Yes, Our Kids Have Rights, Too

by Quin Leggett

Your child has rights. A child is entitled to adequate care, food, shelter, clothing, medical attention, love and affection. When these appropriate needs are not met, a strong possibility of neglect exists with in the family unit.

A common definition of neglect is: the lack of action by the parent or guardian to provide these basic needs to the child, which impairs the growth of the child.

As I mentioned in my previous article on sexual and physical abuse, poverty stricken families are considered by society exhibit deviant behavior. Therefore, the assumption is made that poverty is the main cause of neglect.

Families who are poverty stricken have multiple problems and the burden of trying to provide the essentials for their children on a regular basis is difficult.

problem in today's

household. She has the maturity of the parents. to propriate commodate her family neglect their children.

Like abuse, neglect oc- mental disabilities. curs at all levels of society and there is no subjected to neglect, neglect is more obvious follow through to see that precedence for social class and socio-economic not recognize the needs

practices, problems and deficienbeing the head of the modern family and im-

for housing are not ap- and no set of rules to inadequate care or diet. ac- measure when child care

size. Therefore, this Therefore, the values of but neglect is caused single parent is suffering an individual may cause more frequently than from social stress, which conflict in defining abuse. A child may be could be one of the fac- neglectful behavior. Most neglected, tors for neglect instead of the time neglectful abused. of all of the blame being behavior is projected by children of all age groups projected on poverty. It families that have poor are victims of neglect and has also been established communications within each child in the family of that only a small propor- their family units, and neglect is the victim. tion of the poor really personal or health addiction, alcoholism and

because the mother does of the child

There are several fac- and is ignorant to the tors that contribute to point of not knowing how However, one main neglect, such as dif- to meet the child's ference in child rearing needs. The need could be

personality physical or emotional.

The common definition cies within the parents, of this problem is: failure society is the woman's isolation within the on the part of the child to thrive due to neglect. This is often when a child responsibility of providing , It is much harder to and mother have not financial and identify and deal with established a loving and emotional support to her neglect, because of the caring relationship, or family. Most of the time structure of our society. when an infant has the the woman's income is In some state laws, inability to gain height gravely insufficient for neglect is not included. and weight at a normal the large family she has We have no standard of rate compared to other to support and her needs child rearing in our nation children, because of

> There is a fine line betis neglectful. ween abuse and neglect, but not However,

Th ere are two types of problems such as drug n'eglect: physical and emotional. Any type of child is in need of neglect is very difficult to medical attention and the A child may also be prove, but physical parents refuse or fail to and much easier to define the child gets the proper than emotional neglect.

> There are many forms in which neglect may apmost common ones:

Abandonment

totally or the parent has voluntarily stopped conparent gives reason to and help him instead. believe that he or she has parental responsibilities.

Improper Supervision The child is left alone problem cannot without safeguards for his health or welfare, or the child is young children.

Environmental Neglect The home is unsuitable, because of unconditions, that a family is still and suicides. residing in a house that has been condemned.

Medical Neglect - A medical treatment.

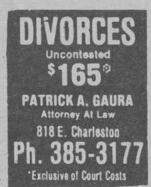
There are many torms pear. Following are the of neglect, but these are the most common ones.

If any parent or guar-

Children are left alone dian is gulity of these acts, society should not judge or punish this intact with the child and the dividual but teach him

A neglected child's no intention of resuming future of a normal adult life is being jeopardize. If these children and parents are not helped, the adequate solved. Society's lack of concern and help may be responsible for exhibiting left in the care of other of bizarre behavior tomorrow by our future adults who are the victims of chld abuse and

neglect today. Victims of abuse and neglect could possibly be safety hazards, etc. An society's future murexample of this would be derers, robbers, rapists





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