

Why haven't the younger children been taken from the homes in Gloucester, Massachusetts?

At the religious sect compound in Texas, a hoax telephone call resulted in over 450 children, from infants to late teens, being separated from their parents. Held captive for far too long, while the judicial system in Texas became the laughingstock of the United States courts, the children were eventually returned to their parents.

Their crime? None.

In fact, in that Texas incident involving a religious sect which allegedly practices polygamy, the only one who committed a crime was a woman who made the fake telephone report. If you don't count the legal system which planned and carried out the massive capture of tiny children.

The allegation used to base the raid in Texas was that men of legal age were engaging in inappropriate behavior with girls under the legal age. In fact, it was learned that some of the girls of the sect who had not reached the age of majority actually had given birth.

Authorities did not know that until after they had taken all of the children away from parents, mostly parents who had not been, and never would be, accused of any wrongdoing.

The accused male adult claims he hadn't been at the sect compound for years. No sisters with the names used by the hoax callers were ever found on the compound or away from it. No charges were filed against parents whose children had been taken away, to be held separate from the parents. But countless lives were disrupted and psychological scars were inflicted onto children who deserved none of the damage.

At a lonely fishing village near Boston, Massachusetts, illegal behavior and immoral conduct occurred which was more open, more brazen and more provable.

According to the principal of the high school in Gloucester, almost a dozen and a half young girls in his high school had entered into a pact with female classmates and friends in the school to get pregnant and raise their babies together.

As the story goes, girls who visited the high school health clinic regularly for a pregnancy test were disappointed when the results were negative and elated when they were positive. In other words, they had tried repeatedly to become pregnant.

Many, if not most, of the young students were sophomores - 15 years of age.

The legal age of consent in Massachusetts is 16. No legal action has been taken, nor contemplated, against the underage girls.

After the high school principal told the media of the pact, the local female mayor and superintendent of the school disputed his claim. But he had support for his story from the school's doctor and nurse, both of whom had resigned in protest to the school's lack of adequate counseling or assistance to girls before they became pregnant.

A newspaper report: *Still, [Gloucester Mayor] Kirk told Reuters that authorities are looking at whether to pursue statutory rape charges. "We're at the very early stages of wrestling with the complexities of this problem," she said.*

"But we also have to think about the boys. Some of these boys could have their lives changed. They could be in serious, serious trouble even if it was consensual because of their age — not from what the city could do but from what the girls' families could do," she told Reuters.

Under Massachusetts law, it is a crime to have sex with anyone under the age of 16.

What an incredible position to take - especially in light of the draconian handling of innocent male and female children and teenagers in Texas.

This mayor did not order a raid of the homes of all teenage girls in Gloucester. Surely there must have been some laws broken by those parents - neglect or something. Contributing to the delinquency of a minor? The mayor's concern is as much for the boys, mostly older than the children they impregnated, as for the willing girls. Willing perhaps, but not legally allowed to give consent.

In this school, a normal school year in the enrollment of 1,000 has about four girls who get pregnant. And, generally, when a young girl learns she is pregnant, there are no high fives or announced plans for baby showers as there have been this past year.

On the basis of a bogus tip - it was not anonymous, it was false - Texas authorities turned countless families lives upside down. In Massachusetts, with evidence of illegal behavior, the mayor of a small city worries that the boys responsible for the pregnancies of 15 year-old girls "could have their lives changed. Ya think?"

Why would one state allow parents to deal with this unusual situation as they see fit and another state raid a compound on the basis of a hoax complaint? Which state, or city, conducted itself appropriately? The justification for the difference in handling is simple. Religion. They were not a polygamy-practicing group in Massachusetts.

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John Barrasso has picked up on the job he was appointed to very quickly.

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Despite coming in second in the minds of most members of the Republican State Central Committee repeatedly, he came in first in the selection process of Dave Freudenthal and, thus, Dr. John is in Washington D.C., trying to fill the huge shoes left by Craig Thomas.

For example, after all parties had resolved the concern about scheduling the Rainbow Family and Boys Scouts in the same park area, one following right after the other, Dr. John put out a scolding press release. Actually, he put out a press release which was about the scolding letter he had sent to the Parks Service.

One thing Craig never tried to do, and Mike Enzi does not try to do, is be in the Wyoming media every day. Both were content to do the best job they could and not send out thrice-daily press releases.

Not content to work behind the scenes as Mike and Craig would have done - to try to prevent a reoccurrence - he had to tell the voters in Wyoming (as only an incumbent during an election cycle can) that he had gone to bat for BSA with the help of the CS-T. A little late, John. Too late.

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