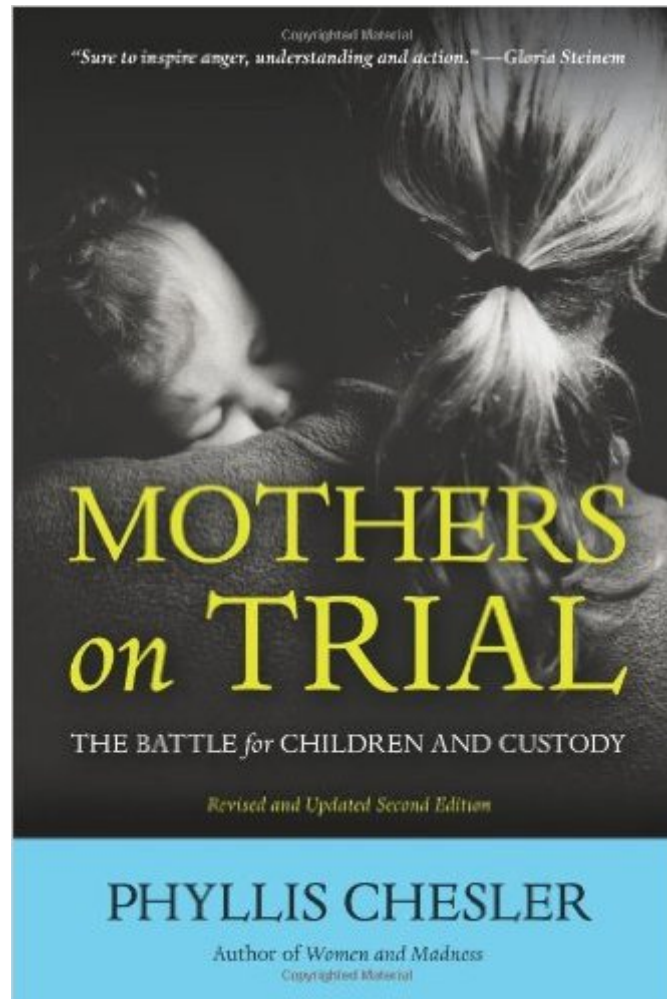


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# Mothers On Trial: The Battle For Children And Custody



## Synopsis

Completely updated and revised for the twenty-first century, *Mothers on Trial* remains the bible for all women facing a custody battle, as well as the lawyers, psychologists, and others who support them. This landmark book was the first to break the false stereotype about mothers getting preferential treatment over fathers when it comes to custody. In this new edition, Chesler shows that, with few exceptions, the news has only gotten worse: when both the father and the mother want custody, the father usually gets it. The highly praised *Mothers on Trial* is essential reading for anyone concerned personally or professionally with custody rights and the well-being of our children.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It's been twenty five years since the initial publication of *Mothers on Trial* (MOT), Dr. Phyllis Chesler's exposé of the gross injustices inflicted on battered women by family/divorce courts in the U.S. and across the world. MOT first came out in 1986, in an era when marriage and "family values" were worshipped while single mothers were vilified (remember Dan Quayle? Murphy Brown?). It was during this same period when the anti-feminist fathers rights (aka male supremacist) movement--an evil sibling of other male-worshipping organizations like the Promise Keepers and its ilk, all born out of the womb of the religious right-- was in its early formative stage. A used copy of *Mothers on Trial* found its way into my hands right around the time I was awaiting the court's final decision in my own child custody battle. When I first filed petitions for legal protection and child custody in the Albany County (New York) family court, I thought the evidence in my case was rock

solid, if not overwhelming. I naively assumed that the court's orders would be based upon the evidence and the law. What I encountered, instead, was the convoluted system described by Dr. Chesler in MOT. I found a system driven by cronyism and the profit motive. I was confronted with a legal climate that seemed utterly obsessed with the rights of fathers, no matter how monstrously those fathers behaved toward their partner and children. I encountered legal professionals who dismissed my allegations, ignored the evidence I'd gathered, and gave little credence to my record of parenting. I witnessed legal professionals making nonsensical recommendations that barely masked their disdain for women in general and battered women like me in particular.

Not since slavery in the USA were mothers punished by having their children taken away from them. Yet, in family courts all across America, judges and quasi-judicial officers of the court do just that: children who are abused or molested by their fathers are removed from their primary-care good mothers and are placed in the hands of their molesting fathers. How this scandal can go on for decades with hardly any change, without any public outcry, and without any protest from human rights' activists is due to the fact that outsiders to the gutter of our family courts' justice simply refuse to believe it. In her revised and updated milestone fact-filled book, "Mothers on Trial," Phyllis Chesler fights to save thousands of children from becoming yet another generation of victims of a court system that betrays them time and again. She points out that while adult women often recount childhood sexual molestation at home by close relatives--and these women's stories are believed--people tend to disbelieve when actually facing such cases as they happen in real time, right in front of them. It is a documented fact that when fathers fight for custody, 70% of the time they obtain full or partial custody. People often assume that the reason these men who, in most part, have not been fully involved in their children's lives--sometimes have been absent for months or even years--now gain custody is because the mothers are unfit. The naked truth is that in most of these cases, the father is emotionally and verbally abusive or outright violent. The mother, often the product of an abusive home, often abused for years in her marriage to the father of her children, now faces battle for which she is woefully unequipped to wage.

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