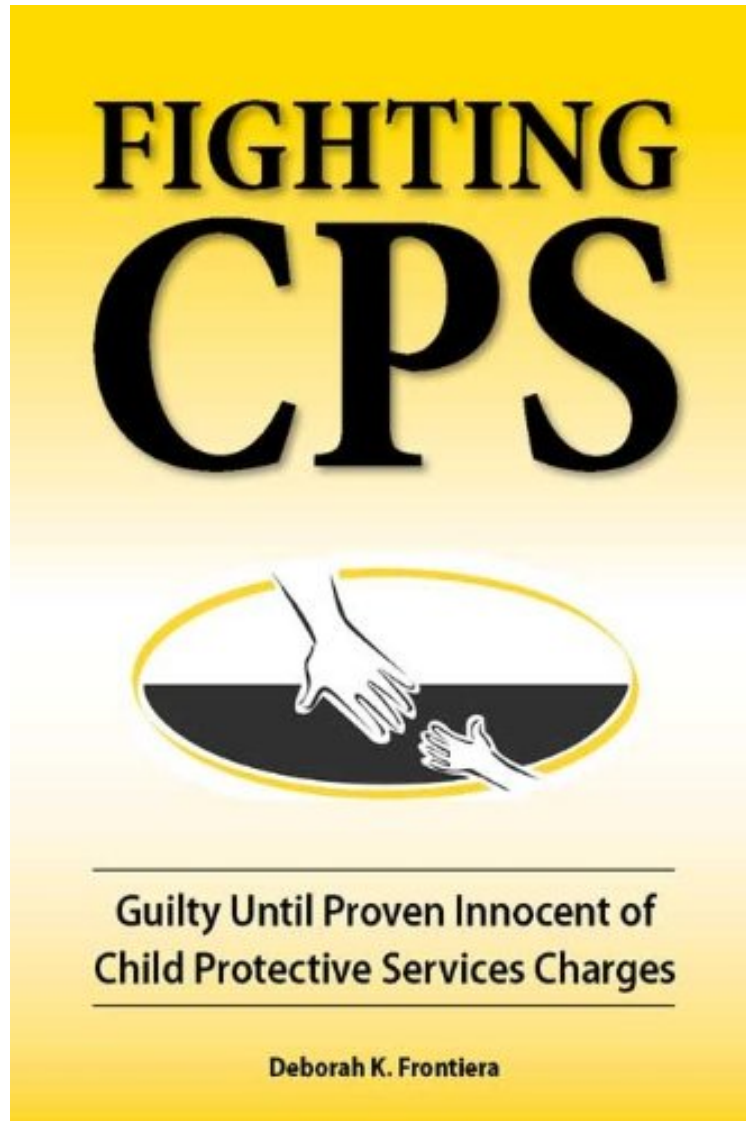


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Fighting CPS: Guilty Until Proven Innocent of Child Protective Services Charges

Deborah K. Frontiera

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Deborah K. Frontiera : Fighting CPS: Guilty Until Proven Innocent of Child Protective Services Charges before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fighting CPS: Guilty Until Proven Innocent of Child Protective Services Charges:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Good example of dealing with CPS - But still do some research!By Not Just Your Average JoeThis book is pretty informative. Their experiences are typical of the broken

system - Child Protective Services. The best thing you can do if they come knocking at your door is refuse them entry, unless they have a warrant. It is your right to do that. Get a lawyer immediately. One who specializes in dealing with CPS. DO NOT speak to them, because they will use every word against you, under the guise they are trying to help your family. Do an internet search and find the watchdog groups trying to change the laws. The Child Protective Services is an unregulated agency, that hides behind the civil juvenile system and often closed courtrooms. They have very an unethical way of doing business and frequently ignore the law and your constitutional rights. They will go as far as putting outright lies in their reports and purger themselves in court. Get educated BEFORE they ever enter your life. I had never more than a traffic ticket in dealing with the law, and was totally unprepared to deal with CPS. No drugs, alcohol, abuse or neglect... just an unfounded anonymous tip to a hotline. That's all it takes. I cooperated and now I am caught in an endless battle to get my children back. If they take your children, you will be in the fight of your life, where "real law" does not matter. The CPS rips families apart and subjects children to danger. More children die and are abused while in the care of CPS and foster care than children returned to their homes. Get the facts, because once they have entered your life, you are powerless. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. every parent should read this!! By Mr. and Mrs. FEVERY parent needs to read this book!!! Protect and prepare yourselves!! It can happen to ANYONE!! I felt as if I were reading the beginning of my own story!!! We have two daughters, ages 9 and 11. My mother and I have been diagnosed with a bleeding disorder (Von Willebrands). It is genetic, but not life threatening. our youngest has been to numerous doctors for assessments and evaluations to diagnose her sensory processing and behavior disorders. We'd been told she has autism, only to get a report stating otherwise! We'd been to UCSF several times and eventually diagnosed with ADHD and tourettes. It took 4 years to finally get our school to grant an IEP (individualized education program) that included a behavioral aide. In the mean time the school assumed the behavior issues and bruises were a result of "something going on at home". They made numerous reports to CPS alleging abuse. All were unfounded or inconclusive! After much focus and attention on our younger daughter, the older has now fallen behind in school and is now using dishonesty and story telling as a way to cope and seek her own attention. (I dare say she enjoys the visits at school from the social workers) The last CPS social worker coerced my children, twisted their words and took them out of context. Without proper investigation, the girls were removed under the "emergency" clause, and my husbands name was immediately submitted to the CACI (child abuse central index). (We have to hire a 3rd attorney to fight that later!) We hired an attorney to represent myself as I have a career to protect should my name be submitted as well. (I'd lose my nursing license). We can't afford NOT to fight this. the girls are in separate foster homes as we have no family on the west coast. We moved here from the east coast 5yrs ago for better job opportunities. We've been told by social workers, we don't qualify for services because we make too much, yet we don't make enough to fully cover all of these expenses either! However, by allowing the girls to stay in foster care they qualify for everything under the sun! My youngest cries and begs to come home. The older is enjoying her foster home and loving her new clothes, new shoes, new friends, new school, free school lunches, and surf lessons as well! She states she wants to stay there. What's a parent to do?! Fight the good fight and trust that God Almighty has a bigger plan ahead! My heart rejoices for your family and we pray for justice in the end for our own journey as well! 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Jackson By Rudy64 Reading this was like reading an excerpt from my wife and my life. Our story is - believe it or not- much worse than this one. I am grateful this author took the time to tell her story. I'm sickened that this story is true for so many families. I pray my family survives. The emotional and financial and spiritual toll these battles with cps take on a person are quite hard to put in to words...

Proving Innocence chronicles thirteen months of agony and frustration suffered by the innocent Bonilla and Frontiera families as a result of Children's Protective Services removal of young James Bonilla from his parents. Most people are not prepared to navigate the maze of sometimes senseless procedures of a government agency that has too much power. The Frontiera and Bonilla story and reports of several other cases across the country should be a wake-up call to a public unaware of how the state agencies charged with protecting the nation's children are failing. Interviews with lawyers, caseworkers, and others who work within the system, point out specific steps that should be taken to improve how these agencies work. The author issues a call to action from the public to charge all levels of government to make necessary changes in these agencies. They must protect children from abuse and neglect without persecuting innocent families.

Deborah Frontiera's book, *Fighting CPS*, is a case study in why crimes against children should be investigated by law enforcement as opposed to CPS--a well-intentioned social service agency lacking law enforcement training, priorities and experience. My hope is that this book will assist in our work for reforms to this system that fails children and families on both ends of the spectrum. --Randy Burton, Attorney, founder of the non-profit group Justice for Children
The State of Michigan just settled a law suit that has brought about many changes in the way DHS does business. It sounds like the great State of Texas needs the same child advocacy group to sue them. --Linda Sanchez, Caseworker Supervisor, Good Will Farms
The back cover notes of *Fighting CPS*, by Deborah K. Frontiera state that the book chronicles thirteen months of agony and frustration suffered by the innocent Bonilla and Frontiera families as

a result of Children's Protective Services removal of young James Bonilla from his parents. But the significance of the story this book tells reverberates far beyond the Child Protective Services Division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services on which the book focuses. This book is relevant for all fifty states with similar agencies charged with responsibility for investigating reports of abuse and neglect of children. Few Americans take exception to the mission of child protective services and their primary goal of protecting children. But a mounting body of evidence, like that presented in *Fighting CPS*, has made it clear that an alarming number of state agencies and family court systems are broken. This reality has resulted in a growing grassroots movement demanding change and reform in numerous states. Based on Frontiera's book, it's hard to imagine a state in greater disrepair than Texas! On the other hand, once the reader uncoils from their own initial reaction of disbelief, made possible by the detailed documentation drawn from the author's own copious journal notes, no imagination is required to comprehend the ordeal of young James Bonilla, his parents Rufina and Julio and grandparents Deborah and Jasper Frontiera. I wonder, however, if those individuals from Texas CPS who were involved with this case understand, or even care, about the ramifications of their ineptitude. Many reform advocates believe that the investigative component of the process would best be executed by trained law enforcement agencies. And, to make a difficult process even more daunting, the Bonilla case was handed off to thirteen different case workers over thirteen months. Nearly all of them failed to even find time to read the case file. In *Fighting CPS*, Deborah Frontiera shares her story in an honest, open and endearing manner. I felt her agony and frustrations and sometimes intense anger throughout the book. I was eager to keep reading so that I could celebrate the victory that I wished for this family to achieve. While Frontiera follows-up on her own story with ten other case studies in answer to the question of whether or not her case was typical, it is her own story that undoubtedly will compel others to engage with this issue or become involved with a movement. At least that was the case for me. Before penning my final draft of this review, I began researching the current condition of CPS in my own county and state. I hope the author will tell James and his parents that the sharing of his story has already had an impact on someone who read the book. --Joseph Yurt for Reader Views

Whether you are a parent, a grandparent, or someone who cares about children, *Fighting CPS* will open your eyes to the dysfunction within a system intended to help and protect children. It provides a frustrating and heart-breaking example of what happens when the system works against families, due to the senseless --Joseph Yurt for Reader Views

Two skull fractures discovered during an emergency room visit led Child Protective Services (CPS) to place a toddler with his grandparents. Now, that toddler's grandmother shares her story of juggling the coexisting roles of a child's caretaker and his parent's supporter, as they fought for their son's return against CPS's presumption of their guilt. Former teacher and children's book author Frontiera includes summaries of similar situations and suggestions for change. As a memoir, the book gives voice to grandparents with whom CPS placement is preferable to fostering, and she successfully describes their many frustrations. As a call to action, the book fails, as it lacks appropriate citations, information resources, or even analysis, e.g., of moving CPS cases to the criminal arena or altering burdens of proof. VERDICT: families battling CPS may find comfort in the voice of a kindred spirit. Those seeking information about the complexities surrounding balancing parental rights with protecting children and those seeking systemic change are better served by Joseph Goldstein's *The Best Interests of the Child: The Least Detrimental Alternative* and Dean Tong's *Elusive Innocence: Survival Guide to the Falsely Accused*. --Reba Kennedy, San Antonio, for *Library Journal*, March 1, 2012, page 110

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About the Author
Deborah K. Frontiera and her husband have raised four daughters. She taught in Houston Public Schools for twenty-three years before retiring in 2008 to focus on her writing career. During her teaching years, she was a frequent speaker and workshop presenter at professional conferences. She is the author of many books currently in print and online ranging from picture books for primary age children to SF Fantasy for young adults and historical fiction. Three of her books have won awards. She teaches part time for Houston's Writers In The Schools program.