prison boom yet been so plagued by under staffing, high turnover, and lax security.

Ten times more inmates have escaped from CCA facilities than from California prisons. In Youngstown, Ohio, a class-action lawsuit by prisoners forced CCA to improve conditions but CCA was again under fire after the deaths of prisoners transferred from Connecticut prisons to their Virginia facility.

For counties, the appeal of private prisons is a matter of economic development — creating prison jobs and property tax revenues. But low-paying prison jobs and tax collection are offset by the loss of far more wage earners and taxpayers who remain incarcerated for unnecessarily long periods without rehabilitation opportunities due to under-staffing and cost-cutting efficiency. CCA is the sixth largest corrections system in the United States and wants to be the largest. In the fall of 1998, Tennessee residents were subjected to CCA's television commercials that featured employees cast in idyllic scenes.

Public service messages on TV promising phantom savings were a new step in the uninterrupted national push by Nashville-based CCA to take over the operation of more prisons and jails from state and local governments. Yet from Ohio to Tennessee, the public and lawmakers have been increasingly vocal about alleged CCA wrongs, including escapes, substantial personnel turnover, and poor employee training.

The loss of public scrutiny exacts a higher cost. The *Los Angeles Times* reported (on 3-15-02) that California Governor Gray Davis "is ending California's experiment with privately operated prisons, fulfilling his promise to the state's Prison Guards Union that spent \$2.3-million to elect him." The state spent roughly \$500-million to build *each* of its 33 prisons. In 2010, California prisons were *still* at 190% of capacity, according to the Department of Corrections.

Politicians' "tough on crime" rhetoric incited voters to pass legislation such as California's "Three Strikes" law intended to require longer sentences for repeat offenders who commit violent crimes, but instead, longer sentences were also handed to "third strikers" who committed non-violent crimes, and thereby "make jobs" by building more prisons and hiring more prison guards, backfired as prison overcrowding - 170,000 prisoners in California's 33 prisons when the capacity was 100,000, and in the midst California facing bankruptcy. The overcrowding also led to increased violence and a prison health system that caused deaths because the prisons could not adequately care for its inmates. The situation led the California courts (in *Plata v. Schwarzenegger*, and *Coleman v. Schwarzenegger*) to order early release 27% prisoners for whom the states can no longer provide adequate care, citing the Eighth Amendment against cruel and unusual punishment.

U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson seized oversight of the prison healthcare network in

2006 and put a court-appointed receiver in place to carry out a thorough reform of the system, in which inmates were dying of curable or avoidable conditions at the rate of one a week.

In February 2009, federal judges tentatively ordered California to release tens of thousands of inmates, up to a third of all prisoners, in the next three years, to stop dangerous overcrowding. As many as 57,000 could be let go if the current population were cut by the maximum percentage considered by a three-judge panel. Judges said the move could be done without threatening public safety -- and might improve a public safety hazard. Then-Attorney General Jerry Brown, said he would appeal the final ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court. A panel led by Court of Appeals Judge Stephen Reinhardt, wrote: "There is no relief other than a prisoner release order that can remedy the constitutionally inadequate medical and mental health care,"

In August 2009, the judges ordered California to release nearly 43,000 prisoners in next two years. California's prisons are so overcrowded that the state is violating inmates' constitutional rights, three federal judges ruled.

In October 2009, Then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger put a lot of new bills into law, including one to release 20,000 to 25,000 inmates from California prisons. It was estimated that this would save the state about \$270-million though it's still less than the 40,000 prisoners that the panel of federal judges ordered the state to release. California lawmakers passed *\$1.2-billion* in cuts to the state prison system that envisioned some early releases of inmates. But they put off deciding specific details amid harsh resistance by law-and-order advocates who fear any mass release of prisoners would endanger public safety. California prison officials, facing severe overcrowding and a financial crisis, have been granting early releases to inmates serving time for parole violations

So, in 2010, the U.S. prison population fell slightly, for the first time in 38 years – at a time when veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars will be competing with the released prisoners for jobs. Many released inmates would previously have headed for halfway houses or transitional homes until they can find work or a place to stay. But most of these homes are already filled to capacity and early releases are putting a squeeze on those resources. Some expect to see more tent cities popping up. Early releases will also impact parole officers and police whose numbers have already been cut back.

In 2011, Californians agreed with their re-elected Governor, Jerry Brown ("Poll Shows Support for Brown Plan," *The Desert Sun/AP*, 1-27-11, front page) – A majority of California voters said they would pay higher taxes *for education funding but not prisons*. The voters overwhelmingly oppose paying more for California's overcrowded prison system, although only 22% knew that schools account for about 42% of general fund spending in FY 2010-11, while the prison system accounts for just 10% of the general fund.

United States Supreme Court Justice, Clarence Thomas, dissenting against the majority, together with Justice Antonin Scalia, rendered a disturbing opinion that drew a fallacious distinction between official sentences and conditions within a prison, when, in 1983, Keith Hudson, a prisoner at Louisiana State Penitentiary, was beaten by guards while in shackles as a form of "punishment" for verbally quarreling with another inmate. Thomas argued that although abuse by prison guards is "deplorable and perhaps criminal," it did not fall within the Eighth Amendment's meaning of "punishment." The Justice Department, Human Rights Watch, and the ACLU disagreed with Thomas. So did Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in her stinging rebuke: "To deny the difference between punching a prisoner in the face and serving him appetizing food is to ignore the concepts of dignity, civilized standards, humanity, and decency."

Florence Prison in Florence, Colorado, was supposed to be a \$200-million high-tech "model

prison" to replace the infamous lock down prison at Marion, Illinois which followed the German Stanheim example of coercive "behavior modification units." After a decade of stinging lawsuits and public protests, the new 552-cell men's "control unit" at Florence was near completion in 1994. However, instead of reforming the punitive Marion model of total isolation and sensory deprivation, Florence Prison intensified it. Florence represents the cutting edge of social control in response to political reaction to urban decay and a growing underclass—as we are seeing today—while the Federal Prison Industries (UNICOR) racks up millions in annual sales from cheap, obedient, and stable labor, producing everything from office furniture to guided missile components.

Data Collection

Although it is known that the United States imprisons more people than any other country in the world, there is a lack of sufficient, reliable data on prison conditions and prisoners, just as there is lack of data about other closed systems in the United States. Although, through intervention of Amnesty International, the United States prides itself on its more humane treatment of prisoners than in some other countries, sentences have always been longer and harsher than for the same crimes in some other countries. "Tough on crime" legislation and lengthier sentences are "safe" political positions because there is rarely opposition—as long as costs are not discussed. In the Danish prison system, there is an openness and an absence of defensiveness, which is not characteristic of most other prison systems.

The 1998 Beres-Griffith study (by Professors Linda S. Beres and Thomas D. Griffith) evidenced that California's "Three Strikes," intended to lengthen sentences for *violent* repeat offenders but which has also been applied to non-violent repeat offenders, **did not reduce crime** for several reasons. Also, there are older felons who have had more time to accrue "Three Strikes" and are now in prison while younger felons on their first or second strike seem undeterred by "Three Strikes" law.

A "Crime Index," known as the NICK Computer Database, has been maintained by the FBI for many years. Also, the National Sex Offender Registry database for community notification, created in response to Megan's Law, and which was deemed an inaccurate and unconstitutional reporting system, led to requiring offenders to provide a sample of their DNA to a National DNA Databank to help catch repeat felons faster, which means prisons will fill up even faster. The technology is available and has been implemented to produce a "Crime Index" to improve police capability to solve crimes. There is no reason for the continued lack of a computerized "Prison Index" to rate *prison conditions* in the public interest, just as there is no legitimate excuse for lack of automated and sufficient data collection on foster and adopted children—including how many there are, in and out of prison.

2. FOSTER KIDS and ADOPTEES IN PRISON

It is commonly known that the majority of inmates in our nation's state prisons are former foster kids. **Two-thirds of prison inmates had been in foster care** (Source: "Sex, Drugs and No Place To Go." *Los Angeles Times*, 2-18-94, A-38). Almost 70% of inmates in California State Prisons, the largest prison population of any state, are former foster kids. Statistics of this type surprised no one, perhaps because foster kids had, up til the 1940s, been branded as "orphans, bastards and illegitimate, street kids and petty criminals." So, in more recent times, crime rates attributed to foster kids were touted as support for the "adoption option." But now we are also seeing adopted children in juvenile

detention and adult adoptees in every state prison. For example: **70% of male inmates at the Monroe correctional facility in Washington State were adopted.** And they are committing more serious crimes. June Idler, Interstate Juvenile Compact, in California, cited "**40% of all felonies committed by juveniles were by adoptees.**"

No one knows the total number of adoptees in prison because adoptive status is seldom documented in police reports, prisoner case files, or at trial. According to Judy Bellin of the American Civil Liberties Union, while we know about foster kids, men, women, Blacks, the mentally ill, and others in prison, prisons do not maintain data on incarcerated adoptees. She states that she has reviewed hundreds of Death Row inmates' files and recalls "only one or two" who she knew were adopted as children. This writer found many adoptees on Death Row in various state prisons but many more adoptees serving Life sentences as result of plea bargaining to avoid a Death sentence for their crimes and who have also contributed their unscripted narratives to this book. Whatever their crimes, there appears to be an over-representation of adoptees in prison compared to the general population. (Source: ACLU Sentencing Project, Washington, D.C.. and "Incarceration and Insanity" in "America Behind Bars: A Comparison of International Rates of Incarceration"),

The revelation that not only foster kids but also adoptees are more likely to commit crimes than the general population has been an impossible pill for the general public to swallow, as special interests continue to escalate efforts to obtain federal funding to promote and increase adoptions. The very existence of *any* number of adoptees in prison seems an oxymoron. How can this be? Aren't adoptees the "lucky" ones who were "rescued" from the taint of poverty, neglect, abuse, and being stigmatized as "illegitimate" and "bastards?" Weren't they "reborn" and "chosen" to be raised in loving, nurturing ideal two-parent adoptive homes and given educational and career opportunities?

. State laws do not require monitoring once the adoption becomes final—usually within a year from date of placement. According to Eunice Baker, former adoptions social worker at The Children's Center (Hamden, Connecticut), "If the adopters didn't contact the agency to report a problem, it was assumed no news is good news." Public defenders, judges, and jailers usually fail to see the "relevance" of adoptive status, and the accused perpetrator often does not volunteer this information. But the numbers reported by organizations such as AmFOR who have responded to incarcerated adoptees seeking their biological families, do appear significant enough to be categorized as an "over-representation" of adoptees in our nation's prison population. Washington Adoptee Rights Movement (WARM) has helped a number of adopted inmates with their family searches. AmFOR has probably assisted the largest number of incarcerated adoptees who have committed a wide array of crimes, from petty theft to serial killings. The numerous stories of adoptees' criminality and the reasons for their behaviors – both from media reports and from incarcerated adoptees themselves -- reveal only the tip of the iceberg.

At the 1998 American Adoption Congress Conference held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, an adoption researcher gave a workshop called "Adoption and Criminal Behavior." She had been working with several female inmates from Broward County Correctional Institution, a women's prison in Florida. The researcher learned from a prison chaplain and a resident psychiatrist at the facility that **40% of the female inmates were adoptees – and 80% of these adoptees represented violent crimes.** Yet the United States, which has the largest incarceration rate of any country in the world has, at the same time, been accelerating closed adoptions. This is not to say that all adoption-affected individuals act out their feelings on society by committing crimes. **As psychologist Annette Baran explains, "If you're strong, you cope; if you're not, you don't."** Each of us has different coping limits, and

different ways of expressing or internalizing emotional pain.

Not only does the system "create monsters" by filling our prisons with former foster kids and adoptees in need of rehabilitation, but also it creates more foster kids and adoptees as a result of warehousing their parents. So many men in our inner-cities are incarcerated that it has become increasingly difficult to create and sustain a two-parent family. According to Cynthia Beatty, in "Parents in Prison, Children in Crisis: An Issue Brief" (CWLA Press, imprint of Child Welfare League of America, 1977, p. 20);

A felony conviction often results in divorce, termination of parental rights, and if children are present at the time of the parent's arrest, police may take the children to the police station, and attempt to contact adults suggested by the arrestee, or arrange for the Child Welfare agency to take custody. Consequently, the children may be informally placed with friends or relatives, or they may be placed in foster homes or group care facilities through the Child Welfare system. Over 50% of inner-city children have a parent who is in jail, in prison, on probation, on parole, or in hiding because of an outstanding arrest warrant. About 90% of children of incarcerated fathers continue to live with their mothers. But if the mother, as sole care-giver, is arrested, generally the child will experience multiple out-of-home placements, separation from his or her siblings, loss of financial support, and barriers to visitation. Chances are good that a new generation of criminals is created in the process.

Social work policy suggesting that "every child is entitled to a permanent family" prompts the caseworker, and the court upon caseworker recommendation, to focus more on "freeing the child for adoption" rather than on reunification efforts or legal guardianship which can offer the same permanence; 25 states have termination of parental rights or adoption statutes that explicitly pertain to incarcerated parents who may be easily coerced to permanently relinquish these rights "in the child's best interests"—despite the fact that the nonviolent offender may, at some point, be able to resume parental responsibilities and that the child may express need for contact with that parent in the meantime. In contrast, the crimes of procurers (baby brokers) are swept under the seal of secrecy. These crimes include fraudulent misrepresentations, coercion, and duress to obtain signed relinquishments of parental rights. "Adoption 2002" is a federal push for even faster "fast tracking" for not only older foster kid adoptions but *all* adoptions. Social workers have been known to ignore statutory requirements concerning the revocations of hasty relinquishments intended to safeguard rights of parents and children.

The majority of people behind bars were in state prisons, and racial disparities were profound. Black males were incarcerated in record numbers—a total of 791,600 Black men; nearly 1 in 8 Black males between the ages of 20 to 34, were in prison on any given day, accounting for 79% of all state prison drug offenders. Despite a dramatic drop in the nation's crime rate since 2000, America continues to incarcerate vast and growing numbers of prisoners — and increasingly imprisons younger and younger offenders "as adults," alongside hardened criminals. The most punitive states have been primarily in the South, while states ranked least punitive tend to be in the North and Northeast, no doubt due to the racial aspect of punishment and southern conservative ideology. Approximately 300,000 mentally ill people are admitted to jails and prisons each year—5 times the number admitted to state mental hospitals (cited by United States Department of Justice in the *Los Angeles Times*, 9-27-98):

One in 14 inmates is estimated to be mentally ill, or on minor charges, or on no charges at all; 60% of men and 70% of women arrested since 1998 were incarcerated on drug charges (usually cocaine and methamphetamine). On any given day, over 100,000 women are held in jail or prison. Most of these are substance abusers. Their criminal behavior is linked to their addiction. The typical male or female

offender has been physically or sexually abused and is from a single parent home in which at least one family member has been incarcerated; 69% of male offenders had an income below poverty level.

The California Youth Authority, which teaches all of its wards, reports that most read far below grade level. About 70% of repeat offenders are illiterate. On *NBC's Today* show (hosted by Katie Couric, 6-29-98), it was reported: "With 20% cut from the Mental Health Budget, half of homeless are the mentally ill. No longer forced into hospitalization, the mentally ill are not being properly treated." Forced treatment is demeaning and doesn't work; 2.5-million have schizophrenia, a brain disease; schizophrenics are rarely violent. Violent offenders could receive treatment by court order.

Some states, including California since 1996, have restored judge's discretion in sentencing. The United States imprisons 565 persons per 100,000 population, which is six to ten times higher than the percentage rate in most countries.

Children become hostages when their parents are incarcerated. Children are usually not present when a parent is arrested and are not factored into criminal justice system statistics. The best estimate, according to a 1999 *New York Times* article, is that 2-million children under the age of 18 are left behind on any given day. Most have incarcerated fathers, but the Bureau of Justice statistics estimates 200,000 children have mothers behind bars, many for non-violent such as supporting a drug habit. The number of children with both parents serving time is unknown. The *New York Times* article also estimated that an additional 5-million children have parents who have been incarcerated and are on probation or parole. Amnesty International reported an increasing number of children whose rights are abused in American courts and prisons ("Activists Say Courts Abuse Rights of Juvenile Defendants," *Los Angeles Times*, 11-13-98).

Today, "tough on crime" politicians respond to juvenile crime by urging that children be sentenced "as adults." The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) "Briefing Paper on the Death Penalty" reminds us: "In 1989, the Supreme Court ruled Constitutional the execution of 16- and 17-year old (though not 15-years old) juvenile murderers. The Court likewise upheld the Constitutionality of executing mentally retarded people. Although juries are permitted to consider retardation as a mitigating factor, any people on Death Row today are mentally retarded. The Court has held that the Eighth Amendment prohibits execution only if the illness prevents the person from comprehending the reasons for the death sentence or its implications."

The Innocence Project at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City was created by Barry C. Scheck and Peter Neufeld in 1992. It remains a nonprofit legal clinic which only handles cases where post-conviction DNA testing of evidence can yield conclusive proof of innocence. The Innocence Protection Act, signaling bipartisan consensus in February 2000, is a strong measure requiring states to provide qualified and experienced lawyers to all defendants facing the Death Penalty and affords greater access to DNA testing by convicted offenders. As of January 2012, there have been 284 DNA exonerations - 139 DNA exonerations by the Innocence Project (according to Innocence Project website). DNA testing played a role in only 10% of total number of exonerations. Recent Death Penalty studies, such as the landmark Columbia Law School study, "A Broken System," have found that inadequate representation—including lack of standards and resources—is the most common reason for reversal of Death sentence convictions

Because access to legal assistance and outside contacts in general are essential for preservation of one's legal rights, bans on contact, facilitated by prisoner websites raised the hackles of the American Civil Liberties Union (first reported by the *Chicago Times*, 2003), which contends that "prisoners have a legal right to receive mail, whatever its origin." CCADP Director Director, Tracy Lamourie, was

quoted as agreeing that maintaining contact with the outside world via websites can benefit the prisoner's mental health. Subsequently, the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) stated that, effective 6-1-07, inmates would be prohibited from using pen pal web-sites, citing concerns of fraud. Since most DOCs post inmate information on DOC's prisoner locator web-sites, accessible to the public, critics claim this is a moot point. Service providers such as <http://WriteAPrisoner.com>, together with the ACLU, are challenging the ban in federal court. Web-sites that were still considered "okay" included <http://talesfromthecells.com>. AmFOR responded to Florida and Missouri wardens who had threatened to punish incarcerated adoptees with administrative segregation – known as "the hole" -- who do not remove their web pages that were provided by AmFOR at no charge. AmFOR wrote to the wardens that the inmates had no way of removing the webpages themselves, and that AmFOR had been providing incarcerated adoptees, many abandoned by their adopters and friends upon incarceration, with personal web pages primarily for the purpose of telling their stories and helping to facilitate contact with their unknown biological families. Several adoptee-parent reunions had resulted. The webpages required constant editing as inmates updated their information or had been found by their families who "Googled" their names and landed on AmFOR's "Adopted Prisoners" pages.

But in late 2001, when Incarcerated adoptee, Dwayne Miller, wrote AmFOR that he was given 30 days to be removed from AmFOR's Adopted Prisoners website or be put "in the hole," AmFOR took down *all* of the prisoners' web-pages, leaving only the main page for public information on the plight of incarcerated adoptees, in general, and referencing *Chosen Children* as an extensive compilation regarding adoptee and prisoner issues and their personal stories. This was not only to prevent unlawful punishment of inmates who had web pages while ACLU's litigation on the matter is pending, but also because most of the individuals' web pages that had been posted for several years were becoming outdated as inmates completed their sentences and were released. Also, Internet hackers and plagiarists had been posting AmFOR's pages as their own, even mis-categorizing non-felons as "serial killers."

Trying a Child "As An Adult" Doesn't Make Him One

With the 2005 Supreme Court ruling abolishing the execution of child offenders, the U.S joined the international consensus rejecting this cruel and inhuman punishment. Prior to the decision, [in *Roper v. Simons*] the U.S. was one of only 6 countries in the world in which the juvenile Death Penalty was lawful and had been responsible for 4 out of the 6 juvenile executions worldwide since 2002. ("U.S. Supreme Court Ends Child Executions," *New York Times*, 3-1-05).

But states can still opt to prosecute children "*as adults*" in order to obtain harsher sentences, and also resulting in children being housed in adult prisons with adult predators where they are not safe.

Roger Helm was 14 when he was tried "as an adult" in Arizona for the murders of both of his adopters and his 16-yr. old adoptive sister in their sleep while he was high on LSD. Roger's case was riddled with errors that raise constitutional issues. He was sentenced to 88 years in prison.

Prison Marriages

A *Los Angeles Times* front page feature (10-18-96) cited marriages of notorious individuals while on Death Row, including serial killer, Richard Ramirez (the "Night Stalker"), and the fact that the women came to them after the killers were imprisoned and despite the unlikelihood of their release. The only compilation on serial killers who married after incarceration was by Radford University Department

of Psychology, Radford, Virginia. It documented yjr date and duration of the marriages and the name and occupation of the women who married each of 13 serial killers, including adopted killers Bundy, Bianchi and Buono. The only known prison survey, conducted in the 1980s when California's inmate population was only 59,000, yielded 937 such weddings, although about 1800 prison marriages were estimated to be the "average rate," and by the mid-1990s the subject of gained media attention.

The only states allowing conjugal visits at this time are California, Connecticut, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York and Washington. TV Talk Show host, Jerry Springer, advised (on "I Can't Stop Dating Convicts," 10-21-96), "It's maybe okay to date someone who's been in jail, but it's not okay to date someone *because* he's been in jail."

There have been divorces following prison marriages reported by adoptees incarcerated for Murder and who contributed their stories to this book (Matthew Heikkila DiBenedetto and Roger Helm). Also, 2009, Michael Getty who was incarcerated for Armed Robbery and Prison Escape and who was about to be released on parole, wrote that he and he and his wife were about to begin their new life together. They met and married while he was incarcerated. He had studied while in prison and was prepared for the job that was waiting for him, so he may be right when he wrote in his last letter: "It's enough to say that I've made it back out to the 'real world' and that I'm one of those adoptees who is going to overcome his adoption and imprisonment in a huge way and be a success case."

3. PLAYING THE PRISON RACE CARD

It was not until 2008 that two prisons in the Sierra Nevada foothills of California, Sierra Conservation Center in Jamestown and Mule Creek State Prison in Lone, became the first prisons to stop considering race when making cell and bunk assignments. All 30 male prisons in California were scheduled to comply by 2010. Back in 1996, *Los Angeles Times* brilliant investigative reporter, Mark Arax, described "gladiator days" disclosed by whistle blower guards whereby the power of the Prison Guard Union in California and its legions of lawyers permitted guards at Pelican Bay and Corcoran to house rival gangs together, knowing they would fight to the death. The guards would then shoot prisoners "for sport," and still be promoted. They blamed under-staffing for inability to control 4,000 to 5,000 inmates trying to kill each other during prisoner uprisings, but they do not address the root cause of prisoner uprisings. Although the cure for crime is not more prison beds and more juvenile lockups but doing something about juveniles at the school level before they get there. Prison reforms are coming too late for those now in overcrowded prisons and for those who are coming into the system daily.

4. ABUSE OF PRISONERS

Abuse of Female Prisoners

Sheila Hotchkin and Mark Arax reported (in "Widespread Abuse of Female Inmates Cited," *Los Angeles Times* 3-5-99, A-3), that a study released by the human rights group, Amnesty International, cited unacceptable conditions, including sexual assault by male guards, in many prisons and jails for female inmates whose numbers have more than tripled in the last 15 years, especially in California which has the two largest women's prisons in the world - Central California Women's

Facility and Valley State Prison for Women, across the street from each other in Chowchilla, California.

In "Jailers Wrongly Drugged Them, Say Women Prisoners," (*San Francisco Chronicle*, 2-15-93), Suzanne Espinosa reported that " more than 40 women imprisoned in California are pushing to overturn their convictions, claiming county jailers unnecessarily medicated them with powerful anti-psychotic drugs that impaired their judgment and interfered with their ability to defend themselves in court. Drugging for behavior control in jails is prohibited by state law but the law is hard to enforce or even investigate because jail medical procedures vary from county to county.

In October 2000, a California state legislative committee heard 15 inmates describe "grave medical problems" at both Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) and Valley State Prison (VSPW). Yet the physician representing the California Department of Corrections (DOC) stated she felt the female inmates "were getting the best care possible." Two months later, by December 2000, 7 female inmates had died at CCWF in the midst of criticism for its medical care. Judy Greenspan, of the San Francisco Advocacy group, Prison Focus, maintained that many of the women who died in the past 45 days had serious or chronic illnesses but their deaths "were precipitated by inadequate care."

Abuse of Male Prisoners

For the past 40 years, inmate sexual assault has been called the "extra punishment anyone sentenced to prison can expect" (Weiss & Friar, 1974) and continues to terrorize certain inmates. A study by the University of South Dakota showed 21% of inmates are sexually assaulted in prison. The New York City-based Human Rights Watch reported that a survey of prison guards (in a southern state not identified) showed **1 out of 5 inmates are victims of forced sex**. Although the problem of inmate sexual assault has been known for 40 years, and even joked about on tv sitcoms, the body of evidence has failed to be translated into effective intervention strategies, for treating inmate victims and for ensuring improved correctional practices and management, let alone prevention. There's also the underlying mistaken belief that if you're in prison and report that you've been sexually assaulted, that you somehow caused this to happen to you, similar to how sexual assault of non-incarcerated women was treated 25 years ago. The rate of transmission of HIV and STDs from sexual assault is unknown and subject the incarcerated to the possibility of an "un-adjudicated Death sentence." ("Breaking the Silence," 1995).

A 1996 law, barring the Federal Legal Services Corporation from financing legal aid organizations that represent prisoners, reduced the number of lawyers available to litigate on behalf of inmates. That same year the Prison Litigation Reform Act made it far more difficult for inmates to challenge the conditions of their confinement, with over two million Americans incarcerated nationwide. Only Texas, Ohio, Florida, Illinois, and the Federal Bureau of Prison search reported more than 50 sexual assaults per year in response to a Human Rights Watch request for information. But in one study of inmates (in *Prison Journal*, December 2000) 7 men's prisons in 4 states found that **21% of their prisoners reported at least one episode of forced sexual contact since being incarcerated and at least 7% reported that they had been raped**.

In "Little Sympathy or Remedy For Inmates Who Are Raped," (*New York Times*, 4-15-00), Tamar Levin wrote that, "While rape [of male prisoners] is accepted as 'a fact of prison life,' the subject has received little attention and legal remedies are rare. Few prison rapists are ever prosecuted, and most prisons provide little counseling or medical attention for rape victims, or help in preventing such attacks." In 2000, "As the population of incarcerated inmates continues to swell to record

proportions in the U.S., the problem of inmate sexual assault continues (“Inmate Sexual Assault: The Plague That Persists,” by Robert W. Drumond, *The Prison Journal*, Vol. 80, No. 4, 12-2000, p. 407-414). Although no one is immune from such attacks, there are known characteristics that place inmates at increased risk of victimization. The trauma of inmate sexual assault is devastating and pervasive, with complex medical, physical, psychological, and social consequences that must be carefully managed in an interdisciplinary manner. Correctional staff may also victimize inmates in this process. Mental health staff members are a key role to shape and contribute to staff training efforts, administrative policies and procedures, and sound intervention protocols to respond to individual inmate victims and ensure safety and security in correctional institutions. Inmates have disproportionately high rates of infectious disease, substance abuse, high risk sexual activity and other health care problems.

OJEDA, Jackie Dean, and SINGLETARY, Ray

Jackie and Ray are identical twin brothers who are of mixed race, Black and White, both born 3-15-73 in San Diego. Both were adopted by non-relatives but by different members of the same family. Both wanted to reconnect with biological family members. And both were incarcerated for petty crimes, at different California prisons when each wrote to AmFOR for family search assistance. Before their releases, Jackie confided that he had twice been raped in prison. Prison records evidence that he reported the incidents which DNA evidence corroborated. However his attempts to bring the matter to court were thwarted by the system. AmFOR referred Jackie to the Prisoner Advocate for his jurisdiction. Neither of the brothers have been heard from since their releases.

Abuse of Gay and Transgender Prisoners

“Transgender” is an umbrella term which includes many different people for whom many different meanings of the term may apply. Some transgenders are also of the Gay lifestyle, while most are not, but being incarcerated can change that. “Transgenders” can also be people who identify themselves as “Transsexuals.” Most “Transsexuals” feel that their “born” bodies do not match their “within their hearts” gender. This includes both male and female.

But also, women who “become lesbian” in prison, who would not be lesbian outside prison, seek affection of “family” and substitute for husband, wife, daughter, etc. (as revealed in “Lockup” *MSNBC*).

Transsexuals usually find it necessary to go through the very difficult and lengthy process to try to correct their gender anatomically through “Gender Re-assignment” surgery. Few actually make it to this point in their lives. Imagine being a woman in a man’s prison. For many Transgender individuals serving prison sentences, their placement is a horrific mistake, because the U.S. prison system decides where to place inmates based on their genitalia, not their gender identity. An award-winning documentary film, “Cruel and Unusual” (by seasoned film makers, Janet Baus, Dan Hunt and Reid Williams, 9-18-06) is still true today as it confronts the realities that male-to-female Transgender prisoners in the United States face and questions whether their treatment violates their basic constitutional and human rights. In the film, Ashley, Linda, Anna, Yolanda and Ophelia describe their experiences, including rape, violence and solitary confinement. Denied female hormone therapy begun before imprisonment, Ophelia felt she had no choice but to mutilate her genitals to force the system to “finish what she started.” “Being a Transgender is never a choice,” says the Gender Identity Center of Colorado (“*T.I.P. Journal*,” Vol. 10, # 4, 2009).

CALVILLO, Lupe (aka Meagan Breanne Mendoza)

Lupe Calvillo is a pre-surgery female Transgender in a man's prison. She originally contacted AmFOR in hope of locating her biological relatives in Mexico from whom she was separated by her adoption, but the commonality of their names, without agency supplied background information, made it difficult to impossible to complete her search.

Lupe's multiple convictions over the years have usually been for petty crimes such as thefts associated with her drug addiction. Lacking basic employment and living skills, she quickly returns to the streets and becomes one of the multitude of anonymous homeless until she violates her parole and is returned to prison.

Her current conviction under Three Strikes Law brought a sentence of 75-years- to- Life for Driving Under the Influence and without a driver's license and causing a [non-fatal] accident. California Department of Corrections acknowledges Transgenders and in Lupe's case, DOC even provided her breast enlarging hormone treatments. Most prisons attempt to segregate Gay and Transgender inmates with "their own kind."

Lupe wrote AmFOR that she had been repeatedly raped by other inmates, but fear of violent reprisals by other inmates often prevents victims from reporting incidents. One of Lupe's previous cell-mates, a child molester, provided consensual sex in exchange for his protection from other inmates.

5. STOLEN LIVES

Three Strikes and You're Wrongfully Sentenced

John Walsh, whose young son, Adam, was murdered, together with the father of young Polly Klass, whose murder ignited public furor, propelled passage of "Three Strikes" laws in many states. Intended to punish *violent repeat offenders* uniformly, "Three Strikes" has been wrongfully sentencing and warehousing non-violent young addicts who steal for drugs, and others who commit petty crimes, for 25-years-to-Life, if it is a third offense. In some cases, lacking a suspect, police have added charges from unsolved crimes without evidence, based solely on being charged with similar crimes, thus increasing their sentences to Life, as reported by prisoners and Innocence Projects.

In 1993, Washington became the first state to pass a law requiring criminals with "3 serious felony convictions" to spend the rest of their lives in prison. California followed, and 24 other states had such laws by 2009 when the District Attorney's office, a conservative talk show host and a judge agreed that, despite the public's demand to keep career criminals behind bars, "three strikes" shouldn't always mean never getting out. Washington Governor Chris Gregoire signed Steven Dozier's Appeal for Clemency, making him the first three-strikes Lifer in the nation to be pardoned.

In "Three-Strikes Law Has No Effect, Study Finds," (*Los Angeles Times*, 3-2-99, A-3), Greg Krikorian reported "The study by the Justice Policy Institute based in San Francisco, found no correlation between California's general drop in crime and the imposition of longer, mandatory sentences for repeat felons. Based on information from the California Criminal Justice Statistics Center and the data analysis unit of the state Department of Corrections. Since the law took effect, **less than 1% of the almost 4,000 second and third strike inmates have been convicted of Murder; one-fifth were found guilty of even non-violent offenses, including Robbery; 37% were convicted of property crimes; 30% were found guilty of drug offences, mostly Possession.**

Most often the root problem is their addiction and what caused it, which is not addressed. California, however, passed legislation permitting courts to order drug treatment rather than prison for people convicted of possession or use of illegal street drugs. Because the law is not retroactive, the majority of California's current prisoners convicted under "Three Strikes" law for drug use remain incarcerated and account for the increase in prison population.

Prior to prison overcrowding, a 1993 study by the Bureau of Justice alarmed the public by stating that 88% of inmates on parole or probation commit other offenses-usually of the violent variety. But other research revealed that only 7% of the male prison population is responsible for all the nation's violent crime. In California, only 2% of "Three Strikes" cases statewide are for violent crimes ("Record Number of Prisoners Crowd the Nation's Prisons," *The Desert Sun*, reprinted in *Prison Life* magazine; and "To Curb Crime, the United States Must Humiliate Felons Again," by Tony Snow in *The Desert Sun*, 5-17-94): "Three strikes and you're out" has been widely supported by corporate managers as a way to take petty criminals off the streets. Yet no similar law has been enacted to punish corporations which have cost the nation upward of \$3.4 billion, while the Savings and Loan scandals were costing the nation \$300 to \$500-billion and the tobacco industry kills more than 400,000 Americans for profit every year. Henry Weinstein, Legal Affairs Writer, reported in "Three Strikes Law Overstated, Study Says" (*Los Angeles Times*, 10-11-98): " Attorney General Dan Lungren over-stated the impact of California's 'Three Strikes and You're Out' law in reducing crime, according to a study by Beres and Griffith, two law professors at Loyola in *Los Angeles Law Review* (11-98). **The Beres-Griffith study contends that there is no proof that the law, which enhances sentences for repeat offenders, has led to a sharp reduction in crime as Lungren repeatedly asserted.** Declining unemployment and violent rates moved in the same direction. The drop in crime in California began one year *before* three strikes was adopted. According to Beres-Griffith, a good deal of the earlier crime drop, particularly in youth homicides, is attributable to a variety of factors, including ineffective police programs, especially those that attempt to remove guns from juveniles. While the older felony thief is in prison on "Three Strikes," thefts by a younger element have increased." At this writing, the only law school in the country offering pro bono legal assistance for the wrongfully sentenced to "Life" for non-violent offenses under "Three Strikes" law is Stanford University Mills Criminal Defense Clinic at Stanford, California.

ANDERSON, Joseph M.

Born 3-9-49 in Lakan (Mason County), West Virginia, Joseph's adopters died without ever providing information about his pre-adoption past. He is serving 28 years-to-Life for Petty Theft of a fishing reel with priors under California's "Three Strikes" law. (Source: Joseph Anderson's letters to AmFOR)

EICHLER, Dwayne

Born 10-18-61 in Lexington, Kentucky, Dwayne is uncertain whether his adoption was facilitated in Kentucky or a neighboring state. He believes his adopter, George Eichler, kidnapped him from his mother, Sandra Maness, who he recently learned had died on 2-21-09, and that his father may be Edward Hill of Kentucky, but his letters to relatives on both his mother's and father's side of the family produced no replies. Dwayne obtained his GED in 10th grade in order to begin working at age 13 but was in and out of trouble until his 30s when he quit drugs and drinking. and had his own businesses. He married 5 times and has 4 children. He was initially charged with 10 felonies and sentenced to 27 years under "Three Strikes" law, but claims 8 of the 10 were actually misdemeanors. (Source: Dwayne Eichler's letters to AmFOR.)

Wrongfully Convicted Adoptees and Their False Confession Phenomenon

“At least 25% of wrongful convictions involve a false confession.”
-Innocence Project

Although many convicted people have claimed to have made a coerced confession, it seems adoptees are particularly vulnerable to coerced false confessions. In law, a coerced confession might prevent or overturn a conviction, absent reasonable doubt due to insufficient evidence. Whether or not the coerced confession was true may be especially unclear in cases where the accused is said to have had a fractured, split or multiple personality identity. It is speculated that the reason innocent adoptees may be easily coerced into a false confession is that they have been conditioned by their “acquiescence” to the desires of their adopters for fear of a second abandonment. In many cases of “wrongful conviction,” even if the person is released, they may not be exonerated, absent a conviction of an “actual perpetrator,” as in the Lisker and Tankleff cases that follow.

DOMINGUES, Joel Lee

Joel, born 5-16-66, and his biological sister, Melissa Fuss Erives Able, had been adopted separately. They crossed paths again in adulthood, reportedly before Melissa informed him of their sibling relationship, and had a romantic relationship that produced a child. Melissa was initially charged with 6-15-99 murder of Kelly Fuss, Joel, who is autistic with a low IQ, was coerced into making a false confession. He believed he was protecting his Melissa, his sister and, the mother of his child. Melissa and her adoptive sister, Margaret Fuss Branch, had plea bargained for a lesser charge in exchange for testifying against Joel. As result, Melissa was convicted of Robbery, Margaret was convicted of Involuntary Manslaughter, each receiving 10-year sentences, while Joel was sentenced to Life for Malice Murder and Burglary. Melissa was granted Work Release and then fully released in less than 7 years on 7-11-01. Melissa's adoptive brother, Charles Allen Fuss, had been convicted of the 1996 murder of his and Melissa's adopter, Inez “Jackie” Fuss. Melissa's and Joel's biological mother, Sandra Race Cano (Domingues), accuses Melissa of framing Joel for Kelly's murder and framing Charles for Jackie's murder, stating that Melissa has also attempted to kill her in the past and threatened to do so in the future. Newspaper reports cite the motive for both slayings was money and that the siblings by birth and adoption argued with Kelly over Jackie's estate. Upon appeal of Joel's wrongful conviction, the prosecution pointed to the conflicting stories Joel gave police. Joel's pro bono defense attorney's experience was in civil, not criminal law. Despite insufficient evidence – a microscopic spot of blood on his sock *inside his shoe* that DNA testing at the time could not conclusively identify as the victim's, whereas Melissa reportedly was “covered in blood” from the crime scene -- Joel's appeal was denied. (Source: Direct interviews with Sandra Saucedo; Joel Lee Domingues; Gayle White, journalist for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; Domingues v. State No. S03A1458, 11-17-08; and prison records).

GARRETT, Johnny Frank, 17

Born 12-24-63 in Oklahoma, Johnny Garrett *never signed his alleged confession* and proclaimed his innocence even to the moment of his execution for a murder to which another man later confessed. As a child, Johnny was beaten by a series of stepfathers and seated on a hot stove after being hit by a truck. He completed 7th grade and worked as a laborer. He was convicted for Rape and Murder of a Catholic nun, Sister Tadea Benz, on 10-31-81 when he was 17. Johnny's fingerprints were found at

the convent located across from his home. In prison, he was sodomized by a number of adult prisoners and was forced to perform pornographic acts on film, including having sex with a dog. Garret admitted only to being high on LSD and breaking a convent window to steal a stereo. In 2004, 12 years *after* his 2-11-92 execution in Texas, Attorney Jesse Quackenbush said he had compelling evidence of Garrett's innocence. Lorenzo Perez Rueda from Cuba admitted on camera to killing the nun. The state of Texas has come under heavy criticism for allowing both a juvenile and mentally handicapped individual to be executed. Garrett's last words were "I'd like to thank my family for loving me and taking care of me. And the rest of the world can kiss my ever-loving ass, because I'm innocent." In 2005, the execution of juveniles was ruled unconstitutional, in the *Roper v. Simmons* case. (Source: PrisonLonghouse groups, msn.com; Texas Criminal Justice Offender Information website; and Wikipedia)

LISKER, Bruce, 17

The evidence seemed overwhelming in 1983 when, at the urging of his male adopter, Lisker, then 17, *confessed* in a plea deal for a 5-year sentence as a juvenile for beating and stabbing to death his adopter, Dorka Lisker, 66, in a fit of rage at the family's Sherman Oaks, California home. But he was tried as an adult, convicted and sentenced to 16 years to Life. He was on pot and speed at the time of the murder and a history of fighting with adopter. Professional profilers pointed to a conflict of interest between his adoptive family loyalties and his "need to know" his biological family as making him vulnerable to being easily coerced into a false confession. New information had shaken faith in the validity of his confession and fairness of the verdict: Bloody footprints at the scene, including on Dora Lisker's body, did not match Lisker's shoes and a detective proved that the LAPD investigator had falsified evidence. Lisker was granted a new trial in 2009 after 26 years behind bars, but on the trial date his case was dismissed and he was freed. Others still doubt his innocence. Another suspect known for violence committed suicide (Source: CBS TV "48 Hours Hard Evidence" segment 1-21-12).

NORTHROP, Alan

Alan was born 5-29-64 in Portland, Oregon, as Alan Gregg Becker. His parents, Lois A. Coburn Becker from North Carolina and Gerald W. Becker from New Mexico, were both in the Navy from 1941 to 1944. At age 16, Alan dropped out of school to work as an auto mechanic and has always worked since as a mechanic and logger. His adopters, Walter and Lillian Northrop are now deceased. AmFOR located his biological father, but Alan's letters to him have not been answered. Alan states he was wrongfully convicted in 1993 of First Degree Rape, First Degree Kidnapping, and First Degree Burglary with a sentence of 282 months (23-1/2 years). He explains that he was mis-identified from a composite sketch of the suspect picked from a lineup, and failed a polygraph test, but now new DNA testing from the victim does not match Alan's DNA nor the victim's. His case is being handled by an Innocence Project. (Source: Alan Northrop's letters to AmFOR.)

TANKLEFF, Martin ("Marty"), 17

Born 8-29-71 and convicted in 1990 of the 9-7-88 murders of his adopters, Seymour and Arlene Tankleff, in Long Island, New York, Marty Tankleff never signed a confession and immediately repudiated his confession that was handwritten by the detective who interrogated him. The case was overturned 20 years later with charges dismissed, and he was released after 17 years in prison, based on "new evidence" pointing to Seymour Tankleff's business partner, Jerry Steurman, who owed Seymour \$500,000. Neither did the State of New York fully exonerate Marty but maintained that

while “there was some evidence of his guilt, it was not enough to have convicted him.” Marty’s half-sister, Shari Mistretta, who was not part of the trial but said she knew the family dynamics and series of events leading to the murders, believed he brutally murdered his adopters. During Marty’s appeals, David Kirschner, PhD, who never directly interviewed Marty as he had interviewed 20 other adoptees who killed, and had testified for those who killed their adopters (Patrick Campbell, Patrick DeGelleke, Matthew Heikkila, Daniel Kasten and Patrick Niiranen), wrote “As a psychologist specializing in Adoption Forensics, I agree with Shari Mistretta that Marty Tankleff did it -- that it would be a travesty of justice if the case against him was dismissed. I’m convinced that adoption issues are crucial to understanding Tankleff’s pathology, motivation and mental state at the time of the murders, though this was never discussed at the trial. Marty’s few public comments about the subject suggest that adoption issues of identity, loss, and even normal curiosity about genetic/medical history, were denied and not validated in the Tankleff family. Marty was suspended from high school for threatening a student with a switchblade knife when the other student began dating a girl Marty had taken to the junior prom. A key symptom of Adopted Child Syndrome (ACS) is pathological reaction to rejection, real or perceived. Marty’s adopters’ talk of divorce could also have resonated with the “adoption story” he was told – that his biological mother gave him up for adoption because she was going through a divorce, already had one son, and couldn’t care for another. Adoption issues of identity, self-image, and repressed, dissociated adoptee rage could have intensified/surfaced following his nose job, shortly before the murders. Three Ward Melville High School students testified at his trial in 1990 that Marty was still wearing bandages from his “nose job” when he told them “if he could get a hit on his parents, if they were killed, he could realize his fantasy of a fancy car like a Ferrari or Lamborghini.” Another symptom of ACS is pathological lying and detectives testified that “he was caught in lies, in facts that could not be true, and that caused him to confess to murder” (*Newsday* 12-13-88).

Marty’s defense psychiatrist, Dr. Herb Spiegel, opined (based on hypnotic sessions) that Marty was in a “dissociative state” when he “falsely confessed” to murdering his adopters (*Newsday* 6-12-90). But if Marty was prone to dissociation as Dr. Spiegel testified, then his personality was consistent with other adoptees who kill, when their buried, split off, dissociated rage is triggered by fears of rejection and abandonment, real or perceived. Further, Marty actually told detectives on the scene that “Maybe *another* Marty did it. It felt like there was *another person inside me* who did this.” Many adoption experts and psychotherapists who treat adoptees have written about the “splitting” (adoptive self, biologic self, fantasies of biological parents, etc.) so often seen even in normal, well-adjusted functioning adoptees. Kirschner testified that the gruesome nature of the killings (Mrs. Tankleff’s head was nearly severed) is inconsistent with a professional mob hit, as Marty’s appeal lawyers who secured his release from prison suggest it was. The murder scene was entirely consistent with an act of catathymic violence, unplanned, based on intense, buried emotions, very similar to a crime of passion. Marty’s self description would also be consistent with that theory: “I was brought up to be very non-emotional. I mean I was brought up to very much internalize emotions.” (*CBSNews.com*, 1-14-08). ”

On 7-9-05 Marty Tankleff wrote AmFOR from prison: “Thank you for your letter and article. Let me make something very clear, I do not consider myself ‘adopted’, nor does my family. While ‘legally’ that may be correct, I find it offensive when people find a need to use that term in relating to my family. I don’t have ‘adopted’ parents. My parents are my parents, and my ‘birth’ mother is just that--a woman who brought me into the world. I know the name of my ‘birth’ mother and what her profession was. So, if I wanted to find her I could. Since I was born in Brooklyn and the adoption was handled by an attorney who was a family friend, I could obtain records if I wanted, but I have more important

things to handle right now. Thank you for your support, Marty"

But with his adoptive relatives supporting his bid for freedom, as well as holding his adoption file, Marty's denial of his adoptive status sounds like he's in the typical adoptee's Catch-22 conflict, between adoptive family loyalties and the normal "need to know" firsthand. Professional profilers in the Bruce Lisker case saw that same conflict as giving rise to behaviors which make them vulnerable to being easily coerced into confessions of crimes--whether or not they are guilty of such crimes.

Interestingly on 7-1-08, the *New York Times*, when reporting on Marty's imminent release, never once referred to Marty as being "adopted" nor to his adopters as his "adoptive" parents. Neither did the *CBS TV "Early Show,"* in an exclusive interview with Marty as a free man, ever breathe the "A" word, whereas in 1988, he was referred to in media as an "adoptee" accused of killing his "adoptive" parents and alleged the motive was that he was dissatisfied with the "shitty Mercedes" his adopters were giving him for his birthday. A "third view" of Marty's situation is that denials by not only Marty, but also his defense lawyers, prosecutors and media as to his adoptive status, speak volumes about the hidden legacy of secret adoption that also subject him to the continuing debate over "whether Marty did it." (Sources: "Why Marty Did It! Adoption Forensics and the Tankleff Case," by David Kirschner, Phd; "No Retrial in '88 Double Killing on Long Island," *New York Times*, 7-1-08; YouTube video of *CBS TV Early Show* post-release interview of Tankleff by Erin Moriarity; and Tankleff's letters to AmFOR)

WHEELER, Codee, 17

Born in 1981, Codee Wheeler was accused of setting the 3-17-07 fire that killed her male adopter, William Wheeler, 57, a former township supervisor in Blairsville, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. Codee was charged as an adult with Homicide and Arson. Codee, who was adopted when she was 5, told insurance agents a candle must have started the blaze, but state police disagreed, saying she used kerosene to light a fire in the middle of the family room so her father would have no way out.

Codee's biological mother, Georgiann Palmer, faced charges on Interference with Custody of a Minor in connection with her alleged actions before the fatal blaze. Palmer and Codee Wheeler didn't have much contact until the girl's teenage years when Palmer moved from North Carolina to Blairsville. Not long after Palmer's move, some accusations were made about William Wheeler's behavior, prompting an investigation by the county Department of Children and Youth Services. William Wheeler was alleged to have a habit of walking around the house in his underwear and walking into the bathroom while Codee was in the shower. Investigators eventually cleared William Wheeler and that's when Codee ran away, allegedly with the help of her biological mother, police said. Codee Wheeler's page on MySpace.com said she got along with her adopters only sometimes. A State Police Fire Marshal said burn patterns suggest the fatal fire was deliberately set in the middle of the Wheelers' family room, according to an Affidavit of Probable Cause. Codee's female adopter, Sue Wheeler, disagreed with that assessment, telling *WTAE Channel 4 Action News*, "It's not an Arson." And she stood by Codee's side as the girl was charged with William's murder."

A jury found a jury found the 17-year-old girl Not Guilty of burning down her adoptive parents' house and killing her father and she was acquitted of Criminal Homicide and Arson charges.. She maintained her innocence all along through multiple interviews and exams. Charges were filed after a state police investigation found burn patterns that suggested the fire had been deliberately set in the Wheelers' family room. "Clearly there was evidence of accelerant used," said Assistant District Attorney Patrick Dougherty, before the verdict was announced. "We believe it was a kerosene product." But a

friend and co-worker of William Wheeler testified that the victim had talked about killing himself. "He actually stated that he was going to commit suicide, and he was going to use kerosene on himself," the witness said. "He was going through a lot of pain and had a lot of health problems. We were like family. He was diabetic, open sores on both legs. It was just too much for him to really handle." Kauffman said the girl had nothing to gain by killing her father, a former Burrell Township supervisor. He said Sue Wheeler was the one who received the \$250,000 insurance check, and Codee Wheeler got nothing. That's when, police said, she plotted the fire. But those who still doubted the girl's innocence wondered if she knew of William Wheeler's threat to kill himself in a kerosene fire and saw an opportunity to end her fear of him. (Sources: "Birth Mom Helps Girl Run Away Before Adoptive Dad Killed," *Pittsburgh Channel*; *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 5-19-09; and 'Friends Support Teen Girl, Not Guilty Verdict in Dad's Death, *WTAE.com*)

Civil Commitment of Sex Offenders

The Adam Walsh Act" (AWA), requiring civil commitment after a sex offender completes his court-ordered prison sentence, became law on 7-27-06 and is the most complex, progressive, and punitive sex offender law enacted, in response to a public and political outcry of concern over Sex Offenders and their potential threat to society. As of 2010, 20 states have civil commitment statutes at an average cost of \$120,000 per committed offender. The law has its conception grounded in public attention on several noteworthy sexual homicides of children and in fact recognizes by name a handful of these children including Jacob Wetterling, Jessica Lunsford, Megan Kanka, Jimmy Rice, and Adam Walsh. The AWA's civil commitment objectives resulted in Supreme Court decisions in Kansas v. Hendricks and in Kansas v. Crane. The earliest case involved whether an offender, classified as a psychopathic personality, could be committed from the streets to a mental institution. More contemporary cases (Minnesota ex rel, and Pearson v. Probate County of Ramsey County) posed the question of whether a prisoner who is diagnosed as a "violent sexual predator" or as having an "anti-social personality disorder" could be civilly committed to a mental health facility *after* this prisoner has served his entire sentence and was about to be released. Civil commitment has a profound affect on many federal Sex Offenders in that it has extremely broad commitment criteria. Specifically, the statute lacks a "likelihood of future sexual dangerousness" requirement, and only requires the offender to qualify as a "sexually dangerous person" who must have "serious difficulty refraining from sexually violent conduct or child molestation, if released." Consequently this statutory language will necessitate a battle of the experts as to the assessment of volitional capacity and inability to control sex offending behaviors. Without a formal requirement of "likely to re-offend," low risk and non-contact Sex Offender are being civilly committed indefinitely. Additionally, a "sexually dangerous person" can be civilly committed indefinitely without having a history of physical contact sex offenses, only an *alleged* history of an *attempt* to engage in sexually violent conduct or child molestation (even if not criminally charged). This element can have an effect on solicitation type offenders. Also of concern is that incarceration based on "who an individual is" or "what he is believed to be," as opposed to *what he has done*, is an affront to the conception of liberty upon which this nation was founded. "Mental illness," according to the Supreme Court, is whatever the state legislature says it is. Because only some mental abnormality is required, nearly anyone deemed "potentially dangerous" in any way could be civilly committed ("In the Name of Justice - Leading Experts Re-Examine the Classic Article, The Aims of the Criminal Law," *Cato Institute*).

The AWA also prompted the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) which creates a national registry and data bank enabling law enforcement officers to access information about Sex Offenders and efficiently track them throughout the country, based on a 3-tier system that is not “risk-based,” but rather it is “offense based.” Information on Sex Offenders has been posted on Interbet by Sheriff’s Departments in Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, New Mexico, North Carolina, Utah, and Wisconsin, leaving men of all ages and circumstances no place to hide from harassment or worse. (Carol Ann Riha, “Internet Has Eye On Sex Offenders,” *Albuquerque Journal /AP*, 11-15-98).

The AWA also establishes the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) as the provider of both sex offender management and sex offender treatment programs. The subject of commitment has a statutory right to counsel, and if indigent, a court appointed counsel at public expense, and also a right to request an expert and have the public pay for that expert. Some of AWA’s unresolved issues include that AWA: (1) does not establish a standard or burden of proof for risk to re-offend and does not permit a jury trial before civil commitment; (2) does not conclude whether the respondent has a right to remain silent nor mandate that he participate in a court-ordered examination; (3) does not include a provision to protect from possibility that disclosures about sex offending behavior during treatment will not be used by government against the offender to pursue commitment; (4) does not resolve discovery procedures; (5) does not distinguish whether attorneys should incorporate the Rules of Federal Criminal Procedure; (6) does not mandate a time frame for the courts to consider evidence and begin hearings and does not allow for a bail provision while offenders are awaiting hearings on the merits; (7) does not provide for annual reviews and examinations; (8) does not describe procedures before the offender is released; (9) allows for indefinite commitment pursuant to traditional commitment law, 18 USC Section 4248; (10) does not delineate last restrictive treatment /placement alternatives.

The Death Penalty - Works in Election Campaigns, Not in Reality

*“If everyone took an eye for an eye,
the whole world would be blind.”*

-Ghandi

From 1976 to 2010, there have been 1,234 executions in the United States (according to ACLU’s website). There have been **284 post-conviction DNA exonerations** in the U.S. since 1989, according to the Innocence Project, over 200 of them since Y-2000. (168 African-Americans; 81 Caucasians; 20 Latinos; 2 Asian Americans; 4 unknown race). **Death Penalty cases have a 68% error rate** (according to Columbia University Law Professor James Liberman’s study on the Death Penalty, “A Broken System: Error Rates in Death Penalty Cases, 1973-1995). On 9-21-11 the world was shocked by the execution of **TROY DAVIS** in Georgia as hundreds of thousands of people had protested his execution in the belief he was wrongfully convicted for the 1989 killing of an off-duty police officer. Pope Benedict XVI and former President Jimmy Carter, human rights groups, and commentators urged the execution to be halted, but to no avail, thus making Davis the poster child for the global movement to end the Death Penalty. Many nations abolished use of the Death Penalty long ago, as well as use of corporal punishments – both still debated in the United States which has escalated its use of the Death Penalty despite that it is *not* a deterrent to crime (per ACLU website). Some executions have been stayed in cases where innocence is *not* at issue – The Nebraska Supreme Court granted a stay of execution to adoptee **RANDALL REEVES** when his Omaha Tribe filed a brief claiming the state is “the party to blame” because Reeves was “emotionally damaged” from the state taking him from his

reservation parents when he was 3. The "Adopted Child Syndrome" defense saved **MATTHEW HEIKKILA** from the Death Penalty. But no stay or clemency was granted to the following 8 executed adoptees; **STEVEN OKEN**, executed in Maryland; **DONALD BEARDSLEE**, executed in California; **JOHN JOSEPH CANON**, executed in Texas; **WALTER and KARL LAGRAND** both executed in Arizona; **DOUGLAS CHRISTOPHER THOMAS**, executed in Virginia; **DAVID WAYNE WOODRUFF**, executed in Oklahoma; **JOHNNY FRANK GARRETT**, who was found to be *innocent* when the real killer confessed *after* Garrett was executed in Texas. Their stories are excerpted in this book.

On 11-12-98, former boxer and exoneree, **RUBIN "HURRICANE" CARTER**, came from Toronto, Canada, where he is a writer, teacher and head of The Association in Defense of the Wrongly Convicted, to tell Americans that it's time to abolish the Death Penalty at the "National Conference on Wrongful Convictions and the Death Penalty" at Northwestern University's law school, stating "Wrongs can be righted. Our presence here today is living proof of that." More than 20 men and women in the audience were former inmates who had been spared from Death Row" ("Innocent Man Jailed 16 Years Gets Apology" *Los Angeles Times*, 6-21-96). Famed attorneys Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld, who founded the Innocence Project, have been leading the efforts to make DNA testing mandatory in capital cases at state expense. Amnesty International has been most effective in pressuring foreign governments and prisons to end such "cruel and unusual punishment." **It was reported that 105 of 2500 prisoners on Death Row at the time were mentally retarded** ("Column Left," *Los Angeles Times*, 12-14-92).

CHRISTIAN LONGO, an adoptee, was sentenced to Death by lethal injection on 4-16-03 for killing his wife and 3 small children and dumping their bodies in 2 coastal bays in 2001. Longo is seeking law students willing to take on his "Gifts of Anatomical Value from the Executed (GAVE)" as a pro-bono project which, not unexpectedly, has raised many issues and roadblocks to organ donations by those sentenced to Death. Because execution by lethal injection destroys organs, Longo would have to get the prison to use a different method for "brain death."

5. ALTERNATIVES TO PRISONS

"The cage is a double degrader. Any bar, whether concrete or intangible, that stands between a living thing and its liberty is a communicable perversity, dangerous to the sanity of everyone concerned."

—Tom Robbins, "Another Roadside Attraction"

Since the Reagan years, prisons have been increasingly viewed as an ideal solution to a multitude of problems in a "one cage fits all" approach. Until the court-ordered reduction in California's prisoner population, the only "solution" to prison overcrowding, had been "smaller prisoners" (juveniles sentenced as adults). Alternatives to funding prisons include: funding for education; funding combined job-training and placement; decriminalizing and treating substance abusers and the mentally ill; a nationwide ban on assault weapons and restrictive handgun permits; an adequate public defender system; public-private partnerships for an open prison system, rehabilitation, oversight, and a "prison index."

In early America, convicted criminals were released from prison with the same deficiencies that led them to commit their crime, to then face capital punishment unless "rehabilitated" through Bible study and penitence. Today, 1-million (of over 2-million in prison nationwide), are non-violent, and

offender tracking has become a growth industry. Pro Tech Monitoring of Tampa, Florida owns 97% of the world market with 75 programs operating in 26 states. Rehab programs, on the other hand, such as drug treatment, psychiatric counseling, education, and job training, are scarce, and prisons are overcrowded. According to a United Nation's study, illicit drugs account for more than 10% of all world trade—bigger than automobiles and textiles. Prison, and the Death Penalty, have had little or no deterrent effect for most criminals (according to Tittle, 1969 and 1980; Chiricos-Waido, 1970; Logan, 1972; Sjoquist, 1973; Bailey et al, 1974; Pogue, 1975; Forst, 1976; Blumstein et al, 1978; Bores-Griffith, 1998; Justice Policy Institute Study, California Criminal Justice Statistics Center, and Department of Corrections 1999). In “Prisons In Crisis” (*Indiana University Press*, 1993), author William L. Seike suggested that a non-institutional “community corrections model” would include: Greater use of intensive probation; Employment training; Alternative education; Youth shelters; Drug-alcohol counseling and treatment; Youth service bureaus; Expanded social services.

Right To Adequate Representation and Trial by Jury

In State of Missouri v. Davis Barnett, Barnett was sentenced to Death for killing his adoptive grandparents and the State contended that there is no right to *effective* assistance of counsel, despite that *ineffective* counsel can be worse than having *no* defense lawyer. Especially when children are charged with crimes, but also for accused adults, it is imperative that a Public Defender system that is not overburdened by impossible caseloads can be accessible to those who cannot afford the high cost of an adequate legal defense. Convicted prisoners who are factually innocent have an especially difficult time filing appeals because, on appeal, the person must prove himself innocent, unlike at his original trial when the state must prove him guilty. In “Tipping the Scales: Justice on Trial,”(by Mark Carriden, staff writer, *The Dallas Morning News*, 5-7-00), we are informed: “Bit by bit , in case by case and state by state, Americans’ celebrated right to a trial by jury is being diminished. Lawmakers, judges and private lawyers, through a wave of individual actions, collectively are reducing the role of jurors and their ability to dole out justice as they see it. In Texas, for example, out of 774,918 criminal cases, only 6,637 (0.8%) were decided by a jury. And out of total 566,737 Texas civil cases, only 3,335 (0.6%) were decided by a jury. Organized groups seeking reforms in the justice system don’t agree on what kind of reforms are needed. A Prisoner Rights Advocate is a volunteer who tries to assist prisoners in resolving their issues and may also lobby politicians on behalf of a group of prisoners complaining about prison conditions, or may try to assist an individual prisoner who is being mistreated or in need of legal or other assistance. These days, Prisoner Rights Advocates are few and far between due to the overwhelming number of incarcerated people and disruption of personal finances felt by most people in the current nationwide economic crisis. In Georgia, at the urging of AmFOR, a Prisoner Rights Advocate helped facilitate the transfer of an autistic, wrongfully convicted man, Joel Domingues, from Augusta State Medical Prison, which could not adequately care for him and where he had attempted suicide 8 times, to, Columbia Care Center in South Carolina. All was well until a private corporation took over the facility. The sole volunteer Prisoner Rights Advocate in South Carolina is 87-year-old Eunice McAllister who spends her Social Security checkto fund the cause. Her projects include “Children at Risk,” to steer children from futures that could lead to imprisonment, pushing legislators to define “violent crime” more specifically and to increase education classes at prisons. She teaches, reads and writes to inmates. McAllister says “I’m the only one who’s doing anything, but I don’t know what to do. If I could get anyone else to do it, I’d take a back seat. *But I can’t get anyone else to do it.*”

Boot Camps for First Time Offenders

NBC TV's "Today Show" (11-11-96) featured Ray Little, a living argument against the short-sighted approach of scrapping rehabilitation in our nation's lockups. Little is an ex-convict who came to know both sides of prison walls, first as an inmate and now as a warden at William S. Key Correctional Center in Bryant, Oklahoma. He oversees two groups of inmates – older inmates doing long sentences and first time offenders sentenced to one of the toughest boot camps in the country that successfully educate and rehabilitate. The "Today Show" telephoned 49 other states—20 of them said it could never happen in their state and the rest said "highly unlikely."

But in 2011, CNBC featured Dallas Judge Steve Francis who oversees one of the successful Texas Community Corrections Continuum of Care programs dedicated to keeping people out of already over-crowded Texas prisons by requiring first time offenders to participate in boot camp to rehabilitate first time offenders. ("Billions Behind Bars," CNBC, 10-11-11)

Juvenile Justice Reform and De-Institutionalization

According to Roberta Ostroff, in "Growing Up Behind Locked Doors: A Look at America's Hidden System of Teen Control," (*Rolling Stone* magazine, 11-20-86): "These kids used to be locked up inside juvenile halls or "juvies." Until the mid 1970s, that was a popular method of control for non-criminal teens who ran away, cut school, or careened out of control. They were called "status offenders" and they accounted for 40% of the estimated 1-million teens placed in the nation's juvenile halls each year through 1974. That year, Congress passed the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. It ordered states to **de-institutionalize** status offenders. The kids were handed back to the parents, or so it seemed. Nine years later, in 1983, teen behavior researchers at the University of Minnesota became concerned that de-institutionalizing had created a discriminatory system of in-patient programs at private acute care psychiatric hospital for those who could afford them. Ann Caroline Schuller wrote the *Los Angeles Times*: "We are taking a hard line at the wrong end of the problem by imprisoning children whose first crime was being born to unfit parents, a dangerous hostile environment and a government ill-equipped to provide cradle-to-grave support."

Growing numbers of parents were dumping their unruly adopted kids into juvenile detention facilities. These units, unlike state hospitals, required no pre-commitment hearing, and health insurance plans offer limited reimbursement for outpatient psychiatric care but covers up to 80% of in-patient hospital bills. Nationwide, the majority of the disobedient teens coming into private psychiatric programs were being diagnosed as having "mood disorders" such as depression. According to Marcie Granahan, CEO, U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, "major depression" is now considered a serious mental illness along with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Granahan also cites that, given access to appropriate treatments, individuals recovering from mental illnesses are able to successfully live and work, enjoy social lives, attend school and maintain healthy lifestyles while managing their conditions. But what if simply "being adopted" and not knowing anything of your original family is at the core of the adopted child's or adult's depression? How does one "rehab" from "genealogical amnesia" or Adopted Child Syndrome?

William Stewart, a former Los Angeles gang member, lived with former Law Professor William Haney's family in their Camarillo home, enjoying all the attention of a natural-born son. In return, he stayed clean and avoided the violent crime that had put him behind bars. For 5 years, with the approval

of court officials and parents, Haney plucked about 20 young offenders from behind the high concrete walls at Camp David Gonzales, a Los Angeles County juvenile probation center in the Santa Monica Mountains. It was Haney's answer to what he called the worst crime of all -- society's willingness to let these youths leave county custody and return to the troubled neighborhoods and gang influences that helped lead them astray. Five nights a week, with the help of law students who earn academic credit, Haney was back at Gonzales. He was working with 10 inmates in what he called "Success Academy." For 6 months, he taught each group of students basic wisdom such as how to weave a proper Windsor tie knot, write a resume, or go on a job interview. Haney also counseled young women at the California Youth Correctional Facility in Camarillo, and men at the state prison in Norco, and he volunteered on Saturdays counseling at an inner-city church and school. He provided typewriters, khaki pants and collared shirts, and offered each a degree of privacy by bunking no more than 2 boys in a cell. Haney still worked 80 hours a week juggling his law classes and reaching into his own pocket for most of the \$20,000 annual price tag for his programs. Penal experts were staggered by his energy and commitment. The young criminals were also impressed—he gave them *an identity*.

According to journalist Ron Harris in "One State Gives Juveniles a Hand Instead of a Cell," (*Los Angeles Times*, 8-25-93, A-18): "In 1993, in Massachusetts, only 15% of those sent to the state's Department of Youth Services were held in secure, locked facilities. By comparison, nearly all the juveniles under supervision of the California Youth Authority were held under lock and key. Only 55 of every 100,000 youngsters in Massachusetts were in custody contrasted with more than 450 of every 100,000 in California. The results were that in Massachusetts only 23% of those committed to the state's youth services programs became incarcerated as *repeat offenders*, contrasted with 63% for the California Youth Authority.

Despite salaries required for intensive supervision of delinquents in the Massachusetts "open system," the cost of running the system was nearly half the national average. Each child received "an extra layer of attention" under the KEY Outreach and Tracking Program successful in Massachusetts, Missouri, Hawaii, Arizona, Alabama and a similar associated Marine Institute Program successful in Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia—successful because it does not put juveniles behind bars."

Sentencing Laws - Striking Out "Three Strikes" and Other Revenge Laws

Uniform sentencing law in the United States means removing discretionary sentencing from judges. "Excessive imprisonment," including mandatory Life sentences for repeat property offenses, was ruled "cruel and unusual punishment" (in *Rummel v. Estelle*, 445 US 552, 100 S.Ct. 1133, 63 L.Ed.2d 382 -1980). Yet today, there are still poor, illiterate, inadequately defended people serving Life sentences due to "revenge laws" enacted by politicians to simply satisfy an angry public and in order to be re-elected, particularly in Southern states, for first offenses that would bring lesser sentences in other states.

Peter Y. Hong reported (in "Sheriff Gets 60 Days to End Over-long Jail Stays," *Los Angeles Times*, 3-13-98, B-5): "A federal Judge has given the Sheriff's Department 60 days to end the practice of keeping inmates locked up, sometimes days after their release dates, ruling that violates their constitutional rights." In Arizona, after AmFOR brought a CBS-TV camera into the parole hearing for adoptee, Noah Stone, followed by his reunion with his biological mother and sister, to publicize incarcerated adoptee issues, the CBS film mysteriously "disappeared," perhaps with the help of Arizona's powerful parole board, and Noah was kept in prison several weeks beyond his release date.

Despite that it has been 14 years since the California study by Beres-Griffith in 1998 evidenced that “Three Strikes” law *did not reduce crime*, non-violent offenders are still receiving 25-Years-to-Life for non-violent crimes under “Three Strikes” law. Canada’s uniform “2 year rule” requires prisoners with sentences longer than 2 years to be placed under federal government jurisdiction; if shorter than 2 years, they are confined to provincial government jurisdiction. America’s minimum, medium and maximum security level prisons are meaningless under pressures of overcrowding. The “2 year rule” distinguishes between those incarcerated primarily for punishment or as deterrent, and long-term, violent offenders who need to be removed from society for the sake of public safety. But in some states, those unjustly sentenced to “Life” for a petty third offense, under “three strikes” laws have no recourse. Louisiana, for example, is said to have the harshest sentencing laws in the country with sentences of “Life Without Parole” given to 77% of the 5,000 prisoners at Angola State Penitentiary who are Black, and a sentence of “100 years” for Rape is not uncommon. Prisoners are made to pick vegetables on Angola’s 18,000 acre farm for 4-cents an hour. The name “Angola” derives from Africa’s Angolan slaves who first worked the same fields (“The Farm,” *A and E Cable Network*, 9-20-98).

Gun Control Laws

Banning assault weapons from access by consumers, and more stringent requirements for handgun permits despite the opposition of the National Rifle Association’s (NRA) monied lobby, can seriously reduce the violent crimes committed by children and adults. Since 1968, federal law has banned certain mentally ill people from buying guns, including those who have been deemed a danger to themselves or others, involuntarily committed or judged not guilty by reason of insanity or incompetent to stand trial. The national background-check system—which is also used to prevent convicted felons from buying guns—was established under the 1993 “Brady Bill.” But more than half the states are not complying with a 2008 law enacted after the 2007 Virginia Tech Massacre in which student Seung-Hui Cho shot 32 people to death and committed suicide. He was able to buy two guns even though he had been ruled a danger to himself during a 2005 court hearing and was ordered to undergo outpatient mental health treatment. The January 8th shooting rampage in Tucson, Arizona, where this writer happened to be at the time, killed 6 people including a child and left Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords seriously wounded. It has put more emphasis on the struggle to disarm the mentally ill. The shooter, Jared Loughner, was considered so mentally unstable that he was kicked out of community college, yet because he was never deemed “mentally ill” by a judge, nor committed to an institution, he was able to legally buy the gun police say he used.

A 2008 law requires sharing the names of mentally ill people with the national background check system to prevent them from buying guns (Greg Bluestein, *Associated Press/AP*, 2-17-11). Several states have struggled to amend their privacy laws that restrict the release of health information, and others have had to create an appeals process for those who say they have been wrongfully barred for mental health reasons from buying a gun. California has shared records of more than 250,000; Virginia, more than 100,000; 11 states provided more than 1,000 records apiece, while 17 states submitted very few records to the federal database, (*Associated Press/AP FOIA request*). Gun control groups have estimated that more than 1-million files are *missing* nationwide. Despite that the federal government dispensed about \$10-million to the states to comply, and later \$20-million, penalties for failing to comply with the 2008 law won’t become mandatory until 2018.

Rehabilitation - Drug Laws and Treatment

"You set the photos down, spreading time around you panorama style.

*Button-nosed baby, toddler, little girl, bigger girl... You think When the hell did all this happen?
How did I miss so much? The clock reads 2:28; Time has just stolen another hour."*

- by Christina Snow, a young mother and former drug addict.(from her poem, "Pictures of a Daughter, Viewed in Prison")

In 1914 the Harrison Act was the first step in criminalizing drug use without a licensed dispenser, as "illegal possession." In the 1920s, opiates could only be prescribed in the course of medical treatment. Dispensing drugs for maintenance purposes was illegal. That is how Prohibition began. Lucky Luciano moved heroin for the Mafia from Turkey and France to supply the demand, then from Burma and then from Columbia and Mexico and to the United States. Patricia Brugman suggested in her letter to the editor of the *Los Angeles Times*, "Let's make the drug market a government run business and really start helping kids all over America."

A rare exception in dispensing justice was featured in "N.Y. Judge Finds Caring Can Help in Crime Fight," (*Los Angeles Times*, 11-5-98): Judge Charles Posner does not run a typical criminal court. It is more like a "mini treatment center." Most of those who appear before him have serious problems -- substance abuse, poverty, or mental illness. He tries to enroll non-violent offenders in alcohol, drug, vocational, and mental health programs. That way, he says, they are less likely to end up in jail again. If the defendant pleads guilty to the charge, Posner will place him in treatment. If he fails to complete the program, Posner can jail him because he has agreed to plead guilty. The hoped-for result, Posner says, is a tax-paying citizen rather than a criminal who keeps returning to jail.

Addicts who undergo treatment are less likely to consume drugs or commit crimes to support their use, even after 5 years. Adolescents were the conspicuous exception. The number who smoked crack cocaine and abused alcohol actually rose, while adults tend to quit using drugs as they get older. Also, women respond better to treatment than men. According to a national survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Services, addicts who were treated with methadone, a synthetic heroin blocker, showed a significant drop of 27%. As for criminal behavior, 56% fewer addicts stole cars; 38% fewer burglaries; 30% fewer prostitutes. Though federal spending for drug treatment increased by 33%, drug treatment was available for barely 52% of Americans who immediately needed it."

Using Los Angeles' luxurious hotels to detox celebrity addicts from prescription pain killers to heroin was pioneered by Dr. Robert P. Fremont in the mid-1980s. According to "Hotel Detox," (*Los Angeles Times*, 9-27-98, A-1), Dr. David Kipper uses the synthetic opiates including buprenorphine, clonidine, and depacote to detox the wealthy at the Four Seasons and Peninsula hotels in West Los Angeles. It costs \$10-19,000 per week for detox alone, not including the cost of the hotel, which can run up to \$800 per day. Then Kipper sent the alcoholic or addict to the Betty Ford Center or Sierra Tucson. Ranked in order of the cost:

- o Malibu Promises (Malibu/Ventura, CA)- 30 days \$24,000 including detox and rehabilitation;
- o Sierra Tucson (AZ) - 30 days \$20,000 including detox and rehabilitation;
- o Steps (Oxnard) - 30 days \$10,000 including detox and rehabilitation;
- o Impact (Pasadena, CA) - 30 days, \$4,000 including detox and rehabilitation.

Despite being able to afford high-priced "quick fix" detox, Robert Downey Jr., Charlie Sheen and several other Hollywood celebrities have had to repeat programs. Some have committed suicide rather

than commit to the long-term drug treatment programs that have shown good success rates. State authorities say that conducting a detox program in an unlicensed facility such as a hotel violates the state health and safety code; strict protocols must be followed in a controlled environment by qualified people who know how to properly treat potentially life-threatening withdrawal symptoms.

Decriminalizing drug addiction would take the profit out of the illicit drug trade by legalizing drugs. Scandinavian countries have done so successfully and have far less crime than the United States. The United States government has been a conspirator in the proliferation of street drugs and an impediment to legalizing even medically necessary drugs. "Evidence of marijuana's medical efficacy grows daily. Tens of thousands of patients report they have found that smoking marijuana relieves symptoms ranging from AIDS Wasting Syndrome to muscle spasms caused by Multiple Sclerosis. (ACLU's *Spotlight* newsletter, Spring, 1998). At least 24 professional medical associations, including the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, and the New England Journal of Medicine, publicly support prescription access to marijuana. Yet the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) persists in classifying marijuana as a "Schedule I" drug (unsafe, highly subject to abuse, and possessing no medicinal value), leaving both physicians and patients vulnerable to serious penalties including imprisonment. ACLU's First Amendment challenge to Clinton Administration's threat to punish California doctors who recommend marijuana to patients is ongoing."

For the past 3 years, Douglas McKay High School, in Salem Oregon, has resorted to *paying* students cash to turn in classmates who carry guns or drugs, vandalize or start fights. The "Rewards for Ratting" program halved the number of fights, tripled scores in standardized tests and vaulted the school from last to first in its city rankings. Troublemakers were sent to "alternative schools" (*National Enquirer*, 9-15-98, p.7). President Clinton's plan to curb school violence was a series of initiatives including a \$65-million plan to help communities hire 2,000 new police officers to stand guard at high-risk schools, which is 10% of mostly urban public schools. Turning schools into a militarized police environment and paying kids to "snitch" will not cure the *root problem* of violent children.

Prevention - Education and SkillsTraining, In and Out of Prison

In the high desert at Canyon City, Colorado, Steve Smith, Director of Colorado Correctional Industries, oversees a 6,000 acre complex of 50 diverse businesses, generating \$56-million per year, inlcuding motorcycle and canoe manufacturing, goat farm, vineyard, florist and a talapia fish farm. Prisoners are paid minimum wage or more, depending on the job, and save taxpayers money while becoming rehabilitated through learning and implementing job skills while serving their sentences. Upon release, theses inmates have marketable skills and less recividism. As far back as 1955, a standard was set by the United Nations for "equitable remuneration" for prison work yet Colorado is the first state to do so.

In 2011, President Barack Obama addressed the nation's 9.1% unemployment with the \$447-billion "American Jobs Act" to "create 1.9-million jobs" (which amounts to \$235,263 per job) aimed at blue collar jobs for rebuilding America's infrastructure—including roads and schools, reminiscent of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's WPA projects. By the end of 2011, 200,000 new jobs from unskilled/retail to higher level placements, many of them seasonal, accounted for a lower, 8.5% unemployment rate, But America also needs affordable higher education and more teachers to fill the need for nuclear scientists, engineers and technicians.

In 1980, the National Association of Private Industry Councils (NAPIC), headquartered in Washington, DC, was the umbrella for Private Industry Councils (PICs) which were designed as

training and placement programs for jobs of value and in demand in the community, such as the 22 innovative and *successful* PIC programs this writer helped administer in Santa Barbara County, California, from 1980 until 1981 when Reaganomics funding cuts ended them. The programs were run like businesses, so they can be economically viable, providing trainable workers to employers and providing employers who will train workers on the job with "share of cost" incentives. NAPIC was renamed the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB). In 2010, NAWB partnered with Full Capacity Marketing and *CBS News* Community Partnerships to launch a national workforce campaign. With the economic crisis and ongoing unemployment, the campaign, "USA is Working!" was intended to leverage media interest in the economy, unemployment, skill development and use of ARRA funding in an effort to garner support for the public workforce system. "USA is Working!" plans to focus on stories that describe the strategic focus of Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and the impact of the 2,800 "One Stops" that served 30-million people in 2009. Corporate investments in business training and education, such as Toyota's \$3-million training program in Torrance, California, several years ago, and a waste recycling business in Compton, with job training at Compton Community College, also had good results. More programs were promised, but Compton became one of the most dangerous cities in the nation due to gang warfare and crimes committed by those never reached by the promised programs.

Community Support

YMCAs can help communities start literacy or sports programs to keep youngsters occupied after school. Volunteers in the "Smart Moves" program of the Port Salerno branch of Marin County, Florida's Boys and Girls Clubs show young people how to teach their peers to resist drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and sexual pressures. In Marin County, 25 peer leaders, 10 to 18 years old hold classes in schools as well as at the area's 5 Boys and Girls Clubs. In urban ghetto high crime areas, church members, nonprofit organizations and law enforcement can pitch in to create safe pastimes in safe surroundings. Rescuing and rehabilitating 12-to-18-year-old prostitutes and gang-bangers who have "seen it all and done it all" doesn't necessarily require professionals so much as people who truly understand what has happened to these children—people who care. Pacific Palisades started a Safe House Program, designating fire, police stations, homes, and businesses to provide refuge and help to lost and abused kids.

Separating Child Support from Visitation

Another element that can impact a child's fate is encouraging parents to take responsibility. Being a participant in their child's upbringing is a more powerful motivator than any DA's threat of incarceration for non-support and is vital to a child's emotional and social development. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's computerized, child support collection program proved a catastrophe. Instead of enforcing court ordered child support from truly "deadbeat dads," the computer made many mistakes—billing men by the same name who did not owe child support, nor even had children, putting liens on their property, suspending driver licenses of the men without notice so that they lost their jobs and could not make payments even if they wanted to. The multi-million dollar computer system also failed to collect support payments sufficient enough to justify cost of the program.

President Bush's 2001 Federal Budget Proposals included expenditures for "booting" cars owned by persons owing child support. Restricting their transportation will not enhance parents' ability to find work. Punitive driver's license suspension and arrest does not enhance ability to provide, further

alienates the parent from the child, and simply does not work. A parent cannot support a family without skills for a job that will provide adequate income. Jobs programs need to include skills training. Most “dead beat” parents are shut out of their children’s lives due to *inability* to provide, *not from an unwillingness* to provide.

Restitution

Non-prison sanctions for some can be more effective by allowing an offender to work and repay the victim for stolen property. It is senseless to warehouse indigent persons in prison for non-violent crimes such as stealing, while affluent substance abusers can dry out in swank settings such as the Betty Ford Center Indigent, incarcerated addicts cannot pay restitution. But for those who want to rehab, it is important that they have a sense of purpose and future. Job skills training is an essential element. Riverside County, California, is now charging released inmates, who have funds, for the inflated costs of imprisoning them, is not be a deterrent so much as a money-making scheme that will increase recidivism for those whose savings are confiscated upon release unless they are helped to obtain job skills and employment in order to be able to repay not only child support but also the prison industry.

An Open Prison System

In the United States, the emphasis has been **punishment** – corporal punishment in some schools, sentencing and incarcerating “juveniles as adults,” and harsh conditions as an added punishment in closed prisons. U.S. prison policies and practices differ not only from state to state but also from prison to prison within the same state prison system, often contrary to the American Corrections Association (ACA) “Declaration of Principles.”

In Danish open prisons, the emphasis is on **rehabilitation**. Prisoners are allowed privacy which is critical to congenial behavior between staff and inmates. There are no double or triple tiers. The cell is a room that can be decorated and arranged as the single inmate occupant wishes. A small slot can be opened by staff if necessary. Outside windows are barred but there are no institutional gray walls and a sense of responsibility among inmates and staff is fostered. Prisoners are paid cash for their work, given food allowances, purchase their own supplies. Each prison has a range of educational, vocational and social programs. Staff support includes special medical, psychological, educational, and social work services.

“Open prisons” currently used in the United States are reserved for the “white-collar offender,” or for a well known public figure accorded the “luxury” of federal open prison corrections. It should be used to a greater degree with the non-violent offender who poses little risk to public safety, instead of releasing someone from prison in worse condition than when he came in as result of the excessive punishment and brutality inherent in closed prisons. Other forms of “open prison” include Work Release and electronic monitoring, now available nationwide and requiring an Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) implemented by police, agencies, court systems, and correctional programs for DUIs, minor drug matters, property crimes, juvenile curfews, home detentions, and house arrest.

Historically, “open” prison systems have taken many forms. During America’s Civil War, there existed in “the world’s deadliest prison” in Andersonville, Georgia. Termed an “open prison,” Andersonville Prison, built by slaves, was literally outdoors where the Confederate Army held Union soldiers who had been captured to fend for themselves on meager rations, at the mercy of the elements, starvation and disease, dying of Smallpox and Dysentery at the rate of 100 per day – 13,000 died in the

15 months the prison existed. Those who did survive were walking skeletons. After the Civil War, Andersonville was turned into a cemetery. Australia and America once served as penal colonies for the British, who commonly sent the worst criminals to live under harsh conditions in isolated territories. The former Soviet Union used repressive labor camps in Siberia. The Tres Marias penal colony off the West Coast of Mexico is a more humane method of dealing with long term prisoners (those serving 20 years or more). The colony offers a full range of vocational and recreational activities. The English Probation Day Center offers certain types of offenders training in social and personal skills for up to 60 days as an alternative to custody. Germany allows judges more discretionary power, a move away from "custody mentality." Fortunately, Germany also discontinued its practice of using Death Row prisoners as living auto crash-test dummies" in exchange for Life sentences. (*Real TV*, 11-3-98).

Today, Scandinavia's "open prison system" is nothing like Andersonville, nor early penal colonies, nor Siberian labor camps. In Denmark, humane treatment begins with family relations that are not based on subservience of children. The emphasis is on developing an internal sense of responsibility for one's behavior. In Sweden, it is a crime to spank a child and there is some restraint on exploitation of violence in films and other media. "Prison Survival Ecology" means matching inmates with prison environments based on the assumption that individual inmates differ as to their individual needs and concerns. Other "open prisons" are based on the power of keepers over the kept, through

- (1) Normalcy of environment—the inside approximates the outside;
- (2) Synthesis—keeping prisoners in contact with the outside world;
- (3) Inmate participation in prison management;
- (4) Temporary nature—incarceration of less than one year for non-violent crimes with freedom of movement—no walls, fences, towers, coerced medications, treatments, cell searches, body searches, forced sexual activity, and the facilities are kept small and easier to manage by a responsive staff. Inmates may leave and outsiders may enter.

In the U.S., states may or may not have a responsive Prisoner Ombudsman while Sweden instituted the first "*National Justice Ombudsman*" program that scrutinizes its justice system to recommend changes and to guarantee that prisoner complaints and concerns are given a fair hearing. The open minimum security prison with rehabilitation is a reform favored by prison abolition movements, and has attracted a great deal of attention throughout the world. "Open prison" can also mean detention instead of imprisonment (a sentence of 6 months with a jury trial at the end to determine if a longer sentence is necessary), short or long term probation, or boot camps, with rehabilitation as the chief objective.

As with foster care and adoption, there are viable alternatives to prisons. America *can* do better for its people.

“The ones who are ‘crazy’ enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.”

-Steve Jobs,
adoptive,
and founder/CEO
of Apple Computer
(1955-2011)

EPILOGUE

The lucky ones, the “survivors,” often appear to lack empathy for their brothers and sisters who were placed in abusive homes. They fear “throwing out the baby with the bath water” will disrupt their own sense of security, so they oppose change by minimizing others’ plight. Depending on one’s personal resilience, an individual might overcome severe adverse personal circumstances such as physical and mental disabilities, poverty and loss of loved ones. But add to a child’s or adult’s burdens his feelings of abandonment or rejection, and also physical, sexual or emotional abuse, and we increase the risk of creating permanently damaged human beings. We increase the risk of creating monsters.

So far, America’s response to these human “mistakes” has been to dispose of them in the Foster Care, Adoption and/or Prison system where they are warehoused, often for life, or killed, adding to society’s moral and economic burdens. Some of the problems and some alternatives, but certainly not all, have been presented in this book.

“Electronic activism” has enabled armchair activists to support online petitions such as those at <http://PetitionsOnline.com>, <http://e-thepeople.com/petition>, <http://AmFOR.net/AbolishAdoption>, and <http://amnestyusa.org/get-involved/take-action>, with one click of a mouse. But many legislators are still more influenced by special interest lobbyists bearing gifts than by mass emails and electronic polls. As media now permits negative adoption stories, we aging pioneers of reform await a new generation of young activists such as those who “Occupy Wall Street” to embrace the complex “rights” issues inherent in America’s failed Foster Care, Adoption and Prison systems. As more authors, publishers, journalists and activists bring formerly hidden issues and alternatives to the general public, “*I didn’t know*” and “*It’s too complex*” will no longer excuses for perpetuating bad laws, policies and practices that have created “billion dollar babies” in America’s *failed* Foster Care, Adoption and Prison Systems. America *can* do better for its children and for society.

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RESOURCES DIRECTORY

(Contact information deemed reliable at time of publication)

ADOPTEES, PARENTS, ADOPTERS
ACTIVIST and FAMILY SEARCH
ORGANIZATIONS

See "Who We Are" section in this book

AMERICAN ADOPTION CONGRESS

<http://americanadoptioncongress.org>

1-202-483-3399 -see website for local contact

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

740 - 15th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20005-1019

1-202-662-1000; <http://aba.net>

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

(ACLU) 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor

New York, NY 10004

(212) 549-2500 ; <http://aclu.org>

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT PROJECT:

<http://www.aclu.org/capital-punishment>

PRISONER RIGHTS PROJECT:

<http://aclu.org/prisoners-rights>

AMERICANS FOR OPEN RECORDS

(AmFOR) PO Box 401

Palm Desert, CA 92261-0401;

<http://AmFOR.net>

AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE

(Mentors)

1110 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite #900

Washington, DC 20005

1-202-657-0600' <http://americaspromise.org>

info@americaspromise.org

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (USA)

3 Penn Plaza

New York, NY 10001

1-800-AMNESTY-toll free

1-212-807-8400; <http://amnestyusa.org>

BARBARA SINATRA CHILDREN'S
CENTER

39000 Bob Hope Drive
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
1-760-340-2336

<http://BarbaraSinatraChildrensCenter.org>

BASTARD NATION
PO Box 1469

Edmond, OK 73083-1469
<http://bastards.org>

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS (HQ)

230 North 13th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
1-215-567-7000
<http://bbbs.org>

BRIDGE OF HOPE INC.

311 National Road
Exton, PA 19341
1-866-670-HOPE
<http://bridgeofhopeinc.org>

CAL FARLEY'S BOYS RANCH

and GIRLS TOWN USA

PO Box 1890
Amarillo, TX 79174-0001
1-800-687-3722
<http://calfarley.org>
info@calfarley.org

CHILDHELP USA (National HQ)

for child abuse prevention, residential treatment
villages, foster care, etc.; also in Canada

15757 North 78th Street, Ste. B

Scottsdale, AZ 85260

1-800-4-A-CHILD - 24 hr. Hotline

1-480-922-8212

<http://childhelp.org>

CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT

1450 Sylvan Street
Van Nuys, CA 91411
1-800-551-1300 - Hotline
1-818-908-4474 -main
llee@childrenofthenight.org (president)

CONCERNED UNITED BIRTHPARENTS
(CUB, Inc); PO Box 341442
Los Angeles, CA 90034-9442
1-800-822-2777; info@CuBirthparents.org

CPS WATCH INC.
PO Box 974
Branson, MO 65615-0974
1-888-CPS-WATCH; <http://cpswatch.com>

DAVID KIRSCHNER, PhD, Clinical
Psychology(Expert Witness, Adoptee Death
Penalty cases) - 44 Juneau Blvd.
Woodbury, NY 11797
1-516-692-6060-phone;
DK21544808@aol.com

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FATHER FLANAGAN'S BOYS TOWN
13603 Flanagan Blvd.
Boys Town, NE 68010
National Hotline: 1-800-448-3000-toll free,
<http://boystown.org>; hotline@boystown.org

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PO Box 22910
Seattle, WA 98122
1-206-328-0881; <http://genesishouse.com>;
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HOMEBUILDERS PROGRAM
INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT
34004 - 16th Ave South, Ste# 200
Federal Way, WA 98003-8903-HQ
1-253-874-3630-Seattle
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<http://strengtheningfamilies.org>

HOMELESS SHELTERS DIRECTORY-U.S.
<http://homelesshelterdirectory.org>

HOMES NOT JAILS (meeting place)
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c/o Housing Rights Committee
of San Francisco
417 South Van Ness Avenue (at 15th Street)
San Francisco, CA 94103
1-415-713-8634 (HRC)
<http://homesnotjails.org>;
contact@homesnotjails.org

HOUSE OF RUTH

2201 Argonne Drive
Baltimore, MD 21218
1-410-889-0840-administration office
1-410-889-RUTH (7884)-24-Hour. Hotline
<http://hruth.org>
info@hruth.org

IDENTIGENE
(DNA Paternity, & Relationship Testing)
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<http://dnatesting.com>

INFERTILITY CURES (Free e-book)
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55 - 5th Avenue, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10003
<http://innocenceproject.com>;
info@innocenceproject.org

INTERNATIONAL SOUNDEX REUNION
REGISTRY (ISRR)
PO Box 2312
Carson City, NV 89701
<http://isrr.net>

NASVO-VOCAL
(Parent Victims of Child Abuse Laws)
<http://vocal-nasvo.org>

NATIONAL ADOPTION INFORMATION
CLEARINGHOUSE (NAIC)
1250 Maryland Avenue, SW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20024
1-800-394-3366-toll free;
<http://childwelfare.gov/>

NATL ASSOC. OF WORKFORCE
BOARDS (NAWB) & Private Industry
Councils (NAPIC)
1133 - 19th Street, NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20005
1-202-289-2950 ; <http://nawb.org>

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND
EXPLOITED CHILDREN (NCMEC)
Charles B. Wang Internatl. Children's Bldg.
699 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3175
1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)
1-703-224-2150-phone;
1-703-224-2122-FAX
[http://missingkids.com/](http://missingkids.com)

NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE
REFERENCE SERVICE (NCJRS)
(A-Z Topics Links)
<http://ncjrs.gov/viewall.html>

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR
WOMEN (NOW)
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Washington, DC 20005
1-212-628-8669; <http://now.org>

PASSAGES MALIBU
(Non-12-step Substance Abuse Treatment,
located in Malibu & Ventura, CA)
1-866-560-3530
<http://passagesmalibu.com>

PRISONER LOCATOR (Free, By-State)
http://ancestorhunt.com/prison_search.htm
CALIFORNIA PRISONER LOCATOR
<http://inmatelocator.cdcr.ca.gov> (Free)

PRISONER SUPPORT DIRECTORY (Free)
PO Box 339
Berkeley, CA 94701
(510)893-4648
<http://prisonactivist.com>

SALVATION ARMY HQ
615 Slaters Lane
PO Box 269
Alexandria, VA 22313;
<http://salvationarmyusa.org>

SEARCH WORLDWIDE, FREE
(Adoptee & Family Search Tips & Links)
<http://www.amfor.net/Search.html>

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES
Pompano Beach, FL 33060
<http://sos.bc.or> (Worldwide link)
<http://sosflorida.com> (FL project)

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
MILLS CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC
(for California "Three Strikes"/ Life cases)
559 Nathan Abbott Way
Stanford, CA 94305

STATE ADOPTION DISCLOSURE LAWS
<http://bastards.org/activism/access.htm>
also in THE ULTIMATE SEARCH BOOK
<http://AmFOR.net/ultimatesearch>

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
400 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
1-334-956-8200; <http://splcenter.org>

ULTIMATE SEARCH BOOK, THE
Worldwide Adoption, Genealogy & Search
Secrets - <http://AmFOR.net/UltimateSearch> -
Link to Genealogical.com to order online, or
order by phone: 1-410-837-8271

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
Ms. Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Rapporteur
UN Centre, Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
<http://unicef.org>

WHITE PAGES (Free-Find People, Business)
<http://whitepages.com>

WOMEN'S ALTERNATIVES CENTER
(WAC) PATHWAYSPA INC
519 Station Road
Wawa, PA 19063
1-610-457-1977
<http://PathwaysPA.org>

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About the Author

Lori Carangelo, a “Baby Boomer” born at the end of World War II, was raised by her natural parents in the suburbs of Hamden, Connecticut. After high school graduation in 1963, she attended Santa Barbara City College in California and worked for local government projects including the first Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) and the Private Industry Council (PIC) at Santa Barbara, administering job training and placement programs funded by a collaboration of both public (CETA) and private sectors. The tumultuous events in 1968 – the Vietnam War, local protests and the frequent and severe earthquakes in Santa Barbara – drove her back to Connecticut where she gave birth to a son, Richie, who she had planned to raise as a single parent. However, as result of seeking temporary foster care and medical care for him, she lost her boy to secret adoption. In Connecticut, there was no period in which one can revoke a relinquishment of parental rights, however it was obtained.

During the next 3 decades, in Palm Desert, California, Lori helped to raise 3 step-children, was reunited with her own son in 1986 after an 18 -year search for him, and found her 2 half-sisters and eventually in 2011 her adult granddaughter who she had never known. Their reunions and her work in behalf of adoption-affected families garnered attention of media, as well as adoption groups nationwide and internationally with whom she began networking, which had led to her founding Americans For Open Records (AmFOR) in 1989.

From 1989 through 2009, as “AmFOR,” Lori helped over 20,000 adult adoptees and their unknown biological families to reconnect, free of charge and, from 1997 through 2011, produced 6 editions of “The Ultimate Search Book (Worldwide Adoption, Genealogy & Other Search Secrets)” through various publishers. AmFOR’s monthly newsletter, *The Open Record*, was distributed, free, to over 2,000 adoption groups and individuals, until 2003. Convinced that AmFOR’s and others’ successes from by-state lobbying for open adoption records reform legislation could always be overturned by special interests of national and state adoption agency lobbies, Lori took the civil rights issues of the adopted, and of adoption itself, to the federal court in *Carangelo, Schafnick v. O’Neill, State of Connecticut et al.* After 4 years in the US District Court, the case was denied certiorari in the United States Supreme Court. Attorneys speculated the high court justices were “not ready” to decide the Constitutionality of adoption itself.

In the years since, Lori has taken America’s “last civil rights battle,” to the World Wide Web at <http://AmFOR.net> and to the United Nations “Rights of the Child” Project by permission of the UN’s Special Rapporteur, exposing the violations of civil and human rights in domestic and inter-country adoptions. She also contributed such documentation to the Hague Conference of International Adoptions, and has contributed over 600 adoption-related articles published by newspapers nationwide, which are listed at <http://LoriCarangelo.com/mediacredits>.

“Chosen Children” is the result of over 30 years of the author’s research and work in behalf of adoption affected individuals, including incarcerated adoptees, by lifting the veil of secrecy, myths and lies about America’s three symbiotic systems of Foster Care, Adoption and Prisons – and also offering Alternatives.