



## Young Daughter Walks Dog – Mom Gets Investigated by Cops and Children’s Services

You’d think she had a Siberian tiger on a leash while traipsing through a cannibal-infested jungle. Instead, the eight-year-old girl was just walking her family’s Maltese puppy around the block. Yet it was enough to trigger a visit from the police and a children’s services investigation into her mother for child neglect.



Welcome to third-millennium America, where kids have the autonomy to choose their “gender” or have an abortion but must be ensconced in bubble wrap all other times.

*People reports* on the story:

Earlier this month, 8-year-old Dorothy Widen took her family dog Marshmallow for a walk around the block near her family’s suburban Chicago home. When she returned, there was a knock on the door — but instead of her expected playmate, it was the local cops, according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

As it turns out, a neighbor had called authorities after seeing Dorothy alone with the dog, stating the child was less than 5 years old and had been outside and unattended for 90 minutes, NBC 5 reports.

“For something like this to happen to me, there’s something really wrong,” [mother Corey] Widen, 48, who home-schools her daughter, told the *Tribune*. “She was gone for five minutes. I was in the backyard and I could see her through the yard.”

After a chat, cops cleared Widen of any wrongdoing — but two days later she received a call from the Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS] after the same neighbor seemingly called the agency to complain about the instance again.

“The funny thing is ... I’m a joke with my friends because my kids are around me all the time,” Widen added to the *Tribune*.

Yet “Widen’s story is not unique,” writes the *Tribune*. The paper [elaborates](#):

Mothers in the Chicago area and across the country have found themselves at the center of investigations by police or child welfare officials after their children were spotted alone but unharmed — playing in parks or left for minutes in a car parked outside a store — activities that could pass for typical or harmless but now are perceived by some as unacceptable.

When Chicago author Kim Brooks decided to leave her then-4-year-old son in the car for a few minutes on a cool day to run an errand, she was shocked when a stranger called police to report it. ... Brooks, who was visiting her parents in her Virginia hometown when the incident occurred about six years ago, eventually completed community service and parenting classes in exchange for



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prosecutors there agreeing not to pursue misdemeanor charges, she said.

As for Widen's case, one obvious question is, why didn't the neighbor simply approach the mother and address the issue (she had to know where the girl lived because she directed the police there)? This is, after all, how such matters were handled for most of American history. A highly possible explanation is that the person had an axe to grind with Widen, perhaps even a leftist prejudice against homeschool families.

Yet this is just another problem with big government. Author Ayn Rand correctly pointed out that the state can only control criminals; thus, it can control everyone if it makes so many laws that you can't help but break at least a couple of them and, hence, be a criminal. A corollary of this is that if everyone is a criminal, it's easy to use government to damage someone because there's always something you can snitch on him about.

At least as significant, however, is the big government mentality. We have gradually traded society, that is, people and their affairs outside the state's scope, for government. How does this work? As society's "laws" — customs, traditions, and social codes — disappear, government's laws will correspondingly take their place.

For example, chivalry used to help govern men's behavior around women, and there was a time when even degenerates wouldn't use the kind of language around them that is common today. But with feminism and other forces killing the chivalric code, now we have harassment law, which can be applied if you simply cause a person "emotional distress." This is why, libertarians take note, you can't have small government without big virtue.

Related to this because it diminishes societal cohesiveness is balkanization. Consider that we're much more likely to address a problem (to let our hair down) with a family member than a stranger; now consider that a nation, properly defined, is an extension of the tribe, which itself is an extension of the family. Given this, aren't people more likely to settle problems amongst themselves if they have strong connections and feel like a big national family?

In fact, as Harvard University sociologist Robert Putnam [put it](#) relating research findings, increasing "diversity" causes people to "all hunker down like a turtle." Not having any real connection, aggrieved citizens are then perhaps more likely to seek remedy from the one authority holding everyone together via law: government.

Returning to Widen, she was fortunate. After a two-week investigation involving the interviewing of her children, she was cleared of wrongdoing. Others aren't so lucky, however. *People* cites cases that include "[a mother who let her child go to the park unsupervised](#) and [another who had to leave her children in the car when she couldn't find childcare during a job interview](#)"; both were arrested and their children removed from their custody." There also was a Texas mom "[arrested](#) for letting her children play in her cul-de-sac while she watched from her lawn," the magazine informs.

And there's a very dark side to this child "protection." As I [reported](#) in 2014, child-protective-services agencies receive federal money for seizing kids and offering them for adoption; one figure cited was \$85,000 per child. It was [also alleged](#) that these entities are thus more likely to seize "marketable" kids — i.e., healthy, good looking, and white.

Of course, there are some well-meaning people working in these agencies. But it's just common sense that you get what you pay for — including kidnapped children.



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