

NOW Board of Directors
June 20, 2020
NOW Family Law Advisory Committee Brief to the Board

Dear Members of the Board,

The National NOW Family Law Advisory Committee created via a resolution brought to the convention in 2003. The resolution was on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting and received a unanimous vote by the Board in April 2004. This all-volunteer committee of parents, grandparents, activists, organizers, attorneys, and advocates from across the Country devoting their collective experience, expertise in family law, and navigating the family court system to support NOW's work in promoting justice and equality for women.

On the NOW Foundation website, we have a clearinghouse of materials the committee has compiled at this link, <http://now.org/now-foundation/crisis-in-family-courts/>. There are additional materials at the Chapters' only web site on the NOW, Inc. website.

Family Law Advisory Committee Brochure is available at this link: <http://now.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/familylawbrochure7-08final.pdf>.

This committee meets every Tuesday of the month from September through June. We produce about two newsletters a year to provide information to leadership and the public regarding family law issues. The protection of children in family court proceedings continues to be the most critical issue. Protective parents, primarily mothers, are losing custody of minor children in court proceedings that often ignore evidence of battering or child abuse granting custody or unsupervised visitation to the abusive parent. In the next newsletter, we discuss the concerns around Reunification Therapy, sometimes called Threat Therapy used to force children into relationships often with the abusive parent.

We wanted to remind you our newsletters are available on the NOW Foundation website under the crisis in family courts link: <https://now.org/now-foundation/crisis-in-family-courts/>, please share and direct your members to this site.

We would like to hear from leadership around the Country regarding your experiences, information, legislation, and members' communications. We are particularly interested in knowing more about the type of calls you are receiving. It would be helpful for us to have access to what the callers are looking for and the support you can provide them. Do you use an intake form for this? We hope that with improved communications, we will be better able to support our NOW community with information and improved tools on the crisis in family courts.

If you have suggestions, please contact the committee chair.

Thank you for all you do to support women and girls.

NOW Family Law Advisory Committee

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