

### **Question: Will there be more than one court involved with my case?**

I want to explain to you what I call the three ring circus. Sometimes false allegation cases have to be defended in several different areas. That is why we call it the three ring circus. In addition to defending yourself in criminal court, in some cases a spouse will begin a divorce at the same time. Divorces are considered civil and are litigated in the family court. In addition to your criminal defense the state may file a petition to stop you from having contact with your children. This may be litigated in the juvenile court. Also, if you are a licensed professional like a physician, a dentist, a nurse, a psychologist or a therapist, the state may also file against you in the state's licensing administrative court. You can see why we call this the three ring circus. Sometimes there's four and even five rings. And you must remember in some states the prosecution office may seek to have charges filed against you in the criminal court, the juvenile court, and in licensing administrative courts all at the same time. In our experience this teaches us that the prosecutor's office will do just about anything to pressure you to settle for a felony prison term. Obviously few of us have the funds to fight all of these battles at the same time. That is why these tactics by the prosecutors are so effective in compelling the defendant to make some kind of agreement possible to end the suffering. We recommend damage control or what our emergency room colleagues might call triage. This means that you must pick the battle that is the most important and put all of your resources into that fight. We believe that this is always the criminal court. Why? Because you cannot visit your children from a prison cell, you cannot enjoy your marriage from a prison cell, you cannot practice your profession from a prison cell. At the same time we believe that you must use a defense team that is completely aware of what the standards are in family court, the juvenile court and the state administrative court and is able to assist you in those courts. It is important that what is done in any of these other courts does not harm your criminal case and vice versa. This is just another reason that we have experts in our group in family law, juvenile law and state administrative hearings.