

Better than nothing

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Dallas -- Custody trials would be unnecessary if the law allowed children to choose their custodial parent. But then some parents would manipulate and intimidate their children into expressing a preference. Before condemning courts and professionals, consider the alternative: in many cases to leave children with an abusive parent, or remove them while offering no effective help to relieve suffering.

Characterizing our program as "deprogramming" is off base. We have a proven track record but welcome more research. Should children suffer until more studies are completed?

Courts routinely order counselling that some Canadian experts show completely fails and may even make matters worse. Should courts leave children in abusive homes or rescue children even when they overtly protest being removed?

If removed, should the receiving parent be allowed to enroll children in a workshop to ease the transition, even if children initially protest? And if, for the time being, the only effective help is outside Canada, should children be denied this opportunity?

Print Edition - Section Front



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