

# 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 within 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 to 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.

However, one main problem in today's

society is the woman's being the head of the household. She has the responsibility of providing both financial and emotional support to her family. Most of the time the woman's income is gravely insufficient for the large family she has to support and her needs for housing are not appropriate to accommodate her family size. Therefore, this single parent is suffering from social stress, which could be one of the factors for neglect instead of all of the blame being projected on poverty. It has also been established that only a small proportion of the poor really neglect their children.

Like abuse, neglect occurs at all levels of society and there is no precedence for social class and socio-economic levels.

There are several factors that contribute to neglect, such as difference in child rearing

practices, personality problems and deficiencies within the parents, isolation within the modern family and immaturity of the parents.

It is much harder to identify and deal with neglect, because of the structure of our society. In some state laws, neglect is not included. We have no standard of child rearing in our nation and no set of rules to measure when child care is neglectful. Therefore, the values of an individual may cause conflict in defining neglectful behavior. Most of the time neglectful behavior is projected by families that have poor communications within their family units, and personal or health problems such as drug addiction, alcoholism and mental disabilities.

A child may also be subjected to neglect, because the mother does not recognize the needs of the child

and is ignorant to the point of not knowing how to meet the child's needs. The need could be

physical or emotional.

The common definition of this problem is: failure on the part of the child to thrive due to neglect. This is often when a child and mother have not established a loving and caring relationship, or when an infant has the inability to gain height and weight at a normal rate compared to other children, because of inadequate care or diet.

There is a fine line between abuse and neglect, but neglect is caused more frequently than abuse. A child may be neglected, but not abused. However, children of all age groups are victims of neglect and each child in the family of neglect is the victim.

There are two types of neglect: physical and emotional. Any type of neglect is very difficult to prove, but physical neglect is more obvious and much easier to define than emotional neglect.

There are many forms in which neglect may appear. Following are the most common ones:

Abandonment —

Children are left alone totally or the parent has voluntarily stopped contact with the child and the parent gives reason to believe that he or she has no intention of resuming parental responsibilities.

**Improper Supervision** — The child is left alone without adequate safeguards for his health or welfare, or the child is left in the care of other young children.

**Environmental Neglect** — The home is unsuitable, because of unsanitary conditions, safety hazards, etc. An example of this would be that a family is still residing in a house that has been condemned.

**Medical Neglect** — A child is in need of medical attention and the parents refuse or fail to follow through to see that the child gets the proper medical treatment.

There are many forms of neglect, but these are the most common ones.

If any parent or guar-

dian is guilty of these acts, society should not judge or punish this individual but teach him and help him instead.

A neglected child's future of a normal adult life is being jeopardized. If these children and parents are not helped, the problem cannot be solved. Society's lack of concern and help may be responsible for exhibiting of bizarre behavior tomorrow by our future adults who are the victims of child abuse and neglect today.

Victims of abuse and neglect could possibly be society's future murderers, robbers, rapists and suicides.

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Uncontested  
**\$165<sup>00</sup>**  
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\*Exclusive of Court Costs



## WEEKLY PLAYLIST

May 12 thru May 18, 1980

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TITLE	ARTIST
1	3	Stump	Brothers Johnson
2	4	Don't Say Goodnight	Isley Brothers
3	5	Off The Wall	Michael Jackson
4	6	Don't Push It, Don't Force It	Leon Hayward
5	9	Here Comes The Sun	Fat Larry's Band
6	12	Forever	Chuck Cissle
7	13	If You Like Our Music	Lakeside
8	16	Two Places At The Same Time	Raydio
9	17	Sweet Sensation	Stephanie Mills
10	15	Comin' Down From Love	Bobby Caldwell
11	19	Let The Music Take You	Patrice Russen
12	22	Lady	Whispers
13	23	Sittin' In The Park	G. O.
14	25	Got To Be Enough	Confunkshun
15	24	Music Trance	Ben E. King
16	32	Hangin' Out	Kool and the Gang
17	21	Let Me Be The Clock	Smokey Robinson
18	New	Bang Theory	Parliament
19	27	Power	Temptations
20	29	Let's Get Serious	Jermaine Jackson
21	30	We're Going Out Tonight	Cameo
22	28	I've Got The Feeling'	Two Tons Of Fun
23	31	I Should Be Your Lover	Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes
24	35	Cloudy	Chaka Khan
25	New	Baby I'm For Real	Bohannon
26	New	Jam	'5" Special
27	New	Funky Town	Lipp
28	New	Back Together Again	Roberta Flack/Donny Hathaway
29	New	Under Your Spell	Phyllis Hyman
30	New	You And Me	Solaris
31	New	Do Right	Paul Davis
32	New	Reach Your Peak	Sister Sledge
33	New	Wrappin'	Curtis Blow
34	New	Here I Am	Sugar Hill
35	New	Sexy Eyes	Dr. Hook



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