

Joan Meier Studies

Rates at which courts credited mothers' claims of fathers' abuse.

- Domestic violence (DV): 45% (517/1137)
- Child physical abuse (CPA): 27% (73/268)
- Child sexual abuse (CSA): 15% (29/200)
- Mixed DV with CPA or CSA (DVCh): 55% (165/302)
- Mixed CPA & CSA (CPACSA): 13% (5/39)
- Any: 41% (789/1946)

Custody switch to father by type of abuse mother alleged.

- DV: 23% (149/641)
- CPA: 29% (39/135)
- CSA: 28% (37/131)
- DVC: 26% (48/182)
- CPACSA: 50% (11/22)
- Any: 26% (284/1111)

Custody switch to father when courts credited fathers' abuse.

- DV: 14% (43/303)
- CPA: 20% (7/35)
- CSA: 0% (0/23)
- DVC: 13% (13/103)
- CPACSA: 0% (0/4)
- Any: 13% (63/468)

Rates at which courts credited mothers' abuse claims when fathers claimed alienation, by type of abuse.

- DV: 37% (28/76)
- CPA: 18% (4/22)
- CSA: 2% (1/51)
- DVCh: 31% (17/55)
- CPACSA: 5% (1/18)
- Any: 23% (51/222)

Mothers' custody losses when father claims alienation.

- DV: 35% (20/57)
- CPA: 59% (10/17)
- CSA: 54% (19/35)
- DVCh: 58% (25/43)
- CPACSA: 64% (7/11)
- Any: 50% (81/163)

When courts credit fathers' alienation claims. Type of Abuse Alleged Mother Lost Custody

- DV: 60% (15/25)
- CPA: 59% (10/17)

- CSA: 68% (13/19)
- DVCh: 79% (19/24)
- CPACSA: 100% (6/6)
- Any: 73% (60/82)

When mother is found to be alienating and father is found to be an abuser. Type of Credited Abuse Mother Lost Custody

- DV: 29% (2/7)
- CPA: 0% (no cases where both abuse & alienation were credited)
- CSA: 0% (“ “)
- DVCh: 57% (4/7)
- CPACSA: 0% (no cases where both abuse and alienation were credited)
- Avg: 43% (6/14)

Meier, J. S. (2020). *U.S. child custody outcomes in cases involving parental alienation and abuse allegations: What do the data show?* *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*, 42(1), 92–105. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09649069.2020.1701941>

Meier, J. S., Dickson, S., O'Sullivan, C., Rosen, L., & Hayes, J. (2019). *Child Custody Outcomes in Cases Involving Parental Alienation and Abuse Allegations*. GWU Law School Public Law Research Paper No. 2019-56, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3448062> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3448062>