



The National Organization for Women-NYS
1500 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12205
Phone: 518-452-3944 Fax: 518-452-3861
General Email: Info@nownys.org
Presidents Email: NewYorkStateNOW@aol.com
www.nownys.org

Dear Participant: Thank you for agreeing to participate in this important survey. We are interested in what has been happening around the United States from 1985-2009. This is a joint effort by the National Organization for Women-NYS and Dr. Phyllis Chesler, Author of *Mothers on Trial*.

Dr. Chesler will be updating her research for the purpose of publication and the National Organization for Women-NYS will be updating its research for legislative purposes.

It is important for you to know that you may remain anonymous.

Please note that we would like to be able to follow up with you, if we need clarification on any of your answers. However, do not let that stop you from answering these questions and remaining anonymous if you so choose. If you choose to remain anonymous, please give us your State and Zip Code.

Please fill in the questions below and then proceed to answering the pointed questions. Then send your completed questionnaire and story to: pchesler@phyllis-chesler.com **and** to NewYorkStateNOW@aol.com

For custodially embattled parents: In addition, if you wish, in no more than 500-1000 words, we would like you to tell us your "story." We prefer to receive this typed, not handwritten. Email would be perfect but if you do not have access to email, please send your copy to NOW NYS, 1500 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12205. We will put it into electronic form for our use.

Name (optional) _____ If you wish to remain anonymous you may use your initials or just type "anonymous."

Address (optional) _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Email:(in case we have questions)

QUESTIONS FOR LAWYERS AND JUDGES:

What state and city do you live and work in?

How long have you been practicing law?

How long have you been on the bench or how long have you presided over divorce and custody cases?

What particular legal cases or precedents in your state or region would you suggest be included in an update of custody battle trends?

Does one particular case stand out in your mind that you would like to summarize?

What trends have you observed over the last 10-20-30 years? For example: In terms of gender, economic, race, sexual preference discrimination and in terms of double standards for mothers and fathers; spousal support, equitable distribution, child support; custody; whether domestic violence or child abuse, including incest, are factored into custodial determinations; whether lesbian and homosexual parents face more or less discrimination and whether their custody battles with each other have increased; How about brainwashing or the use of the bogus "parental alienation syndrome?"

Have these trends worsened or improved in that period of time?

What are the major issues that face custodially embattled mothers today?

What about custodially embattled fathers?

Have judges become less sexist or more sexist? Less homophobic or more so?

Would you say that women judges have improved matters for mothers?

How about male judges?

What kinds of unique problems do custodially embattled parents represent for lawyers and judges?

What recommendations would you make for improving matters? Legislatively and judicially? State by state, region by region, federally?

QUESTIONS FOR CUSTODIALLY EMBATTLED PARENT

Dear Parent: Thank you for agreeing to help. We need you to tell us the following:

Your birth date:

The date and place of your marriage or partnership:

The birth date of your child or children:

The location of the court system you entered:

The year you entered the court system:

How long you were there?

What were the issues in your case? Just economic? Just custodial? Were alcohol, drug addiction, mental illness, brainwashing, domestic violence, child abuse factors in your case? Economic greed on the part of your spouse? Other?

What happened? Did you settle? Did the judge rule?

What have you learned about lawyers and judges?

(This questionnaire is the property of the National Organization for Women-NYS and Phyllis Chesler. No duplication is permitted without the consent of the authors)