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| After you separated/ divorced | Using Family Court Judges |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 1. The judge ordered you to have visitation only at the father's discretion.6 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 2. The judge threatened dire consequences if you do not obey.12 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 3. The judge treated you with a father-like attitude, denial of protection, and treated your claims as lies.12 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 4. The judge kept you from moving away from the abuser and kept you from family and resources by threatening loss of custody if you relocate.12 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 5. The judge allowed himself or herself to be fooled by your abusive partner’s charm.5  |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 6. The judge charged you with contempt and jailed you for not providing a cell phone for your child, even though the child has access to other phones or communication methods to use to communicate with the other parent.5 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 7. The judge put you in jail for protecting your children from an abusive (sexually, physically, emotionally) father.5 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 8. The judge used the abuser’s previous threats to take your children away from you, making this nightmare come true.12  |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 9. The judge ordered you into “alienation therapy” to learn how to stop “alienating” the children from their father.5  |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 10. You wanted to move away and were prevented from moving away with your children even if this would allow them to survive economically and psychologically.5,6 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 11. The judge refused to issue or enforce adequate child support, spousal maintenance, or alimony orders, and can reinforce this control.12 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 12. Your ex kidnapped your child and then became assaultive to others after you found him. Multiple people pressed charges, and your ex was arrested. He was released without bail, once the judge understood it was a "domestic matter."6 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 13. The judge viewed your unwillingness to consider joint custody with an ex-partner who had never been *formally* charged with abuse, coercive control, or domestic violence as unreasonable.5 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 14. The judge didn’t know enough about domestic violence, coercive control trauma victims, and misread how you looked or acted in court. For example, the judge viewed your passive behavior and well-groomed appearance as evidence that the domestic violence, coercive control trauma did not really harm you; the judge viewed your emotional behavior and exhausted appearance as evidence that you were “too emotional,” mentally ill, perhaps lied about the abuse, or were abusive yourself. 20 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 15. The judge refused to grant or enforce restraining orders against your abusive partner.5  |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 16. The judge was inclined to favor the calm, cooperative, controlled (and controlling) father over you, the distressed, anxious, and difficult mother.5  |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 17. The judge refused to consider psychological damage to your children as “abuse” and failed to include the children in protective orders.5 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 18. The judge issued restraining orders to both your abusive partner and to you, mutualizing the abuse, indicating that the abuse was partially your fault.5, 35 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 19. The judge viewed counseling received by the abuser as a “cure,” and with no evidence of recent domestic violence incidents or patterns of coercive control shown by evidence, treated the abusive partner as a responsible and caring parent.5 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 20. The judge down-played the domestic violence and coercive control in the relationship, or refused to consider the pattern of abuse over time.5, 20 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 21. The judge treated domestic violence charges against your abusive ex-partner and against you as equally real, even though your ex filed charges against you as an intimidation strategy after you separated. 5  |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 22. The judge acted like he or she couldn’t believe your financially stable, well-educated ex-partner could be a violent or abusive man.5 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 23. The judge believed your social or career problems were your fault, instead of the result of domestic abuse or coercive control trauma. For example, the judge didn’t understand that your abusive spouse isolated you from your family and friends; didn’t understand that your abusive partner prevented you from working outside the home. 5 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 24. The judge counted only documented incidents of domestic violence, required evidence of several domestic violence incidents, counted only recent incidents, or required a higher standard of proof.35  No patterns of coercive control were considered by the judge because the laws in your state fail to define coercive control. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 25. The judge held you, the mother, to a higher level of care for the children than the father.35 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 26. The judge expects you, the mother, to have a job and support your children even if their capable father is unemployed by choice.5 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 27. The judge cut off your testimony before you had placed all facts in evidence.5 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 28. The judge allowed your ex to complete his testimony uninterrupted.5 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 29. The judge did not follow due process requirements by making an audio, video, or written record of all court proceedings.5 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 30. The judge placed gag orders on you to keep you from raising allegations of abuse/neglect or judicial misconduct.35 |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 31. The judge didn’t understand that your thinking and memory problems when being questioned may be the result of being an abused spouse. For example, your inability to remember important details or events were instead judged to be indicators of immaturity or lying instead of a result of stress, trauma, or Battered Woman’s Syndrome20 now, considered coercive control trauma. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 32. The judge didn’t understand that your avoidance, emotional numbing, and distraction are the result of being an abused spouse. For example, your unusual responses in court regarding the abuse were thought to be indicators of not caring or lying instead of a result of stress, trauma, or Battered Woman’s Syndrome20 now, considered coercive control trauma. |
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | 33. The judge didn’t understand that your anxiety and nervousness in court may be the result of being an abused spouse. For example, your fearfulness, irritability, crying, and inability to focus were instead judged to be indicators of immaturity, or mental instability instead of a result of stress, trauma, or Battered Woman’s Syndrome20 now, considered coercive control trauma. |