

She is My Daughter!

- It was summer, hot and late at the Church picnic/fair/bazaar. Somehow two groups of kids started pushing and shoving. The officers who were present, immediately stepped in and broke the altercation up. However, during the pushing, shoving and name calling, one of the girls fell and scrapped her knee. With the blood running down her leg, one of the officers called the paramedics to check her out.
- In the meantime, someone in the crowd had called the girls mother, who lived just a couple blocks away. Mom came running up, panicked, seeing the officers and paramedics surrounding her daughter. Mom ran in, somewhat hysterical. One of the officers sternly told her to, “Stand Back.”
- Mom didn’t. She continued trying to get to her daughter. Within 60 seconds she was cuffed and told to, “Sit here!”
- Of course she filed a complaint.
- In mediation, the officers explained the procedure when something like this happened. They explained to mom that she was hysterical and not helpful to either her daughter or to herself. Mom admitted that she had overreacted. There was a bit of a stand-off, until Mom asked the officer, “Do you have any children?” The officer nodded yes. She went on to say, “I know I was in the wrong and you had every right to do what you did. I now understand. But . . . how would you feel if you got a call, came running up to see cops and paramedics bending over your daughter on the ground? If you could have taken ten seconds to explain and ask me to do what you needed me to do – I might have been able to react in a better way.
- The officer nodded, said he understood and was sorry the whole thing happened the way it did. He went on to say that he had learned from this situation and would remember the value of taking five or ten seconds to explain to a citizen the expectations for the situation.