

Tough Questions- How do we Save these Kids?

First of all, what should they be protected from?

Circumcision?
Tattoos/Ear Piercing?
Corporal Punishment?
Walking to School/Playing Outside?
Helmets?
Chores?
Unhealthy Eating?

Minarchist/Anarchist differences

If you're a libertarian minarchist, this is likely a time when you would favor interference. But there's still reform to be done.

What happens in an anarchist system?

Current system failures

Incentive to over-steal kids- Molly McGrath Tierney (Ted Talk): "Child welfare is an industry and industries are self-protecting ecosystems. Think about it, the only time the federal government pays me is when I take somebody's kid. And as soon as that kid's in foster care they instantly become a commodity, and the industry starts to wrap around, doctors, lawyers, judges, social workers, advocates, whole organizations. The industry is committed to this intervention, this taking other people's children, 'cause that's what it needs to survive. And it's on auto pilot and it's going to do whatever it has to do to stay alive. And this industry, to stay alive, needs other people's children."

This has come to fruition. Our show notes contains several compelling stories that we simply don't have time for, but there's documented and legal cases where a doctor lied about a medical problem to take a child away, a mom was forced to move out of her home before she could have supervised contact with her child during an investigation that eventually yielded nothing, a child removed from a responsible father for 22 days again to have a report find nothing wrong, and, just last week, a child taken for 10 days because the mother believed her first doctor when he said the child had a cough and was deemed irresponsible for not getting a second opinion. In that latter case, Child Protective Services had the audacity to release this statement (Reason): "It is always a hard situation when courts or county social workers remove children from their parents' custody, these very difficult decisions are not made lightly, and are always made in the best interest of the children involved. If families don't cooperate, it is even more difficult."

Numerous cases have come out in recent years of children taken from families being placed in even more dangerous situations than those from which the child was removed. Alexandria Hill was two years old when her foster mother slammed her head into the floor, causing death due to hemorrhaging. Why was young Alex in foster care?

“Hill’s father revealed to child welfare investigators that he had smoked marijuana while the child was in bed at night,.... this, combined with Hill’s mother’s frequent seizures led child welfare workers to place the little girl in foster care.

...

Houston Press reports an investigation into Sherill Small and her husband, Clemon Small revealed Clemon Small had a criminal history — including multiple drug charges for marijuana. Additionally, the Houston Press reports in the couple’s foster care application, Clemon Small described himself as a “recovering crack cocaine addict.””

As reported by Reason:

“Statistics on child abuse in foster care are, perhaps unsurprisingly, hard to come by, but children in foster care may be up to 10 times more likely to die than children in the care of their own parents; one estimate places the number of children who die in foster care in the US every year at about 1540.”

Cases like that of Alexandria Hill are becoming increasingly common as higher demands force state agencies to use lesser qualified foster families.

One solution - We don’t take the kids at all or at least reduce it significantly

Our best run system in the country tried to stop taking kids, focused their funds on fixing the issues at home, and became the least expensive (TED Talk): “I came to Baltimore back when the agency I run now was considered among the worst in the country; but I just knew, I knew we could make it work... and we had a good run, over a five year period we reduced the number of children in foster care by 58%, we reduced the number of kids living in orphanages by 89%, we increased adoptions 59%, we increased the number of kids that left foster care for families by 47%, and we paid all our bills on time.”

“This dismantling of families, it has enormous consequences, kids that grow up outside of families – they don’t master the things that can only be learned in that context, like who to trust, how to love and how to take care of yourself, and that frankly does more damage than the abuse and neglect that brought the kid to my attention in the first place. And that’s when I understood, the reason child welfare isn’t working is because there are children in foster care. It’s not the government’s doing it badly, it’s that foster care is a bad idea, the error is the intervention.”

Cultural change is needed to get there, our communities must become the solutions.

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