

Attend CRC's 12th Conference
Sept. 22-26, 1999
(See pages 8-10)



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Children's Rights Council, Inc.
300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002-4389 Phone (202)547-6227

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U.S. Expected to Observe Child's Day in June

A resolution to create a new national holiday, A National Child's Day, has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Bob Graham (D-FL).

The resolution is expected to be passed and signed by President Clinton by the time you receive this newsletter.

Although previous Congressional resolutions that sought to establish children's day designed the first Sunday in October for the occasion, CRC urged Sen. Graham to place Children's Day on the first Sunday in June.

Some churches around the country already observe Children's Day the first Sunday in June, and in early June, Children's Day is "nestled between Mother's Day and Father's Day," as Sen. Graham said in a letter urging other senators to

support creation of the holiday.

June is perfect for picnics, parades, and community and neighborhood activities for children, he noted.

"It is appropriate to think of children in this family context," said CRC Board Chairman John Bauserman, Jr.

More than 100 countries observe Children's Day. The U.S. is one of the few countries that has no such national holiday.



Graham asks U.S. for the First Time to Celebrate Children's Day between Mother's Day and Father's Day

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Joint Custody Presumptions Increasing in States

According to a 1997 American Bar Association publication, 19 states plus the District of Columbia have some form of presumption for joint custody, either legal, physical, or legal and physical.

In 11 of those states plus D.C., it is a clear presumption for joint custody, in 8 states it is a presumption if both parents agree. The clear presumption states are Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Texas, and the District of Columbia. In some of those states the terms shared parenting (e.g. Florida) or joint managing conservatorship (Texas) are used.

The 8 states where it is a presumption if both parents agree are California, Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, Ver-

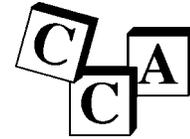
mont, and Washington.

(CRC considers California to have a presumption for joint custody by practice—that is, because of the history of giving joint custody in a substantial number of cases).

"We are pleasantly surprised to find this rapid growth of the idea that the best parent for children is both parents," said Rick Kuhn, CRC evaluator of research.

"Yet the situation is changing so fast that apparently even the Bar Association has a hard time keeping up," said Kuhn. "CRC's research has located newly passed joint custody statutes in four additional states, bringing the total to 23 states and Washington, D.C. In those states, Alabama, Ohio, Oregon and Tennessee, there is a presumption if both parents agree.

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Children's
Charities of
America

"Speak Out for Children" is published by the Children's Rights Council, Inc. Editor: David L. Levy. Contributors to this Issue: Don Bieniewicz, Lynn Ephraim, David Dinn. College student intern Jennifer McCormick, Rutgers University. Layout by Sheila Holzberger and Rob Traister.

The CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nation-wide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

CRC works to strengthen families through education and advocacy. We favor family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and for parents who are unwed or separated. We work to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, sub-

stituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for emotional and financial child support. We work to strengthen fragile families of children whose parents are unwed. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in custody reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 32 states and two national affiliate organizations: Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC) and the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA).

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business, and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

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Children's Day

Continued from page 1

Some people say everyday is Children's Day. "By the same token, every day is Mother's Day and Father's Day," said Bauserman, "but children are so important, a special day should be set aside to acknowledge them."

CRC college student interns assisted Sen. Graham's office in calling and faxing senators, asking them to co-sponsor the resolution. Some CRC members and chapters also assisted by contacting their senators.

The resolution is in the box at right.

Joint Custody

Continued from page 1

"Since CRC began in 1985, we have been one of the nation's strongest advocates of family law that promotes the involvement of both parents in a child's life, regardless of the child's family situation," said CRC President David L. Levy. Presumptions for joint custody (shared parenting) are an important part of child-family friendly law, as Jim Cook, president of the Joint Custody Association, has always said.

"With the 1999 state legislation session, we are close to realizing an important goal: the establishment of joint custody presumptions in the majority of states."

"If things go well, the total could increase again in 1999 and many other states have bills pending at the time of this writing," said Kuhn.

For more information on joint custody in the U.S., see CRC's website: www.vix.com/crc The American Bar Association's publications on state laws regarding joint custody can be found at: www.abanet.org/media/factbooks/cht4.htm.

RESOLUTION

Designating the first Sunday in June of each calendar year as "National Child's Day."

Whereas the first Sunday of June falls between Mother's Day and Father's Day;

Whereas each child is unique, a blessing, and holds a distinct place in the family unit;

Whereas the people of the United States should celebrate children as the most valuable asset of the United States;

Whereas the children represent the future, hope, and inspiration of the United States;

Whereas the children of the United States should be allowed to feel that their ideas and dreams will be respected because adults in the United States take the time to listen;

Whereas many children of the United States face crises of grave proportions, especially as they enter adolescent years;

Whereas it is important for parents to spend time listening to their children on a daily basis;

Whereas modern societal and economic demands often pull the family apart;

Whereas, whenever practicable, it is important for both parents to be involved in their child's life;

Whereas encouragement should be given to families to set aside a special time for all family members to engage together in family activities;

Whereas adults in the United States should have an opportunity to reminisce on their youth to recapture some of the fresh insight, innocence, and dreams that they may have lost through the years;

Whereas the designation of a day to commemorate the children of the United States will provide an opportunity to emphasize to children the importance of developing an ability to make the choices necessary to distance themselves from impropriety and to contribute to their communities;

Whereas the people of the United States should emphasize to children the importance of family life, education, and spiritual qualities;

Whereas because children are the responsibility of all people of the United States, everyone should celebrate children, whose questions, laughter, and dreams are important to the existence of the United States; and

Whereas the designation of a day to commemorate the children will emphasize to the people of the United States the importance of the role of the child within the family and society; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate

(1) designates the first Sunday in June of each year as "National Child's Day"; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Letter to the Editor

Editor:

CRC recently helped me to get joint custody in Kennebec, South Dakota, a rural town with a population of 275 people.

A circuit judge who travels to the county seat of Lyman County, which includes Kennebec, said that even though South Dakota practice says custody of a

child of an unwed mother goes to the mother unless the court decides otherwise, he was giving me joint legal and physical custody because I had my son 175 days in 1998. I had this in 1998 because of an agreement with the mother, but the mother later wanted to cut back my access.

I showed my lawyer joint custody

materials that CRC had faxed to me, and the lawyer spoke to the judge.

I will continue to have half the time with Gayt, age 4.

I hope to start a CRC chapter in South Dakota.

Quint Garnos
Phone 605/895-2425

!!News Flashes!!

Access Grants

★ A House Committee will hold hearings this year on the access/ visitation grants. If you have trouble obtaining such a grant, or the grants are not being run right in your state, write to Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, Chair, Human Resources Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Committee, Washington, D.C. 20515, and send it to CRC. We will present all letters to her. CRC plans to ask that states be directed to direct more of the grants to non-profit organizations with experience in counseling non-custodial parents. Make that recommendation in your letter, if you agree with it.

Political Action Committee

★ Have an impact on the year 2000 Presidential and Congressional elections! Help the Children's PAC, the political action committee that shares CRC ideals. Help the PAC, Help Make it Work! Contact Ann Marini, M.D., and Robert Lipsky, who manage the PAC, at 10408 Hebard Street, Kensington, MD 20895, phone 301/530-9290. Do you know what a difference it would make if we had one member of Congress totally committed to the idea that "The Best Parent is Both Parents?" Help Make it Happen!

Changes in American Children's Time, 1981-1997

By: Sandra L. Hoefterth, Ph.D
Reprinted from The Brown University Child and Adolescent Behavior newsletter

Family life has changed significantly since 1980. In 1997 two-thirds of the mothers of preschool children were working, compared with 47 percent in 1980 and 12 percent in 1950. This is a remarkable number. The employment of mothers of young children has had a major effect on family life, just as the initial movement of men out of the home and into wage employment did at the beginning of the industrial revolution.

In recent research at the University of Michigan, we focused on changes in children's experience of family life over the 16-year plus periods between 1981, when the first such study was conducted, and 1997. Both studies used the same time diary method. The two major findings of our research are that, first, children's free time is increasingly structured. To find out how much free time children had in 1981 and 1997, I summed discretionary time, defined as time not spent in personal car, eating, sleeping and school, and divided by the 168 hours each week. That amounted to 38 percent of a child's week (63 hours) in 1981 and 30 percent (51 hours) in

1997, a 16 percent decline in free time over the past 16 years.

The major causes for this decline are the increased time spent in school, which rose from 21 to 29 hours per week, an increase of eight hours. As could be anticipated, the largest increase was in the time preschool children spent in school or child care; even so, school-age children also spent more time in school, presumably some before- and after-school programs are included by parents in their reports of "school time." An additional increase occurred in personal care time, which is time spent bathing, grooming and so on, but also includes time spent packing up one's possessions or getting ready to go places. Presumably spending more time out of the home entails more time getting ready to go as well.

Meal times also declined between 1981 and 1997, a decline of about an hour per week. This is consistent with increased maternal employment. There was a small, insignificant increase in time spent sleeping.

How Free Time has Changed

Children spent about half of their free time playing and watching television

in both 1997 and 1981. Given that free time declined, we would expect declines in most activities. Playing dropped by 25 percent, more than the overall decline in free time, and television viewing declined by slightly less - 13 percent.

Churchgoing declined by 40 percent over the period and outdoors activities such as walking, hiking and camping, declined by about 50 percent.

Finally, household conversations, that is, just sitting and conversing, declined by 10 percent over the period, though again, the initial numbers were small.

Children's time increased in several important activities, particularly sports, visiting, household work and other passive leisure. Sports includes standard team activities such as soccer, baseball, basketball and swimming. The time children spent in sports almost doubled over the periods.

Children participated in a wide variety of scheduled and organized sports activities in 1997. Participation increased equally for girls and boys; still, in 1997 boys spent twice as much time in sports activities as girls.

Visiting increased by 100 percent over the period. This included time

Continued on page 15

Don't Let Congress Tell Children in Your State that they Can't Have Both Parents in their Lives!

Stop the Anti-Joint Custody (Shared Parenting) Resolution! Read, then Sign Petition to House Speaker Hastert!

Dear CRC Supporter,

We are sending your petitions to
H o u s e
S p e a k e r
Hastert asking him to stop an anti-joint custody resolution



*We are sending your
petitions to House Speaker
Hastert asking him to stop
an anti-joint custody
resolution*

We need your help to stop an anti-joint custody resolution that has been re-introduced in Congress this year.

Please sign the letter we will deliver to House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, asking the House to oppose Sec. 241 of H.R. 357 (the Violence Against Women Act).

Sec. 241 is a resolution that asks the states to "have a presumption that children shall have their main physical residence with their primary caretaker parent unless that parent is unfit."

To include this resolution in the Violence Against Women Act is a clever and indirect way to abolish joint custody, because we are all against violence against women, but we realize that we can protect women and society without abolishing shared parenting.

Please sign the letter and mail it right away because it is dangerous for Congress to ask the states to go back to primary caretaker, sole custody laws. That would mean an abolition of joint custody statutes everywhere!

All the efforts we have made advancing the right of a child to have two parents whenever possible could

be lost overnight if the states heed such a sole custody resolution from Congress.

Please sign the letter to Speaker Hastert and mail it to CRC, so we can walk into the Speaker's office with a big stack of such letters to really make an impression!

All of us must work together to defeat this resolution, because children need their dads and their moms whenever possible to help them do well, to avoid crime and drugs, and to achieve their goals. So please sign this letter right now! And it is important to have others sign it, too!

Now please let us tell you what else is happening. This same resolution was introduced last year, and you and I helped to defeat it once. But it is back again. And the sponsors actually say in the Resolution that it is in the child's "best interest" to have a "primary caretaker." You and I know that children generally do better when they have both parents in their lives!

We have another chance to defeat this resolution if we flood Speaker Hastert with your letters.

As you can see, we are right in the middle of things. It is more important than ever to work together. That's why I thought I might ask you to please send a contribution to CRC. If you are not a member, join for \$35. If you are a member, please renew for \$35. Consider a contribution in any amount to CRC to help us in this effort to continue to educate our lawmakers and the public that "The Best for Children is Both Parents." Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
David L. Levy, Esq. President,
CRC

Rebecca Roberts-Malamis, Esq.
Legislative Director

We need to hear from you. Please sign this important petition, and send it to CRC, so we can forward it with other petitions to House Speaker Hastert.

Please sign this petition to Speaker Hastert today!

Please sign the enclosed letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert. Fax it to CRC at 202-546-4272, or mail it to CRC at 300 "I" Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Please fax or mail your membership or renewal of \$35, and a contribution in any amount.

If you cannot renew now for \$35 for one year, sign the petition to Speaker Hastert anyway, so we can deliver him a big stack of letters! Thank you.

**See petition on
following page.**

Correction

In the Winter issue, we misspelled the name of John Schulte, the Ohio father who is trying to locate the whereabouts of his children under the Federal Parent Locator Act.

**We thank Bladen
Lithography in
Gaithersburg, MD
for providing
printing services to
CRC.**

**CRC and our
chapters need grant
and proposal
writers.**

RETURN THIS ENTIRE SHEET TO

Children's Rights Council
300 I Street N.E., Suite 401
Washington, D.C. 20002

PETITION TO THE SPEAKER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PLEASE DON'T CUT OFF CHILDREN FROM THEIR PARENTS!

The Undersigned Hereby Petitions the House of Representatives to Stop Sec. 241 of H.R. 357, which asks the States to abolish their joint custody (shared parenting) statutes!

Speaker of the House
J. Dennis Hastert
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

I ask you to stop an anti-joint custody resolution that is Sec. 241 of H.R. 357 (the Violence Against Women Act).

Sec. 241 is a resolution that would ask the states to "have a presumption that children shall have their main physical residence with their primary caretaker parent unless that parent is unfit."

To include this resolution in the Violence Against Women Act is a clever and indirect way to abolish joint custody. We all strongly oppose violence against women, but we realize that we can protect women and society without abolishing shared parenting.

Please don't cut children off from their parents! Children need their dads and their moms whenever possible to help them do well, to avoid crime and drugs, and to achieve their goals.

Please have the House of Representatives stop Sec. 241. Thank you on behalf of children and families across this great country.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

Date _____

I have signed the above letter. Detach and deliver it to House Speaker Hastert.

I wish to support our efforts to defeat this resolution and to continue our other important efforts. I would like to join or renew for \$35. after my expiration date.

Here is an additional contribution of _____

Or charge my Visa _____ MC _____ AMEX _____ a total of \$ _____.

Card # _____ Exp. date _____

My membership # (see back of newsletter) _____

Fax this sheet to CRC at 202-546-4272 for quicker action.

___ I cannot or am not able to join, renew, or contribute at this time, but send my signed letter to Speaker Hastert anyway.

*Permission is hereby granted to reproduce the petition with or without credit to CRC. We strongly urge you to reproduce it and return it to CRC, for presentation of many petitions to Speaker Hastert. Be sure to get your family and friends to sign. More copies of the petition are available from CRC. We appreciate your financial support to enable CRC to continue its work. Make your check or credit card payment to CRC and send to 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002, or fax credit card contribution to 202-546-4272. **Or make a contribution to the CRC chapter in your state.***



Levy

The CRC View

by David L. Levy

How You Can Obtain Government Funding to Help Children Obtain Access to Both Parents

CRC has advocated since its inception in 1985 laws and attitudes that focus on the need of a child for two parents, rather than cloaking issues around the needs of "mothers and children." Or "fathers' rights."

Congress and the White House are ready to invest billions of dollars in programs to reconnect fathers to their families, and while CRC expects good things to come of that, we see a danger in just focusing on fathers comparable to the past 30 year political focus just on mothers.

It is CRC's hope that the pendulum will swing to the middle, where the trinity of "mother, father and children" will be seen as the ideal family structure for most children. And public policy will be based on encouraging that trinity.

But first, perhaps, America has to rediscover the importance of fathers to children. And that is what is happening today.

The questions being asked are: where should the billions of dollars about to be spent go? To programs aimed at getting fathers to marry? To efforts to make child support enforcement "kinder and gentler"? To job-training and employment programs so fathers can financially support their children?

These are the questions raised at a March 24-25, 1999 conference on "The Politics of Fatherhood," sponsored by the National Center for Strategic Non-Profit Planning and Community Leadership (NPCL) and the Howard University School of Schools of Divinity and Social Work.

NPCL focuses mainly to help "fragile families"—low income, unmarried parents.

The hit of the conference, in my view, was Ron Mincy, who heads a

branch of the Ford Foundation that created NPCL, and which has "deep pockets" it is investing in fatherhood issues.

Mincy noted that fatherhood is now on the top of the radar screen for political leaders, but that it might not be at the top of the screen three years from now.

He noted that the research and thinking on the issue of fatherhood is so new, and so many groups have varying ideas, that it is not clear what should be recommended. Or what works!

One solution, said Mincy, is to connect child-support efforts to local fatherhood groups and use amnesty programs and job opportunities to get men reattached to work and their children.

Other speakers at the conference tied single parenthood to the volatile "gender relations" among black men and women, and their ambivalence about marriage.

These behaviors, plus the "virtual silence of black women" on what they want the fathers to do, have to be addressed before real progress can be made, said Mincy.

Fatherhood groups shouldn't delay in their push for government money, added Mincy. "Harness the resources now, before fatherhood gets pushed off the political agenda."

CRC's view on spending the billions—for which we wish input from you, CRC members, is:

▲ What Mincy says—to connect unwed fathers to their children, the children's mother, and jobs;

▲ Encourage marriage, which is what Wade Horn's National Fatherhood Initiative strongly favors;

▲ Don't forget the 18 million children of divorce, the 2 million non-custodial mothers, and the 12 million non-custodial fathers.

The access grants provided by Congress show that reaching out with programs that work such as parenting education, mediation, and neutral drop-off and pick-up of children centers can help connect children to their divorced and separated parents.

Strengthening of family life is the common element of all the above ideas.

The long and the short of it is that one size does not fit all. If there are billions to be spent, there is enough money to go around for all of the above purposes, and then some, as we evaluate "what works" best for children and families.

If you are part of a group, start to run a program, such as a "Hotline" for parents, or a neutral drop-off site for children.

If your group doesn't have its 501(c)(3) status, get it! Call CRC for information. Network with other parenting groups in your community. Be a part of the action! Help point in what direction those billions will go!

CRC on the Internet

Bruce Kaskubar, CRC coordinator in Minnesota; Rick Kuhn, CRC evaluator of research in Maryland; and Serge Prengel, CRC of New York City, maintain CRC's site on the Internet Worldwide Web. The CRC site can be reached at <http://www.vix.com/crc/> Rick Kuhn reports that the CRC website is getting more than 1,000 hits (inquiries) a month.

Bruce's e-mail is dBrucek@deskmedia.com; Rick's is Kuhn1@aol.com and Serge's is Serge@MissionCreative.com.

Mike Oddenino, CRC's General Counsel, has a new website. It can be reached at www.oandglaw.com (correction from last issue)

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Andrew Ross

301/320-5960

Lawrence Peckmazian

703/920-1451



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COUNCIL



12th National Conference

"Keeping Children First in the 21st Century"
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites - Old Towne Alexandria
September 22nd - 26th, 1999

WHAT A PACKAGE! – ALL INCLUDED:

Savvy speakers sharing the best practices - Chance to network - Workshops - Conference notebook with synopsis of presentations and list of attendees - Mega book fair and More.

PLUS: Wine & cheese reception - Continental breakfasts - Columnist & media personalities luncheon - Authors luncheon - VIP breakfast - Banquet with special keynote speaker and entertainment.

MEET AND HEAR from renowned researchers, judges, lawyers, legislators, columnist, sports figures, and authors like John Guidubaldi, D.Ed., Kent State Univ., Sanford Braver, Ph.D., Ariz. State Univ., CRC General Counsel Michael Oddenino, Civil Rights attorney Ron Henry, the head of the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement Hon. David Gray Ross, and many others.

LATEST INFORMATION:

Does your child really need you? ♦ Should I give my children a choice? ♦ How can I make sure the money goes to my child? ♦ Do I really want joint custody? ♦ How can I get leverage to win out of court? ♦ Am I alienating my child? ♦ How can I get fair and yet an adequate child support award? ♦ Do I go to court to get my rights or to lose them? ♦ How can I get grant money? ♦ What does "in the child's best interest" really mean? ♦ Should I mediate or litigate?

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❖ FEES ❖

\$150 members before Aug. 1st

\$200 non members & late registration
(Includes first year's membership)

Ala carte:

\$25 workshops & seminars (no meals, but includes coffee breaks)	Thurs.-Fri.-Sat.	\$75
\$25 luncheon tickets	Fri.-Sat.	\$50
\$15 breakfast tickets	Fri.-Sat.-Sun	\$45
\$40 banquet	Fri. Evening	\$40
\$25 wine & cheese reception	Thurs. Evening	\$25
	TOTAL	\$235

Pre-conference (Wed.):

Access counseling training by Dick Woods and certification by CRC \$60

Bonus:

Free book to the first 100 paid full conference registrants: "A Family Divided" by Robert Mendelson ("A divorced father's struggle with the child custody industry.") \$25 retail

❖ PROGRAM ❖

TRACK I: Mediation / Legal
TRACK II: Research
TRACK III: Psychological / Family Education

[CEU's and CLEU's pending]

❖ SPECIAL EVENTS ❖

Get Acquainted Wine and Cheese Reception

Meet Members of Congress and State Legislators, V.I.P. Continental Breakfast

Columnist & Media Personalities Luncheon

Banquet and Entertainment

Meet The Speakers Continental Breakfast

Authors' Luncheon

Networking Continental Breakfast

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I Think Divorce Stinks, by Marcia Lebowitz, 1992. Helps children recognize that it is appropriate to have negative feelings about divorce and to express those feelings.
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Questions from Dad, by Dwight Twilley, 1994. An effective way to develop better relationships between children and their parents.
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What am I Doing in a Stepfamily?, by Claire Berman, 1994. A children's book explaining how two families can be better than one.
 SB-307 ----- \$12.00



It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear, by Vicki Lansky, 1998. Koko Bear can help children understand divorce and sends a good message.
 SB-308 ----- \$5.99

The Divorce Workbook, by Sally Ives, David Fassler & Michelle Lasch, 1985. How to facilitate honest and open communication between adults and children at the traumatic time of separation and divorce. Q and A for kids.
 SB-2010 ----- *Discount Price \$6.00

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50/50 Parenting, by Gayle Kimball, Ph.D. Almost 300 co-parents and 83 children report on life in Married, Divorced, and Step-family situations.
 SB-113 ----- \$9.95

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Divorced Dads, Shattering the Myths, by Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., 1998. The surprising truth about fathers, children and divorce.
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The Good Divorce, by Constance R. Ahrons, Ph.D., 1994. An outstanding book with a powerful message: while divorce is not 'good,' there is a path to a 'good divorce' where parents cooperate fully for the sake of their children.
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Helping Your Children through Divorce, Florence Bienenfeld, Ph.D., 1995. A resource book depicting the impact of divorce on children.
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A Hole in My Heart, by Claire Berman, 1991. A book that will enable adult children of divorce to recognize the role they play in changing patterns in their lives.
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The Joint Custody Handbook, by Miriam Cohen, 1991. A 1991 update of one of the classic books on joint custody. Contains sample parenting agreements. PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!
 HB-213 ----- \$10.95

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Mom's House, Dad's House, by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., 1998. Making shared custody work: How parents can make two homes for their children after divorce. 100 **New** pages to this classic book!

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Negotiating Love: How Women and Men Can Resolve Their Differences, by Riki Robbins Jones, 1995. Points out destructive habits by both genders which, when realized, strengthen families and relationships.

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SB-286 ----- \$16.95

Putting Kids First, by Michael Oddenino. A must read for caring parents and professionals, by CRC's General Counsel. Includes a children's bill of rights.

SB-248 ----- \$9.95

Second Chances, by Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, 1989. Based on ten year longitudinal study of the effects of divorce on adults and children.

HB-22 ----- *Discount Price \$8.00

Surviving the Break-Up, How Children and Parents Cope with Divorce, by Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D and Joan Kelly, Ph.D., 1980. A classic that is still valid in discussing the problems of children being raised by single parents.

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Familyhood: Nurturing the Values that Matter, by Dr. Lee Salk, 1992. A practical, inspiring guide to communicating values.

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by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names).

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Helping Your Kids Cope With Divorce, by M. Gary Neuman, L.M.H.C. 1996. This book is based on the nationally renowned "Sandcastles" workshop.

HB-284 ----- \$25.00

Joint Custody: An Alternative for Divorcing Families, by Mel Morgenbesser and Nadine Nehls, 1981. A guidebook for parents about summer camp and education through travel.

HB-285 ----- *Reduced price \$5.00

BOOKS FOR STEPARENTS

How to Win as a Stepfamily, by Emily Visher, Ph.D. and John Visher, M.D., 1982. The co-founders of the Stepfamily Association of America answer questions and give suggestions on how to make stepfamilies work.

HB-301 ----- \$13.95

Making it as a Stepparent, New Roles/New Rules, by Claire Berman, 1986. Former president of the Stepfamily Association of America provides practical help and insights.

SB-304 ----- \$7.95

Stepfamilies Stepping Ahead, edited by Mala Burt for the Stepfamily Association of America.

SB-303 ----- \$9.95

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Grandparents, by Dr. Ruth Westheimer (Dr. Ruth). Includes a 20-page chapter on divorce.

SB-393 ----- \$22.00

BOOKS FOR SINGLE PARENTS

At My Father's Wedding: Reclaiming our True Masculinity, by John Lee, 1991. A ground-breaking work about the Father Wound and the pain a child can bear because of it.

HB-242 ----- *Extra Low Price* \$2.00

Surviving Divorce—Women's Resources After Separation, by Mavis Maclean, 1991. Women coping with earnings, maintenance and welfare in the U.S., France, and Great Britain.

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The Liberated Man, by Warren Farrell, 1993. Reveals what every woman needs to know about men and what every man needs to know about himself.

SB-244 ----- *Discount Price \$3.00

The Daddy Track and the Single Father, by Geoffrey L. Greif, 1990. A book about successfully coping with kids, housework, a job, an ex-wife, a social life, and the courts.

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Money-Smart Divorce. What Women Need to Know about Money and Divorce, by Esther M. Berger, 1996.

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Still a Dad, The Divorced Father's Journey, by CRC's own Serge Prengel, 1998. Published with praise from Warren Farrell, Karen DeCrow, and James A. Cook.

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Fathers' Rights, by Jeffrey Leving. A best-selling book for fathers who want to maintain contact with their children.

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The Divorced Parent: Success Strategies for Raising Your Children After Separation, by Stephanie Marston, 1994. Provides practical advice and specific tools for raising well-adjusted children.

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Like Father, Like Son, By Hunter S. Fulghum, 1996. A collection of stories on being a man at midlife in America, with introduction by Robert Fulghum.

HB-645 ----- **\$21.95**



Child Custody Made Simple, by Webster Watnik, 1997. Answers all your questions about child custody and child support for a single parent.

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The Single Parent's Money Guide, by Emily Card, 1996. A plan for managing your money when you are the only one your family can count on.

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MEDIATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Family Evaluations in Child Custody, Mediation, Arbitration and Litigation, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1989. In this update, Gardner proposes a three-phase system to remove child custody evaluations from courtroom litigation.

HB-603 ----- **\$35.00**

Healing Hearts, Helping Children and Adults

Recover from Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, M.S.W., CRC's National Parent Education Director, and Elizabeth Dalton, attorney and mediator

HB-615 ----- **\$15.00**

Between Love and Hate, A Guide to Civilized Divorce, by Lois Gold, M.S.W., 1992. Learn the fundamental skills of negotiation conflict resolution and mediation, for everyone's good.

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A Family Divided, by Robert Mendelson, 1997. A discussion of a divorced father's struggle with the child custody industry.

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The Custody Revolution, by Richard Warshak, 1992. The Father Factor and the Motherhood Mystique.

HB-702 ----- ***Discount Price \$15.00**

The Fathers Emergency Guide to Divorce/Custody Battle, A Tour Through the Predatory World of Judges, Lawyers, Psychologists and Social Workers in the Subculture of Divorce, by Robert Seidenberg, with the legal insights of Williams Dawes, Esq., 1997.

SB-247 ----- **\$15.00**

PARENTAL KIDNAPPING

The Parental Alienation Syndrome, A guide for mental health and legal professionals, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1995. An authoritative work on the Parental Alienation Syndrome .

SB-1004 ----- **\$30.00**

When Parents Kidnap, by Geoffrey Greif and Rebecca Hegar, 1993. This book captures the experiences of parents searching for their children and abductors who have taken them; also makes public policy recommendations.

HB-901 ----- **\$22.95**

CHILD ABUSE

Ashes to Ashes...Families to Dust, by Dean Tong, 1996. False Accusations of Child Abuse: A Roadmap for survivors which helps to answer their questions.

SB-2014 ----- **\$15.95**

Children Held Hostage: Dealing with programmed and brainwashed children, by Stanley Clawar, Ph.D. and Brynne Rivlin, M.M.S., 1991. Published by the ABA's Section for Family Law, this book discusses a 12-year study of programming and brainwashing during custody battles.

SB-1003 ----- **\$45.00**

Protocols for Sex Abuse Evaluations, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1995. Presents a new series of criteria and interview sequences to help examiners involved in sex abuse evaluations.

HB-1007 ----- **\$39.95**

Recognizing Child Abuse and Combating Child Abuse, A comprehensive guide to recognizing, preventing, and handling child abuse and neglect, by a resident scholar of the American Enterprise Institute. (both books by Douglas Besharov, Ph.D.)

SB-1006 ----- *Discount Price **\$12.00**
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Suggestions of Abuse, by Michael D. Yapko, Ph.D. 1994. A book about true and false memories of childhood sexual trauma.

HB-1023 ----- **\$22.00**



True and False Accusations of Child Sex Abuse, by Richard A. Gardner, 1992. A guide for legal and mental health professionals.

HB-1024 ----- **\$45.00**

VIDEOS

Children: The Experts on Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, MSW 1994. The children speak from their own experience of going through their parents' divorce. A CRC-award winning video prepared by CRC's National Parent Education Director.

V-902 ----- **\$25.00**

The Sensible Approach To Divorce, prepared by Wyandotte County, Kansas officials. A CRC-award winning program in Kansas that shows parents how they can both be fully involved in children's lives post-divorce.

V-903 ----- **\$15.00**

Don't Forget The Children, by the Dallas, Texas Association of Young Lawyers. A CRC award-winning video that provides information on co-parenting in the event of divorce.

V-904 ----- **\$20.00**

The Family After Divorce: Restoring the Family Fabric, by Phoebe Snover Prosky, MSW. (25.00). The

program described in this video has helped many children of divorce.

V-905 ----- **\$15.00**

Psychotherapeutic & Legal Approaches To Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. An in-depth discussion of ways that parents can alienate the child against the other parent.

V-906 ----- **\$25.00**

AUDIOTAPES

By noted author Warren Farrell

Why Men Are the Way They Are

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The Myth of Male Power

A-312 ----- **\$ 8.00**

Complete set of Warren Farrell tapes

A-113 ----- **\$20.00**

REPORTS

New!

A list of statutes and major cases on joint custody in all 50 states. Prepared by Ray Meiers of CRC of Ohio, updated to August, 1998. Excellent 20-page nationwide compilation reference guide. Available on disc (microsoft word) or hard copy.

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Two Parents are Still Better Than One

By Kathleen Parker

December 21, 1998

Orlando Sentinel nationally syndicated columnist

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Wouldn't you like to wake up one day and see the headline: "Two-parent families make dramatic comeback."

In good news this week: The number of single fathers with children at home has increased by 25 percent in the past three years.

That's also the bad news.

It's good news because the numbers seem to suggest that courts are beginning to recognize that fathers are parents, too. For too long, mothers automatically were awarded custody of children and fathers were mere "visitors" to their kids.

It's bad news because when one parent has custody, regardless of whether it's the mom or dad, the other is essentially missing from the child's life. Children don't prefer one parent over the other, except when they're working on a deal, such as figuring out which one is more likely to let them see "Psycho." Generally, they like having both parents around.

A better news item would be that shared custody arrangements have increased 25 percent. Or even better, that divorce rates are plummeting. Wouldn't you like to wake up one day and see the headline: "Two-parent families make dramatic comeback." Or, "More children than ever are enjoying two-parent households."

Until we change in more fundamental ways, divorce isn't going away. Nor is our absurd notion that single-parenting is just another lifestyle option. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the increase in single-dad households is a function of both divorce and the solo-parenting "choice," as well as adoption agencies' willingness to consider single people, gay and straight, as parents. Of men heading single-parent households today, 35 percent have never been married.

In 1970, according to the report, about one in 10 single parents were fathers. In 1998, it's one in six. The number of single-parent families headed by fathers has grown in the past three years from 1.7 million to 2.1 million. By comparison, 9.8 million mothers head single-parent households. Overall, single-parent families constitute 27 percent of all families.

Fathers groups, which have fought hard for equality in the custody battle, are celebrating the new figures. Demographers are boasting the breakdown of sexism.

Feminists say this trend ultimately will help women.

All probably true. Men have been disenfranchised and children hurt by the courts' tendency to award sole custody to mothers.

Preferential treatment to women is sexist. And single mothers usually suffer both financially and emotionally from the burden of trying to raise children alone.

But one hardly feels like breaking out the Cold Duck. Children are still hurt

by the absence of a parent.

No matter how swell we are individually, two parents are better than one. No matter how technologically advanced (or strange) we become, the original blueprint calls for two parents. Male and female. Mom and Dad.

I realize that's an unpopular notion these days. We don't like to deny people their happiness, however they may define it, and above all we don't like to judge. Two men want to have a baby? Why not? A teen-ager outgrows her teddy bear and wants a real baby to love? Well, deary, it's better than abortion.

A professional woman's bio-clock is out of batteries so she swings by the sperm bank on her way home from work? You go girl!

But ask a child what he wants and he'll tell you: a mother and a father. Meanwhile, studies show that despite anecdotal successes, children reared in single-parent homes are at greater risk for getting in trouble, suffering emotional problems or dropping out of school.

It should go without saying that not everyone gets what they want -death and necessary divorce happen-but at least we should hesitate before celebrating advances that merely make awful situations less awful rather than better. Better would be to reverse the trend away from single-parenthood toward the ideal of whole families, including a mother and a father.

Parker's e-mail address is kparker@kparker.com

Changes in Family Time Means More Passive Activities

Continued from page 4

spent on the telephone talking with friends. One puzzling finding was that time in household work more than doubled between 1981 and 1997. Finally, consistent with the conclusion that there has been an increase in structure in children's lives, we see that the time children spend in other passive leisure - going to shows and sports events at which the child is a spectator and not a participant - increased five-fold. In

1981, children spent one-half hour in other passive leisure; that figure was three hours and six minutes in 1997.

Implications

We recognize that families are a lot busier today; with two parents working and children in their own activities, even children need their own personal organizer. Family life requires very tight

scheduling. The food preparation industry is a fast growing segment of the work force, with carry-out and restaurant food substituting for home-cooked meals. Families may spend time running back and forth to stores rather than making goods at home.

This is reflected in the increased time children spend in household work, the largest chunk of which is explained as

Continued on page 17

Family Facts

Divorce Lawyers Rank Top 10 Mistakes Parents Make with Children During Divorce

Denigrating the other spouse in front of the children is the biggest mistake parents make with children during divorce, followed closely by using children as a messenger and interfering with visitation, according to a survey of the nation's top divorce and family law attorneys.

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML), at its Annual Meeting in Chicago, November 12, 1998, ranked the 10 top mistakes parents with children make during divorce. Some 200 members participated.

"It is imperative that divorcing parents put their children before their legal battles. It's important for parents to remember that their actions during divorce can have long-term consequences. Children are part mom and part dad and need both parents in their lives," according to Mike McCurley of Dallas, the Academy's president.

In order of frequency, the biggest mistakes parents make during divorce are:

1. Denigrating the other spouse.
2. Using the child as a messenger.
3. Interfering with visitation rights.
4. Sharing intimate details of the other spouse's infidelity, behavior.
5. Failing to pay child support/adequately supporting the children.
6. Immediately introducing the child to the parent's new love interest.
7. Moving the child as far away as possible from the other parent.
8. Listening to the child's conversations with the other parent.
9. Having the child read all the legal pleadings or having them contact the attorney.
10. Having the child request money from the other spouse.

Regarding allegations of child sexual abuse, most attorneys felt such allegations were true less than 50 percent of the time. They were fairly well divided on how good a job the courts were doing in sorting out the truthful from untruthful allegations.

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers is composed of the nation's top 1,500 matrimonial attorneys who are recognized experts in the specialized field of matrimonial law, including divorce, prenuptial agreements, legal separation, annulment, custody, property valuation and division, support and the rights of unmarried cohabitators.

The purpose of the Academy is to encourage the study, improve the practice, elevate the standards and advance the cause of matrimonial law.

The Academy publishes a free book, "Stepping Back from Anger: Protecting Your Children During Divorce." Order from the Academy at 312/263-6477.

Editor's note: We would like our readers to point out the Top 10 mistakes lawyers make for the next issue of "Speak Out for Children." Send to CRC, we will compile, and send to the Academy.

Divorce More Negative for Children Than Death of a Parent

Jerusalem - Children of divorced parents are seven times more likely to suffer from depression in adult life than people of similar age and background whose parents have not divorced, says a psychiatric study on factors leading to depression.

The Israeli study indicates that the loss of a parent through divorce is more likely to cause depression than loss through death. And separation from a mother or from both parents, whether through divorce or desertion, was more likely to cause depression than separation only from a father.

Researchers Bernard Lerer and Ofer Agid of the Biological Psychiatric Unit of Hadassah Hospital focused on children whose parents divorced before the child was 9.

They examined 231 patients from Jerusalem's Herzog, Talbiyeh and Eitanim psychiatric hospitals and matched them with 170 people in a control group that was drawn from the local community.

This doesn't mean children of divorce are doomed to depression in later life. The researchers emphasize that divorce was a factor in depression only among about 30% of patients in the study, and that only a minority of children experiencing divorce suffer from depression.

From article by Matthew Kalman in USA Today, February 7, 1999

Father Absence Linked to Children's Criminal Activity

by Maggie Gallagher
excerpted with permission from a Universal
Press Syndicate column
November 27, 1998

Young men raised in disrupted families were 200 percent more likely to end up incarcerated than men who lived in intact families.

Is father absence itself the cause of crime, or is it merely the poverty and racial inequality single-parent families experience? Is divorce more or less damaging than unwed parenthood? And did remarriage hurt or help?

To answer questions like these, researchers Sara McLanahan and Susan Harper followed more than 6,000 young men through their crime-prone years, from their teens up through their early 30s. They controlled for race, education,

income, urban residence and even cognitive ability.

The results? Young men raised in disrupted families were 200 percent more likely to end up incarcerated than men who lived in intact families.

The effects of father absence seem to be addictive: Each year spent in a broken family increased the odds of incarceration by 5 percent. Boys whose families divorced during their teen years were about 1.5 times more likely to be incarcerated, while boys raised by unwed mothers (who mostly never lived with their fathers) were about 2.5 times as likely to end up jailed.

Boys with stepfathers were on average almost three times more likely to end up in prison than boys in intact families. In fact, note the authors, "The odds for youths from stepparent families are similar to those from youths who do not

live with any parents." Sadly, it looks as if when single mothers marry a new partner (again, on average), a boy does not typically so much gain a father as lose a mother.

These new findings confirm an old truth: The moral choices parents make, about having sex and raising children outside of an intact marriage, affect not only their own children's life chances, they affect all of us.

And yet we are doing a pathetically poor job of passing on a firm marriage ethic to the next generation: According to the Census Bureau, a shocking 44 percent of first births are now outside of marriage. If this continues, almost half of American young women who become mothers will do so, for the first time, without being married.

This is surely one of our most pressing social problems.

Changes in Children's Time Means Less Talking with Parents

Continued from page 15

time children spend accompanying parents on errands and shopping trips rather than traditional chores and cleanup.

Consequences

As the present generation of children moves into young adulthood, we may see the consequences in terms of their expectations of home and family life. Certainly, we are seeing in the overwhelming enrollments of young women in colleges and universities that women will be involved in careers in the future. Society will continue to adapt.

Television time has not gone up; in fact, it has declined, though not by as much as the overall decline in free time. Television is a passive activity that, overall, has a small but statistically significant impact on children's reading achievement test scores. On the down side, the total time spent reading - only about one hour per week - has not changed over the period. Of the activities we examined, reading is the activity that is associated with better reading comprehension

and, therefore, with future success in school and life. While studying increased by 50 percent between 1981 and 1997, the total hours children spend studying is still small, only about two hours per week. In addition, studying is not necessarily associated with doing better in school because children who study more include those who are having school problems.

Finally, we did not find that children who spend less time playing at home necessarily do worse on tests of verbal or math achievement or have more behavior problems. Children may be playing in their preschool programs or have some free time at school. Thus, this study provides only a partial picture of children's time.

In addition, we found no evidence that mothers who work outside the home are neglecting their children. A difference of only three hours per week in direct parental engagement with children was found in two-parent families with an employed mother compared to two-parent families in which the mother was not

employed.

There is one cautionary note. We found that children who spend fewer hours eating meals have higher levels of aggressive behavior problems than those who spend more hours eating meals. We do not yet know, of course, which comes first; however, meal time is an important time when children and parents can find out what happened over the day.

This is not the only time children and parents spend talking, but since just sitting and talking as the main activity also declined dramatically between 1981 and 1997, there may be a basis for concern.

We will be conducting additional analyses over the next few years and conducting a second wave of data collection on these same children and their families in the year 2001. For more information on the Child Development Supplement to the Panel Study of Income dynamics or to order a copy of our reports please visit our web sit at www.isr.umich/src/child-development/home.html.

Around the Country

West Virginia Almost Gets Strong Shared Parenting Law Effort foiled by Governor Underwood

The Governor of West Virginia, Cecil Underwood, saying he likes joint custody and mediation, but dislikes establishment of a proposed elected family court, vetoed a presumption for shared parenting that had been overwhelming passed by the West Virginia legislature.

West Virginia has long been a bastion for sole custody, and supporters of shared parenting plan to try again next year.

"The attempt is to duplicate post-divorce what occurred pre-divorce," said House Judiciary Chairman Rick Staton, a strong supporter of the bill.

For example, "if one parent always took the kid to Little League practices before (the divorce) that doesn't mean now that stops just because it's not their weekend," Staton said.

The new law would have mandated parents to attend parent education classes, and then sit down and work out a shared parenting plan.

If the parents couldn't work out a plan, they would have been required to participate in professional mediation. And if that didn't work, then court.

Separated parents would have been primarily affected, but people already divorced would have had one year to ask the court to work out a new co-parenting plan. It was unclear whether the proposal applied to unwed parents.

The bill also provided for a new financial child support formula that Staton said was more fair to middle class parents.

Whereas relocation by one parent in the past was easy, relocation was expected to be harder to obtain under the new law, because parents who wish to

relocate would have to come to the court with a new parenting plan, and show that the move is for a "legitimate purpose," and not to frustrate the access of the child to the other parent.

The proposed law also provided make-up of missed visitation, and civil penalties of a fine of \$100 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense, and \$1,000 for the third offense of interference with access (visitation). Interference could also have been grounds for changing the "allocation of responsibilities."



Ginger Thompson lead advocacy efforts to help give West Virginia children moms and dads.

"The bill would have done away with the presumption that the parent who is the primary caregiver gets custody," said Ginger Thompson of Charleston, the president of the West Virginia Alliance for Two Parents.

The proposal also created a system of elected family law judges to hear domestic relations cases.

"We had effective, genuine lobbying efforts of several grass roots, including grandparents' groups and fathers' groups, coming together under the Alliance, and making a sensible argument," said Thompson, explaining the surprising strong legislative vote in favor of the bill. "And we picked up some press support."

When there was a stalemate between the West Virginia House and Senate over two versions of the bill, Governor Underwood, a Republican, assisted in resolving the process. But he vetoed the final product, saying domestic violence groups lobbied against the legislation. Supporters said domestic violence victims were protected under the bill.

Richard Neely exercised a heavy influence against joint custody when he was a longtime member of the West Virginia Supreme Court and its chief justice. Neely is now in private law practice in Charleston.

"Times have changed," said Thompson.

Thompson got involved because her "significant other" has had difficulty for three years in obtaining adequate access to his five-year old son. His former wife said she did not have to give him more access, and that the state was not going to change the law for him. "Well, the legislature did," said Thompson, "and we are going to stay at it."

Write to your state legislators asking them to pass a similar law in your state.

Colorado Allocates Parental Responsibilities

Two years ago, Colorado passed legislation for enforcement of parenting time, meaning that courts are required to expedite requests for enforcement of parenting time, by fines, bonds, and make-up of visitation.

Now, as of February 1, 1999, all references to custody of minor children have been deleted from state statutes and replaced with an "allocation of parental responsibilities." For example, litigating parents are required to submit to the court comprehensive parenting plans. The "best interest of the child" also now includes "the ability of the parent to place the child's needs before their own." Activist Ken Ward predicts this will reduce the alienation of children.

"The whole thought behind these changes are that children are not property and they're not something to win in a fight between the parents. These laws take the fight right out of custody, which will reduce litigation."

For more information, consult Colorado revised statutes Title 14, Article 10, or consult the webpage of Fathers for Equal Rights in Colorado, www.ffer.com

Write to your state legislators asking them to pass a similar law.

Mandated Mediation in Nebraska

The Nebraska Supreme Court recently approved an amendment to Rule 4-3 of the rules of the Fourth Judicial Court which requires all parties to domestic relations matters involving children to attend a parenting education program within sixty days from receipt of service in process. This includes dissolution of marriage, determination of paternity, and visitation (parenting time) requests. Parties are also required to prepare a Parenting Plan, including child custody, visitation (parenting time), grandparenting time, and other issues relating to children.

No trial date will be scheduled until attendance at parenting education has been completed and mediation has been attempted, provided however, that failure or refusal to participate shall not delay entry of a final judgement by more than six months.

The Role of the Mediator

The role of the mediator in disputes will be to assist parents to communicate and to make voluntary, informed choices in an effort to find a mutually acceptable resolution concerning their child or children. The mediator will be impartial, neutral, and unbiased toward the parents. Mediation ethics derive from the respect the mediator has for the uniqueness of each parent and family, their values, dignity, competence and right to self-determination.

Qualities and qualifications of the mediator will facilitate the parents' ability to create a new or modify an already existing parenting plan for their child or children. The final agreement must be approved by the court.

From "For Our Children," Vol. 1, No. 1, by CRC of Nebraska, describing the mediation program in Nebraska being administered by the chapter, under a federally-funded access grant for the state of Nebraska.

Write to your state legislators asking that divorce mediation be required in your state.

Chapter News

CRC Provides Access Programs in Washington, D.C.

Judges and other city officials spoke at a press conference to announce access/visitation services for residents of the District of Columbia provided by National CRC and its Washington, D.C. chapter.

The press conference was held at the Hillcrest Children's Center in the Shaw area of the nation's capital on February 9, 1999, and carried that evening on all four D.C.'s major local TV networks, the affiliates of ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox.

Children of divorced, unwed or separated parents may visit with the non-custodial parents at a neutral, non-threatening atmosphere, and their parents can be helped with parenting issues generally.

The National CRC office operates a "hotline" for District of Columbia residents, at 202-544-3900, and provides information, resources and referrals.

The Washington, D.C. chapter, headed by Frank Banner, provides the

neutral drop-off and pick-up site for children, supervised access/visitation, and parenting education classes.

The hotline and services are provided with funds from the District's child support office, and supervised by the D.C. Superior Court.

Superior Court Chief Judge Eugene N. Hamilton, who with his wife has raised more than 80 children in foster care, and Corporation Counsel John Ferren, a former judge, who supervises the District's child support office, spoke

about the excellent opportunity the programs offer to help children and families.

One of the highlights of the press conference was seeing a father hold his 4 year old son whom he is seeing more frequently, he said, thanks to the CRC program.

Get funding for a hotline and neutral drop-off and pick-up site in your community. Network with groups interested in family issues to see who has money for such projects!



CRC Legislative Intern Ta'Mora Jones with Superior Court Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton at CRC's Press Conference

Ask for Downward Modifications



State Child Support Director Says You Should Ask for Downward Mod, Where Appropriate

Nick Young, director of Child Support Enforcement Division for the State of Virginia, urges non-custodial parents to apply for services from child support offices, including review and downward modification of their orders, if warranted, and to ensure equity through

the entire process.

"If non-custodial parents are paying through the system, they are already a client or customer and are entitled to have the benefit of child support services," said Young.

CRC would like to hear from any parents who seek relief from any child support offices. Send your success, or lack of success stories, to CRC.

Inside CRC

Former Hill Aide Helps CRC

Rebecca Roberts-Malamis, is CRC's new Legislative Director. She is helping CRC to ask Congress to not pass the anti-joint custody amendment which is Sec. 241 of Violence Against Women Act (see elsewhere in this issue). Rebecca was a legislative attorney for Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) on Capitol Hill for nine years, and later worked as a Washington representative for the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies. She left that job to be an at-home mom for her son Billy. Now that Billy is 4 years old, she is venturing forth, and volunteered to help CRC. Rebecca is married to Peter Malamis, a vice-president of a medical consulting firm in northern Virginia.

Two CD's Mention CRC



Twilley wrote "Questions from Dad"

Author, pop singer, and CRC Spokesperson Dwight Twilley has two CD's being released back-to-back this Spring. They are;

* "Between the Cracks," a collection of rarities and unreleased tracks spanning 20 years on the Not Lane label; and

* "Tulsa," the new Dwight Twilley studio release, on the Cooper label. Twilley acknowledges the Children's Rights Council in the credits on both releases.

Dwight and his fiance Jan Allison, his artistic director and part-time recording engineer, plan to be married later this year. Twilley, a native of Tulsa, wrote the book "Questions from Dad" several years ago, a book whose tips provide ways for parents to keep in touch with their kids.

The book is available from CRC, in the catalog elsewhere in this issue.

Mediation, Moveaway Help

Leslee Newman, J.D., who has been giving free consultations on move-away issues to CRC members, is available for mediation consultations (at a fee). Leslee, who is a trained mediator, can be reached at 714-282-1515. Her husband Don Smith, Ph.D., clinical psychologist, is available for child custody evaluations. Don's number is 714-939-6678. Don and Leslee are both in Orange County, California, but can handle cases anywhere in the country.

Get a Better Guideline in Your State

The best chance to have your state adopt a newer, fairer financial child support guideline is to have a state agency or commission invite Don Bieniewicz to testify in your state.

Bieniewicz is author of the CRC guideline, published by the federal government in its booklet entitled "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation."

The guidelines in effect in almost all states, which were prepared by Robert Williams, of Policy Studies, Inc., Denver, for federal government distribution some years ago, are all based on zero visitation, Williams has admitted.

Furthermore, such guidelines have a "cliff effect," a magic number, such as 30% or 35%, where an adjustment of the guideline kicks in. So some par-

ents fight over this number, custodial parents trying to keep access below the cut-off, while some non-custodial parents fight to make it higher, in a battle over money.

The CRC guideline cancels out both problems, because it is based on the assumption that some access/visitation takes place, and in a slowly increasing way, so that an adjustment is based on the actual access a child has to a non-custodial parent.

In such event, more money is being spent directly on the child, so somewhat less money would need to be transferred to the other parent.

To obtain a copy of "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation," which contains the CRC guideline, phone (202) 401-9383, which is the Office of Child Support Enforcement's Child Support Reference Center, located at 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, D.C. 20447. There is no charge for the publication, as long as supplies last.

Copies of the CRC guideline itself as published by the government are available from CRC for \$5 for CRC members, and \$10 for non-members, including shipping and handling.

If you would like to contact Don Bieniewicz for his assistance in getting this guideline adopted in your state, write him at 10004 Fair Oaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181, contact him via email at DonBien@erols.com, or phone 703-255-0837 (evenings).

Updated Parenting Directory Available

The new update of CRC's International Parenting Directory is available. Updated as of September, 1998, this 7th edition of the directory contains information on more than 1,200 groups and individuals across the country and abroad working in areas such as custody, access/visitation, and prevention of parental kidnapping. The Directory, an invaluable networking tool, is available in hardcopy or disk for \$12 for CRC members, and \$15 for non-members. CRC thanks Paul Robinson and Ed Mudrak for their hard work in updating this Directory. The hardcopy is updated once a year; the disk is updated frequently. Order from CRC and specify which version you want—hardcopy or disk.

Donors are Appreciated

CRC thanks everyone who contributes to CRC in the charity drive that takes place in all federal government offices every Fall. CRC is listed as number 1513 in the Children's Charities of America listing, which is part of the Independent Charities of America. We also thank those who contribute to CRC in the Washington, D.C., and San Francisco (Bay Area) United Way campaigns.

We also thank those who contribute to CRC through their United Way in some other part of the country, where we are not listed, but where employers may sometimes allow employees to designate CRC.

CRC depends on volunteer help and contributions for its existence.

If you wish to make your tax-deductible contribution directly to CRC, send it to CRC, 300 I Street, Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Intellectual Property Protection

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for the name and logo "Children's Rights Council" and the name and logo for our newsletter "Speak Out for Children" is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero and Perle, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Family Court Information

CRC Advisor Leslie Ann Brownrigg has information and research on why every state should have a unified Family Court. Contact CRC on how to reach Leslie.

Thanks Julie and Rob

CRC thanks Julie Maggiacomo and Rob Whitfield for volunteer services to kids and CRC.

CRC Info

Fax: 202-546-4272
Website: www.vix.com/crc
E-mail: crcdc@erols.com

Non-Custodial Parents Will Pay for our Children's Health Insurance, but Why Can't We Have any Say on Federal Panel?

A federal commission has been formed to find ways to improve the enforcement of medical child support obligations for uninsured children.

The panel is expected to hold hearings around the country this year to elicit testimony from citizens and officials who have ideas on what works, and what doesn't work, in the health insurance field.

The panel was announced in March, 1999 by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala and Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. Shalala said there are more than 10 million uninsured children.

Twenty-three people were appointed to the Panel, many of them representing HMOs and insurance companies. Five representatives of groups speaking for custodial mothers were appointed, and one representative of an unwed parent organization. Not one representative of groups for children and non-custodial parents were appointed, even though Secretary Shalala said in her announcement of the panel's formation that many "non-custodial parents" are not providing coverage.

CRC President David L. Levy, who was invited to testify at the panel's opening session, said that California CRC coordinator Patricia Gehlen finds that health insurance is available for children in California for as low as \$74 a month.

Levy spoke of the need for more incentives for parents to be part of children's lives. Health insurance could

be part of a parenting plan developed by parents that includes both parents in their children's life, he said.

The group will assess the National Medical Support Notice, which is to be issued under interim regulations later this year. The notice will provide a uniform manner to inform employers about the need to enroll a non-custodial parent's child in employer-provided health insurance coverage.

The panel's schedule for hearings has not yet been set. To find out if the panel will visit your part of the

country,
phone
Michael
Kharfen, 202/
401-9215, or
Sharon
Morrissey
202/219-
8921, at the
U.S. Depart-
ment of
Health and
Human Ser-
vices (HHS).



Shalala



Herman

The panel's recommendations are expected to be part of a report from Shalala and Herman to Congress in 2000, leading to possible further legislation.

Write to Secretary Donna Shalala, U.S. Department of Health of Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20447, asking that non-custodial parents be heard from when Medical Child Support Panel meets this year.

Your group may already operate a "Hotline" for information and referrals, and you could start a neutral drop-off and pick-up site for children at a local church, both of which could be funded. Go for the funds! Call CRC for information.

Court Cases

Surviving Parent Gets Custody

Probate courts lack the authority to decide guardianship petitions involving minor children if a child's parent objects, the Rhode Island Supreme Court has ruled.

The Probate Court may only appoint such a guardian after the Family Court has terminated the objecting parent's parental rights, said Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger. And that will only happen, he said, if a Family Court judge makes a finding that the father or mother is unfit.

"Unless the court finds egregious behavior on the parent's part," Weisberger said, state law mandates that "reasonable efforts shall be made to preserve and unify families."

The ruling by the high court came in a case involving a 7-year-old Newport boy whose mother died of cancer in January 1997. Shortly before her death, the mother, who had sole custody, placed custody of the boy with her cousin.

The father, Timothy Carr objected to the guardianship petition filed by the cousin. He argued that the Probate Court lacked authority to award permanent guardianship of a minor child over the opposition of a surviving parent.

Weisberger pointed out that Rhode Island case law states "parents are the natural guardians of their children" and "on the death of a parent to whom such custody has been awarded, the right to custody automatically reverts to the surviving spouse."

Thus, what Heidi Carr's cousin is asking the Probate Court to do is to terminate the father's "natural guardianship and custody rights" and award her custody—something, Weisberger said, only the Family Court can do.

He pointed out, however, that probate courts still have the authority to appoint guardians for orphans and minors who do not have objecting parents.

Relocation and Automatic Custody Change

The Wyoming Supreme Court on

Jan. 19 overruled a provision in a couple's divorce decree that custody of the children would change automatically to the father if the mother moved more than 50 miles from Upton, WY. The court said that a custodial parent's constitutional right of travel carries with it the right to take the children with her. The mother decided to pursue a new career after the divorce, and was accepted into the graduate program at the University of Wyoming. However, the program was available only at the school's campus in Laramie. A trial court had denied the mother's motion to modify the divorce decree so that she could take her sons to Laramie with her.

(Watt v. Watt, Wyo SupCt., No. 96-322, 1/19/99)

Relocation and Conditional Change of Custody

The Nevada Supreme Court ruled Feb. 12 that a lower court was wrong to deny a mother's petition to take her children with her to Japan in order to be with her husband, who was in the armed forces. The father had sought a conditional change of custody, which would become effective if the mother moved to Japan. However, the Supreme Court said such a conditional change of custody would force the mother to choose between the children and her husband. The Supreme Court said that conditional orders changing custody should be made only if the judge affirmatively determines that the child's best interests are served, taking all factors, not just the move, into consideration.

(Hayes v. Gallacher, Nov. SupCt., No. 31191, 2/12/99)

Relocation and Joint Custody

A trial court should have considered a mother's wish to move to West Virginia with the child before it decided that joint custody was in the best interests of the child, the Nevada Supreme Court ruled Dec. 30. The Supreme

Court told the trial court to consider the mother's plan to move. A Nevada statute provides that, if custody has been established, and a parent having joint custody intends to move outside the state with the child, he or she must obtain the parent's permission to request court authorization. After deciding on joint custody, the trial court judge said that, under this statute, it was inconsistent to conclude that both parents were capable of sharing custody, and then allow one parent to defeat that conclusion by requesting permission to move with the child. The mother said she had exhausted her career opportunities as a secretary in Las Vegas, and claimed that the move to West Virginia would allow her to finish college and obtain a teaching certificate.

(McGuinness v. McGuinness, Nev SupCt, No. 30836, 12/30/98)

(CRC note: Get real, court, are there no secretarial career opportunities or colleges in Nevada?)

Hague Convention and Visitation

The U.S. Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania said Dec. 15, 1998, that the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction does not cover enforcement of visitation. The parents divorced in Texas and the mother was awarded custody of the children. After the divorce, the father moved to England. He claimed that the mother then denied him access to the children, and refused to provide information about the children, including her current address and telephone number. The court said that the Hague Convention provides no remedy for interference with visitation or access rights unless there has been a wrongful removal of a child. Because the mother had custody of the children, no removal was involved, the court said. The court told the father that the proper place for his action was a state court that has authority to enforce and modify the Texas divorce decree.

(Bromley v. Bromley, DC EPa, No. 98-MC-0180, 12/15/98)

Continued on page 23

Court Cases

Continued from page 22

Concealment of Child

A mother's willful concealment of her son from his father since 1978 does not preclude her from collecting from the father the child support arrearages that have accrued during the period of concealment, the Arkansas Court of Appeals ruled Feb. 3. The mother had moved to California, and had refused any contact between the child and the

father, who lived in Arkansas. The mother had assigned her child support rights to the state of Missouri, where she lived before moving with the child to California. The appeals court said that, under the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) a court may not consider collateral matters, including visitation, when faced with the issue of enforcing child support.

(Office of Child Support Enforce-

ment v. Clemons, Ark CtApp, No. 98-542, 2/3/99)

(CRC note: Once more a court refuses to consider the emotional health and rights of children).

All of the above cases except the first one are summarized from Family Law Reporter. They appear here by permission of the publisher, The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

Apply for Funds in Third Round of Access Grants!

Under the third round of access (visitation) grants scheduled for the summer of 1999, each state will double what it receives, according to David Arnaudo, an officer in the federal office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), who oversees the grant process to the states.

Small states each received only \$50,000 for each of the first two years of the grants. But each state will receive at least \$100,000 for the third and successive years, according to the 1996 Welfare Reform law, which authorized the grants.

*Arnaudo Says More
Funds Are Available*

Funding for small states in the third year will go up, while funding for larger states, some of which received \$600,000 to \$1 million in each of the first two years, will receive less, said Arnaudo.

Non-profit groups are eligible to receive funds from the states, and are urged to contact state officials in charge of the grants. For information on who handles the grants in your states, contact CRC. CRC will help you write a grant proposal, if we can.

Sonny Burmeister Award

CRC will present its first Sonny Burmeister Child Advocacy Award at our 1999 conference in September. The award is named for Sonny Burmeister, longtime head of the George CRC activist, who died in an accident in February, 1996. Sonny was a mentor and inspiration for many people around the country. Submit your nomination to the chairman of the committee, Ed Gadrix, Esquire, Gadrix and Associates, 770 Old Roswell Place, Suite B200, Roswell, GA 30076, phone 678-461-9525. Ed was a friend of Sonny's, as were other members of the committee, including Elizabeth Hickey and Mike Oddenino.

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new addresses to CRC, 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20002.

Write to Congress!

We have a new Congress. Do you know who your Representatives and Senators are? Write and get acquainted. Tell them politely what you think about what is happening to children and families these days. Get acquainted with the staff members working for the Representative and Senator who handle our types of family issues. Then when you write later in the session asking them to vote for or against an issue, they know you!

Write to House members at:

Representative —
(name of your Representative)
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Write to Senators at:

Senator — (name of your Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Get to know your State legislators, too!

Bleicken Ran for Congress

Eric Bleicken, a former CRC member ran for Congress in Massachusetts. Eric received 40 percent of the vote, despite having spent only a fraction of what his opponent incumbent spent. Still, not all of Eric's costs have been paid off. To make a contribution, contact Eric Bleicken, 170B Pleasmat St., S. Yarmouth, MA 02664, phone 508/760-2045.

Equal Parents' Week July 26 – August 1, 1999

by Patti Diroff

CRC's National Coordinator of Equal Parents' Week



Buy or Make a Ribbon Like This and Tie it to a Tree or Antenna or Wear it July 26 to August 1

As the national sponsor of Equal Parents' Week 1999 (July 26 - August 1), CRC encourages its chapters, members, and supporters to join in sending a united message throughout the U.S. during Equal Parents' Week.

Our message reaches to the heart of families everywhere by advocating that the right of a child to be raised and nurtured by parents, and the right of families to exist and function as a family, are civil and human rights inalienable to all families.

CRC asks you to please wear and tie purple ribbons (to trees, door knobs, bikes, car antennas, etc.) Monday July 26 through Sunday, August 1, 1999 to send this message.

On Wednesday, July 28, at 8:30 p.m., we will observe "A Moment in our Hearts, Moment of Solidarity" as our national event, by holding candlelight vigils and "Home Vigils."

We urge all of you who cannot organize or attend a public vigil, or who do not have one taking place near you, to hold a "Home Vigil" by lighting a candle in your home for at least 15 minutes, on July 28 at 8:30 p.m.

A "Home Vigil" can be held by anyone; a single person living alone, and include as many people as you wish, so family and friends can be invited.

CRC will once again be networking with other organizations to invite them to participate in Equal Parents' Week. Please spread the word to friends and families to tie purple ribbons and hold vigils to make our message a national mandate.

Joint custody is a choice for unconditional love and sacrifice.

Fundamentally, all components of courts and government need to focus on joint custody to realize that it works when we put our children first.

If we as a society fail to recognize that there is no substitute for the love of a parent in children's lives and there is no substitute for the equal presence

of both parents in children's lives to meet their children's need for that love, we have lost the ability to see, feel and touch the very thing we live, breathe and feel as the very heart and soul of our humanity, our own human love. This is what we mean when we say, "The Best Parent is Both Parents"

View CRC's Equal Parents' Week website at <http://members.tripod.com/epweek>

Contact Patti Diroff with questions and comments, and to notify her of purple ribbon activities, and public and home candlelight vigils.

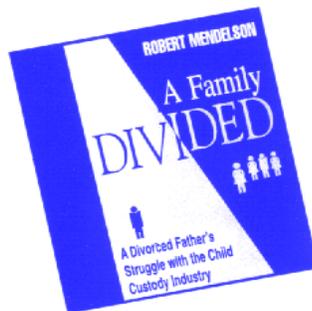
She is offering a free Equal Parents' Week button to the first 100 people who contact her and provide a solid commitment that they will hold a Home Vigil. She can be contacted at 909/591-3689. You can e-mail Patti Diroff at pattidiroff@worldnet.att.net

CRC's supports National Parents' Day July 25, which is sponsored by the Parenting Coalition International (formerly the National Parents Day Coalition), in Washington, D.C.

THIS RIVETING EXPOSÉ REVEALS HOW JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, PSYCHIATRISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS VIOLATE LAW & ETHICS IN THEIR MISGUIDED ZEAL TO IDENTIFY A "PRIMARY PARENT"

One Divorced Father's Story

Every Father's and Child's Nightmare



A FAMILY DIVIDED

A Divorced Father's Struggle with the Child Custody Industry

by Robert Mendelson

547pp. * Prometheus Books * Cloth \$27.95

"Robert Mendelson's new book, *A Family Divided*, compellingly chronicles Dr. Michael Nieland's journey through the land mines we call family court, and along the way provides important advice to fathers facing the prospect of divorce as well as thoughtful recommendations to policy makers for change. Don't go to divorce court without having read this book!"

-- Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., President of the National Fatherhood Initiative

"*A Family Divided* is on target about the social ill that faces society today. I liken it to social cancer."

-- Sidney Siller, Chairman/Founder of the National Organization for Men

How to Purchase A FAMILY DIVIDED

Bookstores * Internet: www.amazon.com * Publisher: 1.800.421.0351 (Prometheus Books) * CRC Catalog of Resources

National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC)

Jennifer Isham, coordinator

http: www/
motherswithoutcustody.org

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)

Mr. Larry Kallemeyn, Executive Director

650 J Street, Suite 205
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402/477-7873

Joint membership in SAA and CRC: \$35.00 for the first year.

CRC Chapters

CRC of Japan

Walter Benda

P.O. Box 583
Max Meadows, VA 24360
540/637-3576

email: emari@earthlink.net

and

Brian Thomas

4-18-15-903 Kamiki Tazawa
Setagaya-Ku
Tokyo, Japan 156
011-81-3-5317-4371

Alabama

Call CRC for information

Alaska

Diana Buffington, CRC Alaska coordinator, is in the process of moving. Call CRC for information

Arizona

Call CRC for information

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CRC of Arkansas

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CRC WANTS CHAPTERS IN EVERY STATE!!!

For development of chapters in states that do not yet have CRC chapters, contact for northwest states is Jim Babcock at 402/792-2271, and for northeast states, Ron Pilcher, 513/755-2932.

For development of chapters in other states, contact the CRC office, at (202) 547-6227.

Join CRC, then ask for a copy of the 100-page CRC booklet that explains everything you need to know about affiliation. The cost of the booklet is \$15 for non-members, and \$12 for members.

To form additional chapters in states that already have one or more chapters, contact the state coordinator, existing state chapter head, or CRC national office.

Thank you, Contributors!

Life members have contributed at least \$500 to CRC. Please doublecheck us for accuracy. Let us know of any errors or omissions. Thank you.

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More Chapter News

Continued from page 19

Mothers Without Custody on the Internet!

Mothers Without Custody, a national organization representing America's 2 million non-custodial mothers, is now a solely on-line presence.

Jennifer Isham, M.A., N.C.C. (nationally certified counselor) and L.C.P.C., who was president of MW/OC, is coordinating the website as <http://www.motherswithoutcustody.org>

MW/OC has been an emotional support group for non-custodial mothers. Isham has been counseling non-custodial mothers for 15 years in formal and informal settings. She was instrumental in developing the mandated parent education project for separated and divorced parents for McHenry County, Illinois, north of Chicago.

The motto of MW/OC is "Still Love, Still Care, Still There."

"Legislators and policymakers are often surprised to hear that there are 2 million non-custodial mothers, but it helps them to understand the problems better," said CRC President David L. Levy. "We are delighted that Jennifer Isham is offering a way to help non-custodial mothers."

New CRC Chapters in Pennsylvania and Maryland

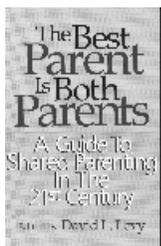
Michael and Anne Poliakoff have formed a new CRC chapter, CRC of Harrisburg-Capitol Region, in Pennsylvania. Michael, who has a Ph.D. in classical literature, is Pennsylvania's Deputy Secretary for Higher Education, while Anne, a Ph.D. in American studies, is president of Citizens for the Arts, a non-profit organization. Michael is a non-custodial father of three children, Cyrus, 15; Emily, 12, and Abram, 8. Anne is their stepmom.

Sandra Snow, Ph.D. and her husband Robert Snow, head the new chapter in Baltimore, Maryland's biggest city. Robert is a non-custodial dad who is doing research on the Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), and Sandra has worked with families for 17 years.

CRC Book Selling on Amazon.Com

What a pleasant surprise! After negotiations between Paul Robinson of CRC and Amazon.com, the huge internet book seller agreed to carry the CRC book, "The Best Parent is Both Parents." We also thank Bruce Kaskubar of Minnesota CRC for rightly orienting us.

Within the first weeks of availability on amazon.com, 25 copies were ordered or sold.



You can order the book from amazon.com for the list price of \$10.

This is the same price as the book sells from CRC, plus \$4 for shipping and handling; but if you want bulk copies at a reduced rate, order 10 copies or more from CRC for only \$4 a copy, resell for the list price of \$10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization!

You can help educate judges, policymakers, and others on issues of concern to you and CRC by giving them a copy.

For orders from CRC of 20 copies or less, add \$5 for shipping (to one address). For orders of more than 20 copies, shipping cost is included.

If you would like copies (individual or bulk order) autographed by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names) and your autographed copy will be sent to you.

Amicus Briefs

If your case is on appeal, and you would like CRC to consider writing an amicus brief, contact CRC. CRC cannot handle cases at the trial level, and we do not write the main appeal brief. An amicus brief is a supplemental brief, telling the court why this case is of significance not only to the parties in the case, but to other children and families. We generally need 30 to 60 days before the filing deadline. CRC is particularly interested in cases on appeal that raise constitutional issues relating to a child's right to two parents.



Nicholas Kelly

Nicholas Kelly, the son of longtime custody reform activist George Kelly, died in an accident in late March, 1997, in Springfield, Massachusetts. Nicholas, a former Marine, was 25.

He leaves his grieving dad, a sister, and his mother. George Kelly may be reached at Concerned Fathers of MA, Inc., P.O. Box 2768, Springfield, MA 01101.

FAMILY FACTS

Photocopy and distribute the "Family Facts" on page 16! Use as hand-outs when visiting the Legislature, disseminating information to the courts or the media, or as a resource for testimony and Letters to the Editor. "Family Facts" is a regular feature of this newsletter. Send us your verified facts (with actual copies, sources and dates) to "Family Facts," CRC.

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