



THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

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Children who grew up with a parent who had troubles with the law are said to be five times more likely to be offenders themselves one day. Children with two non-law-biding parents are off the charts for the likelihood of becoming a future offender.

Do you think crime is on the rise in your jurisdiction? Even those of us in law enforcement are susceptible to permissive negative behavior, after all we are human too. I am not suggesting we are bad people.... Here is an example: Have you ever driven the speed limit on a six lane freeway? How many cars blow your doors off before you decide to bump it up? You can create all the excuses you want to to make yourself feel better, but you just broke a rule because the masses show that it's ok.

Our first examples of how to live life come from our parents, then our teachers and our peers. Well balanced grown ups consciously use positive examples they find in their daily lives to mold their decisions. Less established adults have fewer positive examples around them and decision making can suffer as a result.

It does not matter what your political opinions are for the following commentary. It only matters what the public image is. When the top two "leaders" in our country are both indicted and investigated and impeached for self serving corruption, what kind of example is set for the rest of us? It may seem like a stretch to say the indictment of Trump and the investigations on Biden create street level crime, but it is a direct deterioration of the fabric of our society. The two most highly regarded men in America just sped by you on that six lane freeway..... Who's to say you can't speed too?

If you have not yet noticed an increase in crime and a lack of respect towards law enforcement on contacts, standby. Our 'parents' are in trouble with the law and it's just a matter of time before that example sets in with the more malleable amongst us.

As police, if we understand the driving force behind some criminal actions, we can manage our expectations for those contacts and the offenders accordingly. It's never our job to lecture people. It's an equally popular opinion that it's also not our job to parent..... But isn't it just a little? Isn't our job to hold society accountable for actions, protect victims, and guide the overall population towards following the rules? Whether we realize it or not, the bulk of this is done by our example of how we live. Certainly, when police are arrested it empowers the community to believe they can violate laws too. But even more than our example, we can directly impact individual offenders by maintaining a positive attitude on every contact and being compassionate with the offender. Even after a knock down, drag out fight, We should immediately return to a professional level of care and respect for our arrestee. When dad put the smack down on you as a kid, didn't he immediately care for you after compliance was gained, or did he write you off as a total loss and waste to society? I know since you are in law enforcement today, he did not write you off. Everyone needs someone to believe in them at least a little. Even though you're holding them accountable, you may be the only person that can play this role in your offender's life. Set that example that our own leaders, and the complacent media are currently failing to set.

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