

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgments. . . . . vii

## Chapter 1. . . . . 1

### INTRODUCTION

*Determinants of Child Abuse*  
*The Social Construction of Child Abuse*  
*Parent Perspectives on Child Abuse*  
*Data Collection*

## Chapter 2. . . . . 14

### VULNERABLE CHILDREN, VULNERABLE FAMILIES

*Three Parents' Stories*  
*Family Histories*

## Chapter 3. . . . . 31

### CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES—PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

*Substantiating Child Maltreatment*  
*Legal Intervention*  
*The Parenting Program*  
*Parents' Impressions of the Parenting Program: Early Optimism*

## Chapter 4. . . . . 50

### IN THE SYSTEM

*The Perpetuation of Child Maltreatment*  
*Family Theory*  
*The Crime of Poverty*  
*In The Child's Best Interest*  
*The Functions of Child Protective Services*  
*Parents and CPS: Them and Us*  
*Things Must Fall Apart*

**Chapter 5. . . . . 75**

**SUPPORTING, REPARENTING, AND EMPOWERING**

*Parent and Professional Relationships*  
*Supporting Families by Empowering Parents*  
*Coming Full Circle: Preventing Maltreatment*  
*"These Kids Do Not Come with Parenting Manuals"*  
*Intervention in the Contexts of Family and Community*

**Chapter 6. . . . . 101**

**GETTING OUT OF THE SYSTEM**

*The Importance of Appearing Earnest*  
*No Way Out*  
*Conclusions: Making Sense of Nonsense*  
*Changing the System*

**Chapter 7. . . . . 122**

**AFTERWORD: REFLECTIONS ON CHANGE**

*The Why of Change*  
*The How of Change*  
*Parents and Families Revisited*

**Appendix. . . . . 137**

**METHODS**

*A Field Study Approach*  
*A Grounded Theory Approach*  
*Quality Assurance in Qualitative Research*  
*Adopting the Role of Researcher*

**References. . . . . 157**

**Index. . . . . 163**

**About the Author. . . . . 168**