

Legal Guardianship in Illinois – Another Way of Gaming the System

There are ways to pay less taxes because of loopholes in the Tax Code; people con their way into getting food stamps; many people receive disability payments with fake disabilities; others receive government funds for taking care of their own family members; recent headlines involved students cheating on college entrance exams and parents bribing athletic coaches to get their children into elite universities. The list goes on and on. But the idea of transferring parental rights in order to receive financial aid was jaw-dropping.

This latest scheme appeared in the Wall Street Journal earlier this month. A consultant hired by the parents said, she hadn't "figured out a loophole. Anybody that goes on the [federal financial aid] website can find the criteria for being an independent student or a dependent student. It's all right there."

A system designed to provide money to middle and low income students for college has been corrupted by wealthy people who figured out this latest con.

Wealthy parents legally transfer their parental rights to a third party; "the children, who are about 16 or 17 at the time, are able to declare themselves "independent" on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid – meaning officials can only consider the child's income when determining how much assistance they should receive." The parents' and "guardian's" income is not asked for or taken into account. The judge simply considers the "best interest of the child."

According to the report in the WSJ, one parent had no problem admitting her household income was greater than \$250,000 a

year and had a home valued at \$1.2 million. She transferred parental rights of her daughter to her business partner. The daughter earned \$4,200 during the summer. She attended a private college that costs \$65,000 a year. Based solely on her \$4,200 income, the daughter received a \$27,000 merit scholarship and an additional \$20,000 in **need-based aid**, which she won't have to pay back. The daughter is responsible for \$18,000 a year, which her grandparents pay.

So, this 17-year old received, free and clear, \$20,000 in need-based aid which clearly should've gone to someone whose parents didn't earn more than \$250,000 a year and who didn't live in a \$1.2 million home.

One of the students, whose parents were utilizing this system, reported it to her high school guidance counselor, who, in turn, reported it to the University of Illinois, who then reviewed its records and saw the upturn in applications filed by students who were in guardianship. Funds from the university, as well as the state and federal government are involved.

The whole mess is now under investigation by Illinois lawmakers. I never know if politicians know what they're doing, are too stupid to realize they're writing laws which can be misused or abused, or whether, no matter how fool-proof, someone will figure out how to game the system. Like anything else, be it accessing monies intended for more needy students or even gun control, we cannot legislate morality.

There is no shortage of disturbing news out there. But I have to say the people engaged in this tactic have to be some of the most ethically and morally corrupt people who, no doubt, still retain control over their children despite the fact that, on paper, they do not. They are still calling the shots when it comes to their children's education, food, clothing and shelter and everything else. In essence, the legal guardianship is a sham.

Those same people, by their complicity in this scam, have no problem denying other, less fortunate, children the opportunity to obtain limited public and private funds specifically designed to help those who would not, otherwise, be able to access the same educational opportunities.

While, at this point, it may be technically “legal,” there are lots of things that are legal, but it doesn’t make them right.

It is disgraceful. It is disgusting. And those parents should be ashamed of themselves.

I don’t get, but if you do, God bless you.

Mario Lopez – The Latest Target of the PC Police



Every day someone is being attacked by the PC police. The mantras from these Far Left loons are either “you’re a

racist," "you're a homophobe," "you're a misogynist" and it goes on and on. The majority of people today are afraid to express any innocuous opinion they may have because they're afraid of offending someone.

I've tried to remember when the PC movement started. The term "political correctness" has been around for a long time but, during my lifetime, I especially remember its rise in the 80s during the AIDS crises. Once the medical field recognized what this was, it was not "correct" to express an opinion and question how it originated, how it was transmitted, who was being afflicted, or the lifestyle that perpetuated the disease, particularly when, except for early cases involving blood transfusions, this is one disease you get because of your behavior.

There is now an entire segment of our population who belong to an industry hell bent on destroying people because of their opinions. I wake up in the morning and happy to be alive; this mob wakes up asking "what will offend me today?" and "who can I destroy today for not agreeing with me?"

In the last week or so, the public figure attacked by the PC crowd was Mario Lopez. I know who he is and what he does for a living. He seems like a nice enough guy. He recently appeared as a guest on "The Candace Owens Show" last month (probably his first mistake because she's a conservative talk show host). She made a very simple observation: "I'm trying to understand this new Hollywood mentality where they just think that their children now have the mental authority and clarity (to decide their gender)."

Mr. Lopez, married and a father of two, replied: "Look, I'm never one to tell anyone how to parent their kids obviously... and I would say if you come from a place of love, you really can't go wrong, but at the same time – my God – if you're 3 years old, and you're saying you're feeling a certain way, or you think you're a boy or a girl, whatever the case may be, I

just think it's dangerous as a parent to make that determination then, 'OK, well, then you're gonna be a boy or girl,' whatever the case may be, and it's sort of alarming and my gosh, I just think about the repercussions later on." He went on to say, "I think parents need to allow their kids to be kids, but at the same time, you got to be the adult in the situationI think the formative years is when you start having those discussions and really start making these declarations."

Am I missing something here? What exactly is so wrong with a parent being a parent? If a 3-year old child says he or she is Superman, does the parent allow that child to jump off of a roof because they think they can fly?

Immediately, the PC police attacked him as being "transphobic." Out magazine's executive editor Raquel Willis wrote: "Transphobic parents are the danger not children being their truest selves. Too many parents terrorize their children by forcing them into these gender boxes and limiting their expression. If you're doing this, your parenting sucks." This from someone who has no children.

The Human Rights Campaign described his comments as "dangerous to the safety and well-being of LGBTQ youth, especially trans children who deserve to be loved and accepted for who they are." I haven't a clue who makes up the Human Rights Campaign and whether any of its members have children.

Some actually demanded he lose his upcoming job on Access Hollywood.

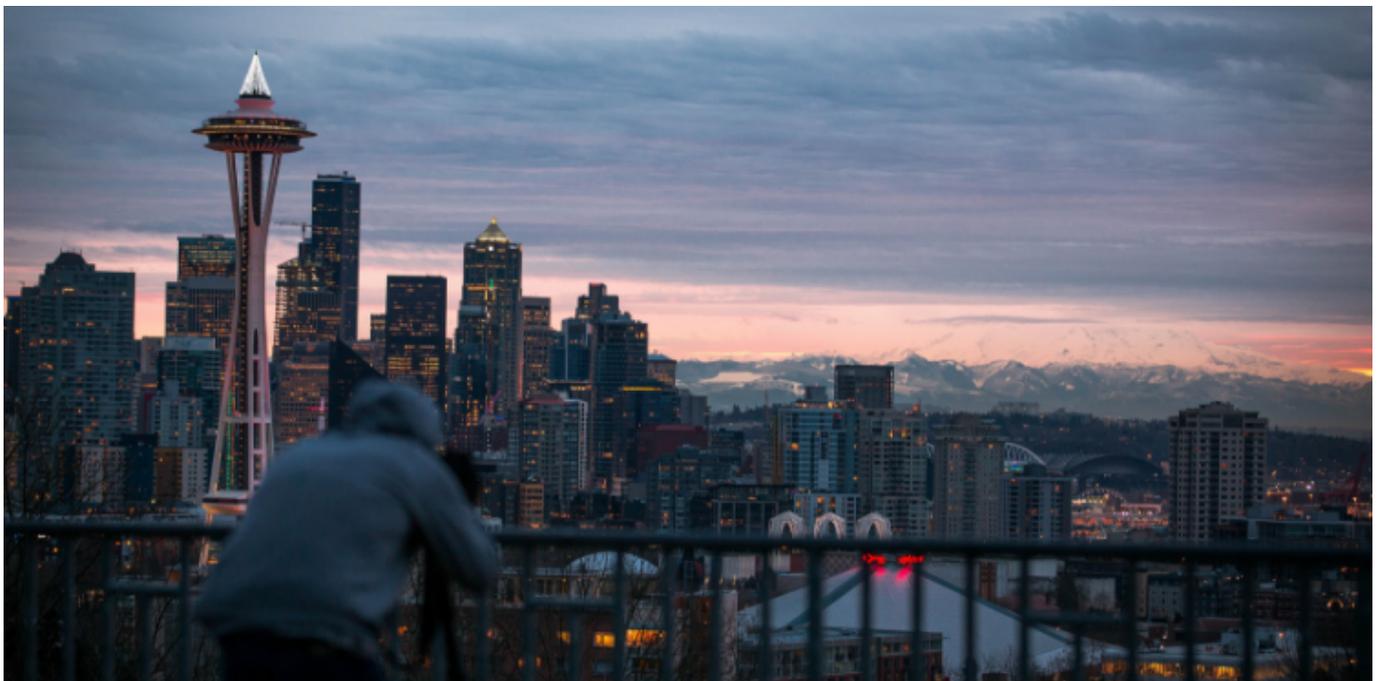
Sadly, Mr. Lopez, as many before him, felt the need to apologize for his opinion. "The comments I made were ignorant and insensitive, and I now have a deeper understanding of how hurtful they were. I have been and always will be an ardent supporter of the LGBTQ community, and I am going to use this opportunity to better educate myself." I still have no idea

why his statement was ignorant or insensitive. Since his apology (for absolutely nothing), he's not going to lose his job.

Apparently, having the opinion that a parent should be a parent is no longer acceptable to some thin-skinned people out there. I guess, in their minds, 3-year olds, some of whom are not even potty-trained, have the mental, emotional and physical ability to make life-changing decisions.

I don't get it, but if you do, God bless you.

Seattle and Political Correctness



When my husband and I bought, what was to be, our retirement home on Bainbridge Island, Seattle was a pretty nice city. For many years before we actually made the permanent move from Los Angeles, we'd visit a few times a year and always ferried

over to Seattle to spend the day walking around and doing all the touristy things people do when visiting a new city.

Even after we made the final move in 1996, we visited Seattle frequently, regularly attended theatre and opera matinees and evening performances, my husband commuted daily to work on public transportation, I'd meet him and friends for lunch, traveled alone for doctors' appointments and felt very comfortable.

In a matter of 20 years, all that has changed. I feel very sorry for tourists who visit the "Emerald City" which was a lovely place but which is now run by Progressives which, in turn, means that Seattle is now spiraling downward as has New York City and San Francisco because of political correctness and a tolerance for behavior never before engaged in by a civil society.

Although I love when friends and family visit, I cringe at the thought because it means I may have to take our visitors into Seattle for sightseeing. Fortunately, most who do visit are comfortable on their own or have been to Seattle more than once and are content with spending time on this side of the water.

Where I used to walk to doctors' visits or shopping, or used to use the Metro rail or buses, I now take a car service. You will not find me walking around Seattle unless I have absolutely no other choice. And, unfortunately, my husband I never venture over to Seattle in the evenings on our own.

If anyone is interested in how Seattle is transforming into the other west coast toilet (and I mean that literally) – San Francisco – take the time to watch local newsman, Eric Johnson's "Seattle is Dying" documentary which explores the impact of drug addiction and so-called homelessness on Seattle here. It is a sad and eye-opening commentary on what the Progressives on the City Council have allowed to happen.

I was prompted to write this article when I saw a news item captioned "Seattle-Area Councilman: Hosing Poop-Covered Sidewalks Might be Racially Insensitive." Larry Gossett, councilman in Seattle "said he didn't like the idea of power-washing the sidewalks because it brought back images of the use of hoses against civil-rights activists."

The Superior Court area on Third Avenue has become an "unsanitary and potentially frightening" scene that "reeks of urine and excrement" which prompted two judges to ask the city to power-wash the sidewalks, to which Mr. Gossett expressed his concern.

First of all, this all presupposes that the drug addicts and mentally ill people who are defecating on the sidewalks are even aware of "the use of hoses against civil-rights activists." I don't think they are and I don't think they care.

More importantly, how exactly does Mr. Gossett propose to get rid of this filth? What about the pedestrians, many who are staring at their phones anyway, stepping in bodily waste? I guess he's more concerned about the people who are actually doing the damage, than the citizens of Seattle and visitors who have to deal with it. Perhaps he'd like our fire fighters to stop using hoses and use water-filled paper cups (no plastic!) instead to douse out fires.

Progressive policies have destroyed this once beautiful and welcoming city. I get it. What I don't get is why the citizenry keep voting for this insanity when they have to walk on these sidewalks every day.

I don't get it, but if you do, God bless you.

Nancy Pelosi and Democrats Block Bill to Stop Infanticide For 77th Time

We, the People...

Yes, that's what the preamble to our Constitution says. It's all about us. Not the Senators or Representatives we vote for to represent us. So why don't **they** work for **us**?

One of the most aggravating things I see going on in Washington D.C., and there are plenty, is the ability of those people NOT to vote on a bill. I don't like it. I don't get it.

I recently watched an incredible movie, "Gosnell: The Trial of America's Biggest Serial Killer." I wish everyone saw it but that's on my "Never Gonna Happen Wish List." (When an important movie like this one takes in just \$3.7 million, there's definitely something wrong with our priorities. But that's for another article.)

This monster refused to provide medical care to babies actually born but was convicted of first degree murder in the death of three of the babies he or his staff intentionally killed after the infants were born alive following a failed abortion. He was also convicted of dozens of other charges resulting from his abortion mill.

How could any doctor choose not to provide medical care to a baby actually born alive? But that's exactly what Gosnell chose to do and I'm sure there are other Gosnells out there. But should we, as a society, sanction this type of inaction? This isn't about abortion. It's about a baby being born alive and in distress.

Well, Nancy Pelosi and her crew don't seem to have a problem with it. As of July 25th, she and House Democrats continue to refuse a request to allow a vote on the "Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act" legislation that would stop infanticide and provide medical care and treatment for babies who survive abortions **77 times!**

How is this possible? I've tried to figure out the procedures in the House of Representatives and they're incomprehensible for the average person to decipher. Filibusters, parliamentary tricks, fast-tracking – how do we, the people, understand all this and the day-to-day workings of Congress? To say it's a mystery, is an understatement.

The Senate's rules are just as complicated. Why was Mitch McConnell able to block Kate's Law, named after Kate Steinle, the woman who was shot and killed in San Francisco on July 1, 2015, by an illegal immigrant who'd been deported five times and had seven felony convictions? He's managed to block hundreds of other conservative bills from ever reaching the floor for a vote.

I don't get why bills can be blocked. I don't get why we, the people, are not allowed to know how each Representative or Senator votes on a particular bill. If it were up to me, the entire system would be simplified and every bill would be voted upon. If it's time consuming, so be it. It wouldn't be as time-consuming as filibustering.

Members of Congress should be working as much as the average man and woman in the United States. They shouldn't be traveling overseas as much as they do on so called "fact-finding missions." There's plenty of work to be done for the American people and we're entitled to it. We pay these folks big bucks and every day I read about this one or that one traveling here and there for God only knows what reasons – most of time absolutely nothing to do with the American people.

And now Congress is off the entire month of August. Where do they think they live? France? The average person gets 10 days of vacation a year, some sick leave plus holidays and the vast majority don't make the salaries we pay these do-nothings in Congress. Members of Congress work an average of 18 hours a week – maybe 145 days a year.

I want to know which House member would vote against the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. As long as Nancy Pelosi and her cohorts prevent the bill from ever seeing the light of day, we, the people will never know. It's shameful. It's not transparent. We have a right to know. It's against the edict of "We, the People."

I don't get it, but if you do, God bless you.

It All Began With "Mankind"

I think it all began with the word "mankind." Someone woke up one day in the 80's and thought the English language needed some tweaking. Somehow the use of the word "man" in "mankind" was considered exclusive and needed to be more gender-neutral like "humankind." I've always found the use of the word "humankind" to be a bit patronizing and awkward and still use the word "mankind" even if it makes me old school; the word "mankind" doesn't make me feel excluded from humanity.

English has masculine and feminine pronouns but, generally, doesn't have noun class distinctions like many other languages, but that hasn't stopped those who wish to create a gender-neutral American society.

Over the years, we've seen "firemen" become "firefighters," "Congressmen become "Congresspersons," (although Nancy Pelosi

identifies herself as “Congresswoman” on her website), “Chairmen” become “Chairpersons,” and some actresses refer to themselves as “actors.” (In that case, I think they should get rid of the “Best Actress Academy Award” and include everyone in the “Best Actor” category.)

For those who wish to drastically change society by declaring there are 31 genders, or suggest that I call myself a “cisgender woman” which apparently shows I’m aware of, and, therefore, more compassionate toward transgender people, the quest to make our lives gender-neutral continues.

This week, I read an article about the city of Berkeley, California, updating its municipal code to exclude neutral-gendered words. It never stops.

“Manholes” are now called “maintenance holes,” “manmade” will be “artificial” and all instances of “men and women” will be replaced by “people.” The pronouns “he” and “she” will be placed with “they.” And, there is, of course, my favorite: “fraternity” and “sorority” will be replaced with the more wordy “collegiate Greek system residence.” According to Berkeley City Council member, 23-year old Rigel Robinson, who, apparently, has nothing else to do with his time and suggested these changes, “Women and non-binary individuals are just as entitled to accurate representation. Our laws are for everyone, and our municipal code should reflect that.” (My research reveals “A person is non-binary if their gender identity is something other than male or female. Non-binary individuals may identify as **gender fluid, agender [without gender], off the binary, or something else entirely.**”)

Apparently, “he” and “she” are no longer relevant or preferred and English pronouns need to be changed as well. **Ze/hir pronouns:** “*Ze is a writer and wrote that book **hirself**. Those ideas are **hirs**. I like both **hir** and **hir** ideas.*” **Ze/zir pronouns:** “*Ze is a writer and wrote that book **zirsself**. Those ideas are **zirs**. I like both **zir** and **zir** ideas.*” I won’t even

begin to understand all this. Some people just have far too much time on their hands.

Similarly, Colorado State University has issued an "Inclusive Language Guide" that eliminates the words, "America," "American" and "freshman."

Which brings me to my big question. One of the goals I set for myself this summer was to start Spanish lessons which I have. I took a semester in college but quickly forgot just about everything. My husband speaks Spanish fluently and our travels bring me in contact with many Spanish-speaking people. I love the sound of the language so I'm hoping to at least achieve a minimal conversational ability to speak Spanish over the next several months.

I'm learning that the Spanish language, as well as many other languages, have masculine and feminine nouns, articles, adjectives, etc. So, is it the intent of the people changing "manholes" to "maintenance holes" and imposing "ze-hir/ze-zir" on the rest of us planning to re-invent new words for every other language that does, in fact, have feminine and masculine distinctions in its grammar to make the entire planet "gender-neutral?" Will there no longer be "Kings" and "Queens?" "Landlords" and "Landladies?" "Emperors" and "Empresses?" "Nephews" and "Nieces"? Where will it end?

Will the animal kingdom (oops, maybe I shouldn't have used the word "kingdom") be the next target? Someone ought to let the lions and lionesses, geese and ganders, billy-goats and nanny-goats, stallions and mares, bucks and does, and rams and ewes, in on all this. Somehow I think they're pretty secure in their identities unlike many people these days.

I don't get it, but if you do, God bless you.