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Recent Research Abstracts

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POST-SEPARATION FAMILY VIOLENCE

Kaye, M; Stubbs, J & Tolmie, J. (2003). Domestic violence and child contact arrangements. *Australian Journal of Family Law*, v.17 no.2 Jul 2003: 93-133.

This article outlines the results of an Australian study examining the experiences of 40 women who had to negotiate and facilitate contact arrangements with an ex-partner who abused them. Those results are supplemented by findings from interviews with 22 individuals and representatives of bodies professionally involved in the process of facilitating the development or implementation of child contact arrangements. It was found that for most of the women the end of the relationship had not meant an end to violence towards them. Much of that violence was linked in some way to the negotiation or exercise of child contact. It was also found that the protection of women and children was frequently overlooked in the process of negotiating and implementing child contact arrangements.

McInnes, E. (2004). The impact of violence on mothers' and children's needs during and after parental separation. *Early Child Development and Care*, 174 (4), 357-368.

Exposure to domestic violence before, during and after separation has direct negative and potentially long term impacts on women and their children. The information reported in this paper was collected from interviews with 36 single mothers in South Australia who had left violent relationships. The article discusses some key contexts of separation from violence, including access to housing and property, legal issues arising from violence, post-separation violence and sole parenting after a violent relationship.

Hume, M & Joy, H. (2004). *Child Abuse Prevention*, 12 (1), 19-21.

There is evidence that women who leave relationships where they have been subject to abuse and violence are at risk of escalated violence. Some women may experience difficulty in achieving safety for themselves and their children in negotiating children's matters after separation in the context of current system provisions. The Women's Safety after Separation Project aims to assist separated women who have experienced violence and abuse by developing resources to support and assist them in negotiating children's matters, identifying policy approaches and supporting research. This article covers the project's development, objectives and anticipated outcomes.

Rendell, K; Rathus, Z & Lynch, A. (2000). *An unacceptable risk: a report on child contact arrangements where there is violence in the family*. Annerley, Qld: Women's Legal Service.

The purpose of this research was to gather information on the way in which legal and welfare systems respond to women and children affected by violence and abuse after separation. Issues discussed include: the link between domestic violence and child abuse; the role of the Family Court in child protection; characteristics of abuse of children in contact; reporting child abuse; legal aid in Queensland; and different legal pathways for different types of relationships.