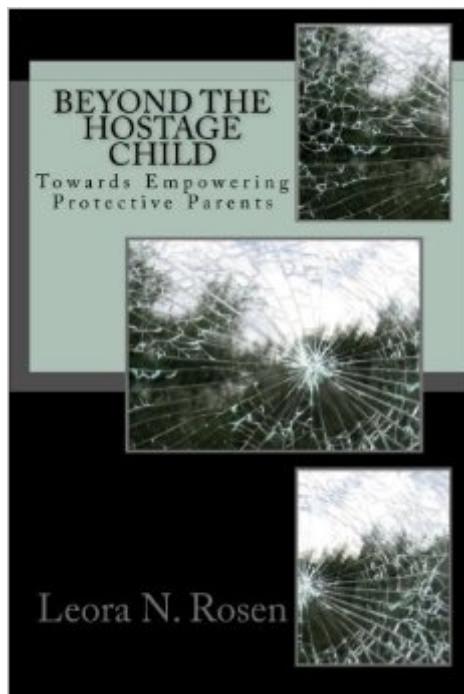


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# Beyond The Hostage Child: Towards Empowering Protective Parents



## **Synopsis**

For the past three decades, the awareness of dysfunction in our nation's family courts has been growing steadily, documented in books, films, and scholarly research. The most vulnerable victims of this dysfunction are children alleging abuse by one parent in the context of family dissolution. These children are frequently ordered into the sole custody of their named abusers and may even be denied all contact with their protective parents. This phenomenon has proved amazingly resistant to change despite growing outcries by victims, advocates and professionals. Although this remains primarily a state court problem, this book takes the position that change is possible through federal leadership, and outlines specific actions that the federal government can take to bring about meaningful resolution to the problem and keep our nation's children safe.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This clear, readable, and affordable update to Dr. Rosen's 1996 text, *The Hostage Child*, focuses our attention on the lifelong harm done to children by family courts and the remedies needed. She identifies specific federal funding streams that have done great damage (for example, the "Responsible Fatherhood Programs" that inspired the deadly rampage by Beltway Sniper John Muhammad from West Coast to East and another by Joshua Komisarjevsky in Connecticut). This book holds validation for those who have been traumatized when courts removed terrified children from protective parents and gave them to the sole custody of abusers. Dr. Rosen shines a light we need to go forward. She asserts that alleged crimes of domestic violence and child sexual abuse within the family should never be sent to civil courts that are designed for compromise. She briefly describes five proposed models for change and offers more detail on a sixth, composite model,

CARCO (Child At Risk Classification Office) that focuses on a public health assessment of the child's risk of being exposed to violence or abuse. She uses the acronym TRIAL to represent key elements of CARCO: Training, Reporting, Investigation, Adjudication, and Long-term planning - that are woefully absent from the present practice of adversarial litigation in family court. Dr. Rosen has performed a huge service by focusing those of us who feel numbed by our own inability to protect desperate children and non-offending parents from the lies of lawyers and psychologists who have reduced them to a profit center. She concludes by urging Congress to use its authority and enact CARCO for the District of Columbia, creating a model for the nation. Federal funding incentives can be redirected to inspire other states to follow suit and to end the nightmare that breeds child abuse at family court.

Leora Rosen Ph.D. "Beyond The Hostage Child" is a Must Read.... Rosen has developed an insightful tool to what is happening to women and children when there are protective parent issues in our courts. She researched the dynamics of the abuse for the past three decades of how this nightmare has continued. This book is the first of its kind to draw attention to the movements of the fathers rights, gender bias, and the failure of family courts. I personally have lived this great injustice and found her knowledge so forthright and substantiating it with proof. The outlining of domestic violence, coercion and control should make any professional or court appointed evaluators, attorneys, judges, and social workers take heed. Beyond Hostage Child explains, breaks down the problems and give solutions. There are proposed models for change and as a protective mother this book gave me the true intellect to what is happening and why. It is important for every women who is trying to protect her innocent child or children from an abusive father to read, and hand over this book to there legislature, senators, congress and all the people involved in their cases that just don't get the dynamics. The strategies for the Federal Government are long over due with the respect of child custody, child abuse, and victims of domestic and family violence. I am the author of "Prosecuted But Not Silenced" (Courtroom Reform for Sexually Abused Children) and I would like to incorporate all of Leora's incredible work into my book! Wake Up Society!!!

Beyond the Hostage Child by Leora Rosen gives guidance on federal changes that can and should be made to help abused children of divorce. Her book also documents a history of our movement. It is a wonderful sequel to The Hostage Child by Leora and Michelle Etlin.

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