

By MICHAEL CUMMINGS - Manawatu Standard | Tuesday, 1 May 2007

An anonymous flier labelling a group of Palmerston North lawyers "child abusers" was written by a father disgruntled with the Family Court.

Paul Robertson, a computer support manager at Massey University, confirmed he "made the document" when contacted by the Manawatu Standard yesterday.

The flier was placed in the pigeon holes of lawyers at the Palmerston North District Court last week. A copy was also sent to the Standard.

The flier listed five lawyers and a judge as perpetrators of "parental alienation syndrome" and described them as "child abusers". The Standard has chosen not to name those attacked in the document.

Mr Robertson said yesterday he was responsible for the flier.

"I made the document, but it's based on material from various people over a number of years; it's not something that cropped up over the last five minutes or anything," he said.

After speaking to the Standard, Mr Robertson sent an email about the "Family Court flier".

"Thanks for phoning a few minutes ago.

"Sorry if I seemed a little hesitant to say too much, but I don't want to risk putting myself in a position where the lawyers concerned might try suing me.

"The flier was pretty damning after all." In his staff profile on Massey University's website, Mr Robertson describes himself as "very knowledgeable about certain aspects of the law".

"While I could get my law degree and work in the field, I despise lawyers immensely so I never will."

Mr Robertson was one of a small group of fathers and their families who picketed outside the homes of city lawyers in a protest against the Family Court in May, last year. After the protest Mr Robertson defended the group's actions, saying "they were targeted for the sort of things they do".

He said he is an ordinary person who has been let down by the system.

"There's nothing radical or wacky about me. I'd rather not have to be involved in protests but if this sort of stuff can happen to me, it can happen to anyone."

Manawatu District Law Society president Gordon Paine said the pamphlet is "appalling". The society does not comment on individual cases.

"But I find it appalling that people will go the length of authoring anonymous pamphlets and distribute them to attack lawyers when it seems their attack should be directed at the system."

Lawyers named in the pamphlet who could be reached yesterday declined to comment.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/4044502a6003.html>