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**TITLE: Making the links: Vengeful, postseparation attacks on mothers and children**

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Abstract:

In the summer of 2014 Edward Livingstone broke into the home of his former wife and children, and shot his two sleeping children before turning the gun on himself. Sympathy at the horror of the loss suffered by the children's mother, Katherine Webb, was widespread. In this paper I argue that overt and conspicuous post-separation assaults, like that of Livingstone's, lie on a continuum with malevolent attacks on motherchildren relationships through postseparation litigation over care and contact arrangements, a pattern of behaviour that constitutes legal stalking and paper abuse (Miller and Smolter, 2011). Despite significant differences, I claim that these two forms of maternal attack share several similarities. First, both are characterised by maternal losses, albeit that the losses mothers suffer as a consequence of paternal legal actions are usually less absolute than the losses mothers face as a result of paternal filicides. Second, both are often fuelled by paternal shame, fury and even hate. While humiliated fury has been recognised to play a significant role in filicides & familicides (Websdale, 2010), the role played by shame, fury, and hate in the legal stalking of mothers following parental separation is yet to be discussed.