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How many times can a man beat a woman before he finally loses his freedom?

Once?

No.

Twice?

No.

Three times?

Keep going.

More than three times?

Yes. It has happened. It has happened right here in Cheyenne. Case file after case file tell the stories.

No way! Wyoming is about real men. Wyoming would never tolerate a man repeatedly beating a woman. Would we? And Cheyenne is still a part of Wyoming, isn't it? You talking about the same man and the same woman?

The same man. Different women.

How can you explain it?

He must be an informant. What is affectionately referred to as "a state's witness." What, on the street, is called a "snitch."

Another state's witness was allowed to break an uncle's jaw, cause the loss of sight in one eye for the uncle, then plea bargain away from a felony that would have made him an habitual criminal, appear before the judge for sentencing without the uncle's knowledge - and walk.

So if this latest guy whose case files were reviewed by the Cheyenne Herald isn't a snitch, he sure must make a compelling case for himself every time he's convinced a different ADA and judge to let him out to do it again. And again.

Most of the stories I pursue have some degree of challenge that could even be considered satisfaction in them. To disclose decisions of public officials that are unimaginable to most can be fun. But as time passes, more and more people are contacting me about issues involving parents in trouble and how that is affecting



their children. Children as young as those just beginning to walk. But children whose attitudes about life and behavior are being formed. Whether it concerns adults using illegal drugs in their child's (children's) presence or being abusive to the child's mother, nothing is more unpleasant for me to become involved in and nothing is more frustrating for other family members or friends who contact me.

A grandmother recently contacted me about custody of a boy under two years old. His mother was in jail for violation of probation (child endangerment) for using drugs while on probation. The little boy was placed in foster care and the grandmother, who also sought custody and had been preferred to have custody by the mother, could not even gain visitation. The story got more complicated as it went along but the pawn in all this was the little child. In foster care, he was not included in Christmas with his foster family as they wanted that day to be just "their family."

The boy's mother was released from jail and is now supposed to be in drug treatment. But drug treatment in Laramie County is virtually unavailable. She went to a group residence home with only peer encouragement as her treatment to beat a meth problem. Will it work? Probably not. What will happen to this little boy? God only knows.

Last week, I was contacted by another person affected by the bad behavior on the part of parents of two very young children. A little boy under three years old and a little girl under two years old are caught in a tug-of-war between two parents who have not shown the maturity or responsibility to care for either child.

This father is the one with the long rap sheet for beating women.

I am not a psychologist or psychiatrist nor one who understands why women not only tolerate abuse from a man who could not love them or they would never physically abuse them - I also don't understand the women choosing to enter such relationships or return to men who inflict such pain and injury on them. Repeatedly.

All too often, caring and capable grandparents are caught in the squeeze.

Stories I have been told about the generational abuse both inflicted and tolerated are incredible. It seems that daughters watch their mothers being abused by their father or live-in boyfriends and then they willingly enter such relationships themselves. Sons watch the same and, instead of always rising against such abuse of those weaker, engage in the same behavior themselves. Why does this happen? I suppose no one really knows or we'd find a solution.

Because I've learned that the most undesirable among us can seemingly commit violent crime without fear of incarceration because they are informants, I now wonder if each such person I see with lengthy criminal files but who remain free is a snitch. Someone the authorities would allow to be free, even if they engage in the behavior that has gotten them arrested in the past, if they will drop a dime on a drug dealer now and again.

Is there any consideration for the innocent victims who may come into the path of these violent offenders between brief sojourns in jail - but never in prison? Does law enforcement "arrest" these informants, parade them through the jail in orange so they are not obvious snitches, only to let them walk out the back door to rob, beat, burglarize, and terrorize again?

This article is about a guy who has repeatedly beaten women. Women who lived with him as girlfriend or wife. At least two different women, maybe more in this case. Court files portray a guy who has not, and never will, learn his lesson nor mature past the point of beating women. He doesn't work but is reported to have money. He violates probation but is slapped on the hand. By his own admission, he owes \$25,000 in child support.

He and his latest victim are in the process of getting a divorce. He wants custody of the two very young children. She has had primary custody and he has had visitation rights. The rights outlined in Court documents do not match what her

attorney has told her she must allow, according to concerned family members.

Those family members now have come to believe that all Cheyenne attorneys are "in bed together" - that they will make deals outside the courtroom because they are "good friends." To hell with the client.

I don't know that I subscribe to that notion but it has been presented to me more than once in the past.

The mother is no angel herself. She is told she cannot go anywhere near where he lives and she still does. She has signed a "Mutual Restraining Order" but does not comply. She has been accused of using a vehicle to protect herself. She cannot grasp that it is in her best interests to stay clear of this guy. She knew, according to others, of his propensity to beat women before marrying him but married him against that advice.

Evidently, some women think they can change a man or that the man will change on his own because she is "different" - that the earlier women provoked him, that the others "had it coming." In one instance with this couple, she filed charges only to later send a letter to the Court that she "lied" about the incident. Forget the bruises, cuts or blood - women say they lied at the risk of being charged with filing a false report - to protect a guy who will beat them again at the next slightest provocation, real or imagined.

But, the children. What about the children? Legislatures are always doing things "for the children." Well, here are two that need protection.

Why not grant legal guardianship to the maternal grandparents? These are respected and well-known people in the community. It breaks their hearts to be in the middle but unable to take the necessary steps to protect their grandchildren. At the upcoming Probation Revocation hearings for both parents, why not "encourage" them to sign such irrevocable documents? If they refuse, hello Rawlins and Lusk for them. For God's sake, do something to save these children.

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