



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Children's Rights Council, Inc.
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Country Music Embraces Children's Rights Council



*Ernie and Bettye Ashworth
Ernie is a member of the Grand Ole Opry; Ernie and Bettye are new CRC Grandparent Spokespersons*

The Children's Rights Council has struck a chord with Country Music. KMA Records of Nashville has brought together Ernie Ashworth, a member of the Grand Ole Opry, and other rising stars in the country music field, to produce a compact disc (CD) entitled "Ernie Ashworth and Friends Sing Out for the Children's Rights Council."

On the CD, Ernie Ashworth sings his 1964 number one hit single "Talk Back Trembling Lips." Hadassah Luther, 13, CRC's first ever child spokesperson, sings "Hear the Cries of the Children." This song is the first ever National Theme Song for CRC, and everyone was moved when Hadassah (www.myhadassah.com) performed it at the CD release party.

There are only 72 members of the Grand Ole Opry (www.opry.com). As Ernie Ashworth explained at the CD release party in Nashville on March 18, Grand Ole Opry members get many requests to lend their name to projects "and we must be cautious."

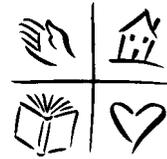
There are millions of country music fans around the U.S. and abroad who love the tradition of country music as performed by Ernie Ashworth (www.ErnieAshworth.com) and the other Opry members.

A while ago, three people who knew Mr. Ashworth asked him to support CRC. They were Jean Massengale, Keith Bradford, owner of KMA Records, and Steve Webb, owner of Country Music Webs.

Massengale, a songwriter and country artist manager, teamed up with Charlotte Bradford to write the theme song, "Hear the Cries of the Children;" Bradford, owner of KMA Records, produced the CD album. Steve Webb works with David Courson, CRC Tennessee Coordinator, in developing the CRC Tennessee chapter.

Ernie Ashworth and his wife Bettye, who have 4 children and 8 grandchildren, were moved after hearing the trio talk glowingly of CRC. In addition to being involved in this album project, Ernie and Bettye also accepted an invitation to become Grandparent Spokespersons for CRC.

The country artists who sing on the CD paid their own expenses to come to Nashville from six states, to record the album and to join in the CD release party activities. They are Mark Rivers of North Carolina, Sharon Brooks of Nebraska, Lori



**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: Amy Carnright, Don Bieniewicz, Al Ellis, Julie Maggiamo, Paul Robinson, Dave Davis, Harvey Walden, Ken Skilling, and college student interns Matthew Milone, Catholic University, and Jennifer Remare, Stonehill College. Layout by Sheila Holzberger.

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.

Mission

- The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a national, non-profit organization committed to the loving, nurturing, protecting and education of children through both parents and extended family.
- CRC is dedicated to helping children by promoting family formation, shared parenting, mediation, parent education, and mitigating the effects of divorce and relationship breakups on children and parents.

Vision

- CRC's vision is a society where both parents play a significant parenting role in their children's lives. Children need grandparents, step-parents and

others who are part of the family fabric, working as a team.

- CRC envisions a society where laws, attitudes, and public opinion affirm that for children, **"The Best Parent is Both Parents."**

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who had more than 40 years collective experience in custody reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 32 states and four national affiliate organizations: Mothers Without Custody, (MW/OC), The Stepfamily Association of America (SAA), COMAMAS, and Parenting Coalition International, Inc.

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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CRC has two websites: www.gocrc.com (our main CRC site) and www.info4parents.com for expanded parenting information).

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Extended Overnights by Infants with the Other Parent Are O.K.

by Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D., and Michael E. Lamb, Ph.D.

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CRC agrees with almost all of the statements made in this important article.

With the historic focus on preserving the mother-infant attachment while establishing an exclusive home, overnights or extended visits with the other parent (mostly the father) were long forbidden or strongly discouraged by judges, custody evaluators, therapists, mental health professionals, family law attorneys, and, not surprisingly, by many mothers (e.g. Garrity & Baris, 1992; Goldstein, Freud, & Solnit, 1973; Goldstein, Freud, Solnit & Goldstein, 1986). Hodges, 1991, for example, stated that for infants younger than 6 months, "overnight visits are not likely to be in the child's best interest, because infants' eating and sleeping arrangements should be as stable as possible" (p.175). For infants 6 to 18 months or age, overnight visits "should be considered less than desirable" (p.170).

Although Hodges noted the importance of several visits per week for older infants who were attached to their fathers, he recommended that these be limited to several hours. Hodges stated that children might be able to spend overnights "without harm" only after reaching 3 years of age (p.177).

Such unnecessarily restrictive and prescriptive guidelines were not based on child development research and thus reflected an outdated view of parent-child relationships. Further, such recommendations did not take in to account the quality of father-child relationships, the nature of both parents' involvement, or the child's need to maintain and strengthen relationships with both parents after separation (Lamb, Sternberg,

& Thompson, 1997).

Research and experience with infant day care, early preschool, and other stable caretaking arrangements indicate that infants and toddlers readily adapt to such transitions and also sleep well, once familiarized. Indeed, a child also thrives socially, emotionally, and cognitively if the caretaking arrangements are predictable and if parents are both sensitive to the child's physical and developmental needs and emotionally available (Horner & Guyer, 1993; Lamb, 1998).

The evening and overnight periods (like extended days with nap times) with nonresidential parents are especially important psychologically not only for infants but for toddlers and young children as well.

Evening and overnight periods provide opportunities for crucial social interactions and nurturing activities, including bathing, soothing hurts and anxieties, bedtime rituals, comforting in the middle of the night, and the reassurance and security of snuggling in the morning after awakening, that 1-to 2-hour visits cannot provide. These everyday activities promote and maintain trust and confidence in the parents while deepening and strengthening child-parent attachments.

Absolutely no Evidence of Harm to Children from Overnights with Other Parent

There is absolutely no evidence that children's psychological adjustment or the relationships between children and their parents are harmed when children spend overnight periods with their other parents. An often mis-cited study by Solomon (1997) reported high levels of insecure infant-mother and infant-father attachment when parents lived apart, al-

though toddlers who spent overnights with both their fathers and mothers were not significantly more likely to have insecure relationships than those children who did not have overnights visits with both parents.

Indeed, as articulated above, there is substantial evidence regarding the benefits of these regular experiences. Aside from maintaining and deepening attachments, overnights provide children with a diversity of social, emotional, and cognitively stimulating experiences that promote adaptability and healthy development.

In addition, meaningful father-child relationships may encourage fathers to remain involved in their children's lives by making them feel enfranchised as parents.

Other advantages of overnights are the normal combination of leisure and "real" time that extended parenting affords, the ability to stay abreast of the constant and complex changes in the child's development, opportunities for effective discipline and teaching that are central to good parenting, and opportunities to reconnect with the child in a meaningful way.

In contrast, brief, 2-hour visits remind infants that the visiting parents exist but do not provide the broad array of parenting activities that anchor the relationships in their minds.

When mothers are breast-feeding, there is considerable hesitation, indecision, and perhaps strong maternal resistance regarding extended overnight or full-day separations. Breast-feeding is obviously one of the important contexts in which attachments are promoted, although it is by no means an essential context. Indeed, there is no evidence that breast-fed babies form closer or more secure relationships to their parents than

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Extended Overnights

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Not Crucial that Both Residences be the Same

When there are overnights, it is not crucial that two residential beds or environments be the same, as infants adapt quickly to these differences. It may be more important that feeding and sleep routines be similar in each household to ensure stability. Thus, parents should share information about bed times and rituals, night awakenings, food preferences and feeding schedules, effective practices for soothing, illnesses, and changes in routine as the child matures.

Parents should be encouraged by attorneys or mediators to communicate directly, either verbally or in writing. If this is not possible due to the intransigence of either or both parents, then the courts should order the involvement of co-parenting consultants, special masters, or custody mediators until the normal angers of divorce subside (Emery, 1994, 1999; Kelly, 1991, 1994).

It is important as well to recognize that protracted litigation and the specter of winning or losing delay the decline of conflict (Maccoby & Mnookin, 1992), thus, such disputes should be resolved with speed. Furthermore, communication quality should not be judged from the level of conflict surrounding and encouraged by the litigation.

The challenges of child-focused communication require commitment on the parents' part to their children's well-being but will have long-term positive consequences for children and for each of the parent-child relationships. Although it is clear that a cooperative relationship between parents is beneficial, parenting schedules that promote meaningful child-parent relationships should not be restricted after separation if one or both parents are not able to cooperate. Disengaged parents may function effectively in their parallel domains and, in so doing, enhance their children's adjustment (Lamb et al., 1997; Maccoby & Mnookin, 1992; Whiteside, 1998).

Because high conflict is associated with poorer child outcomes following divorce (Johnston, 1994; Kelly, in press;

Maccoby & Mnookin, 1992), it is preferable that transitions be accomplished without overt conflict. However, it is important to understand how high conflict is conceptualized in the relevant research, as the findings are often misunderstood. Almost by definition, of course, custody and access disputes involve conflict, but it is clear that such conflict in and of itself is not necessarily harmful.

The high conflict found harmful by researchers such as Johnston (1994) typically involved repeated incidents of spousal violence and verbal aggression continued at intense levels for extended periods of time and often in front of the children. Johnston emphasized the importance of continued relationships with both parents except in those relatively uncommon circumstances in which intense, protracted conflict occurs.

High conflict at the time of transition may heighten children's anxiety about separation. Even without conflict, transitions can cause unsettled behavior, fretting, and crying as children move from one set of routines or one parental style to another. As noted above, this is especially true of children 15 to 24 months of age, when it is quite normal.

If High Conflict Exists, Children Can be Exchanged at Neutral Places

If conflict is difficult to avoid because of one or both parents' hostility, then transitions should be implemented by babysitters or should take place at neutral places such as day care centers, special visiting centers set up for this purpose, or supportive grandparents' homes.

Occasionally, mothers are very hostile to fathers after separation as part of a legal strategy to prevent or diminish the fathers' participation in child rearing and co-parenting. In such instances, fathers should not be denied adequate contact with their children because conflict between the parents exists.

Similarly, when fathers berate mothers at transitions or refuse to communicate about the infants' behaviors when with them, they will need to demonstrate

more cooperative attitudes to warrant more extended contact.

It should be assumed that parents would have somewhat different parenting styles, which are related to their own upbringing and personalities. Regardless of those differences, children (and parents) benefit from discussions of disciplinary techniques and approaches as well as about the achievement of major developmental tasks such as toilet training. Furthermore, children will typically have different social experiences (and holiday rituals) with each parent and with extended families and friends.

Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D., is a clinical and research psychologist, assistant clinical professor at the University of California at San Francisco, and was previously director of the Northern California Mediation Center. She has published extensively in the area of divorce and children's adjustment, custody and access, and custody and divorce mediation. She is an advisor to CRC.

Michael E. Lamb Ph.D., is head of the Section on Social and Emotional Development at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in Maryland. He has published extensively in the child development literature, with a focus on parent-child relationships, nonparental child care, and forensic interview processes.

CRC Needs

- 🌀 Free or reduced rent office space. Get a tax write-off as you help kids and CRC. 2,000 square feet or more anywhere in the Washington, D.C. area (Maryland, D.C. or Virginia).
- 🌀 Volunteers to help with filing, phone calls, and writing letters.
- 🌀 Our chapters need computers and office space.
- 🌀 Lawyers to write CRC Amicus Briefs on appeal.

Special Masters Program Induces Cooperation by Highly Conflicted Parents

Runs Program to Encourage Child Access between Highly Conflicted Parents

Kim Frey

In New York, the operative court case, *Braiman v. Braiman* (1978) states that if parents are significantly conflicted, they cannot share custody. It does not matter if a parent is purposely sabotaging cooperation; such behavior destroys the opportunity for shared parenting, according to this case.

To counter this criticism, programs have been established to show that highly conflicted parents can learn to cooperate in the upbringing of their child. The key is education.

Mr. Kim Boedecker-Frey, CRC Coordinator for New York State, has been administering a Special Master's Program for highly conflicted parents for the past two years. The program is conducted from a Child Access (visitation) grant provided by the New York State Child Support Office, which oversees New York's portion of the federal access funds to the states. The grant provided \$32,000 for each of the past two years to run the program.

CRC is sorry to be losing Kim Boedecker-Frey as CRC New York State coordinator. Kim has been a bulwark for child advocacy in New York for the past five years, but he has long planned to leave to pursue educational goals.

Before his leaving, we asked Kim to describe the New York program that he developed. It is a model that can be used in other states, to help children and families. Here is Kim's description of the program.

Special Mediation Service

Special Masters programs exist in several states as a specialized mediation service for parents who have a high level

of conflict, and are chronic litigators whose children pay the price for this conflict.

Special Masters staffing and procedures vary program to program. However, they are generally supervised by judges and have a high success rate.

If parents are unable or unwilling to utilize the Special Masters program, family courts will make a family law decision unilaterally. The CRC New York State chapter has conducted this program in Broome and Tioga Counties, with the unique staff combination of a highly skilled mediation and mental help professional.

Education

Because of the high conflict, the parents are usually seen separately, not together. Each parent is asked about his/her agenda, receives education about the child's need for reduced level of conflict and a solid relationship with each parent, and is given feedback on the functional and dysfunctional aspects of his/her personality, style, and agenda items.

Parents are Encouraged to be Flexible, Not "My Way or the Highway"

Parents are encouraged to adopt a flexible position, rather than rely on a rigid stance. One universal observation made by the Special Masters is the low level of problem solving skills many parents bring to the program. Much attention is given to the introduction of solution focused models of problem solving. Effort is made to have all parties "read from the same page."

Time is given to clarifying what each parent wants and reaching a consensus as to what parents can and cannot agree to. It is common to find that because parents have been using attorneys or shouting at each other, they have not shared their agendas with each other. When they hear what each wants via the Special Masters, they frequently find their goals are

not necessarily incompatible.

Case of Unseen Persons

Because conflict has been heavy and chronic prior to attending Special Masters program, there is usually a cast of unseen persons involved. When helpful and strategically necessary, children, grandparents, attorneys, and law guardians become part of the process. Parents are educated as to the nature of the legal system and how its characteristic of competitiveness is often hurtful to resolving family conflicts.

Parenting Plan

An important feature of the program is to codify the parents' agreement in the form of a "Parenting Plan" that can be reviewed by the parents' attorneys and submitted to the Family Court to be made a Stipulation and Order.

Monitoring

Equally important is the monitoring provision of the program. Parents are encouraged to contact the Special Masters if they believe any aspect of their Parenting Plan has been violated, requires clarification, or needs to be altered. Special Masters respond to requests for intervention quickly and offer accountability for parents who may be making efforts to improve their behavior. Effective means of communication between parents is taught. However, because the Parenting Plans help establish firm boundaries between the parents, the need for frequent communication is reduced.

Solutions to Criticism of Mediation

Some women's groups have criticized mediation, fearing that an aggressive ex partner might dominate the me-

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Masters Program

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diation process. In truth, gender is not the issue in considering this concern. Any parent whose personality or style is characterized by passivity, lack of assertiveness or reliance on others can feel at a disadvantage.

Solutions for Family Violence Concerns

If the issue of family violence is raised, mediation is bypassed or suspended until the issue is addressed and dealt with by the courts. At that point, mediation may or may not be pursued, depending on the finding of the court as to the appropriateness of mediation. The state of Maine has successfully dealt with this problem for more than 15 years. In Maine, mediation is mandated by statute.

Numerous studies show that children do best when they have the support and love of both fit parents. New York's traditional approach of reliance on the "one size fits all" problem solving system (Family Court) induces a parentectomy — the removal of a parent from a child's life—should there be conflict.

In an era of complex social change, this "one size fits all" approach serves few. New York needs to develop and make available systematic, multiple problem solving mechanisms that serve families.

(CRC Note: In a study of two jurisdictions in different parts of the country conducted several years ago by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), it was found that mediation could be successfully conducted in some cases involving family violence. That is, mediation was not precluded because there was family violence. For more information, contact the AFCC in Madison, WI, at 608/664-3750.

Collaborative Law—A Better Way

by Tom Gordon

Excerpted with permission from the Winter 2001 Legal Reformer, a newsletter published by HALT (Help Abolish Legal Tyranny). HALT is a non-profit legal reform group at 1612 K Street N.W., Suite 510, Washington, D.C. 20005, phone 1-888-4-HALT, email; halt@halt.org

Nearly half of all marriages end up in divorce court. As anyone knows who has been involved in a messy divorce case, traditional divorce court proceedings are drawn-out, expensive, and emotionally draining for all family members involved.

Compounding the problem are divorce lawyers who fight tooth and nail to get the biggest piece of the pie for their clients, no matter what the financial and human costs.

On the rare occasions when parties do settle a divorce case out of court, it is often in the shadow of a trial under conditions of considerable tension and anxiety. In a divorce with significant assets, the cost of the divorce can range from \$60,000 to \$100,000.

Today there's a better way to deal with irretrievably broken marriages. It's called Collaborative Law. Pioneered in California, collaborative law allows both spouses to retain separate, specially trained lawyers whose job is to help them settle the dispute without court intervention. Neither side may go to court or even threaten to do so. If such an action or threat occurs, the process terminates and both lawyers are disqualified from any further involvement in the case.

This year HALT will launch a national campaign to expand the availability of collaborative law. "We're very excited about this promising innovation," said HALT Executive Director Jim Turner. "We will work with lawyers and consumers across the country to make collaborative law the rule rather than the exception."

The first collaborative law project was sponsored by the Superior Court in San Francisco. As presiding Family Law Judge Donna J. Hitchens explains, the program has been a tremendous success. "It's good for the courts, it's good for the litigants, it's good for their children, and it's good for the community. This is a system that empowers people to resolve their own disputes, and to do it in a more creative and more lasting manner than has ever been achieved by court order."

The parties to a divorce negotiated through the collaborative process have also expressed satisfaction with the procedure and the results. Sherry Rasmussen, who recently hired a collaborative lawyer in Minnesota, said, "I'm getting the support I need to make sure I'm being taken care of, and it gives me the strength to communicate what I need to my husband. Yet I'll be able to compromise."

HALT will study California's successful collaborative law programs, as well as the collaborative law practices currently in effect in several other states, including Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas. It will try to expand collaborative law programs in those states, as well as promote them in other states.

(CRC Thanks Maryland CRC Coordinator Harvey Walden for bringing this to CRC's attention).

Award Winning Program for Sale

Don Gorden, Ph.D. and Jack Arbutnot, Ph.D. are retiring from the Ohio University and selling their Center for Divorce Education. See advertisement elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Center's video on parenting

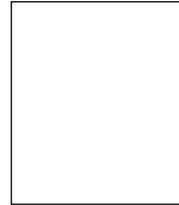
education was so good, CRC gave it an Active Parenting Award several years ago. The parenting video, which promotes shared parenting, is used in more than 800 court systems in the U.S.

Don Gordon is retiring from teach-

ing to run his CD-ROM company, Family Works, in Ashland; Jack is retiring from teaching to become a gentleman farmer raising highland beef on his farm outside Athens.

The CRC View

by David L. Levy, J.D.
President, CRC



Levy

Welfare Reform Can Strengthen Families

Remember welfare reform? It was introduced by House Republicans and signed into law by President Clinton in 1996. It was designed to end welfare entitlement, by setting strict time limits on how long a parent could obtain welfare — usually a maximum of five years, and then you had to have a job.

Welfare reauthorization is coming up in 2002, and so it is time to take a look at what welfare reform has accomplished, and what's left for it to do.

The Children's Rights Council has been interested in welfare reform because we think the right kind of reform could strengthen families through education and assistance to children of separation and divorce. CRC published an 8 page booklet in 1995 that made more than a dozen suggestions for reform, including encouragement of a work ethic. "Except for the small number of people who are genuinely unable to make any contribution to their own needs, welfare must be a supplement, not a substitute, for work," said CRC.

We argued for more two-parent involvement in federal programs, and care of children by kin. We asked that welfare workers be required to look to a capable and willing family member as a care provider for children living on the welfare dole. We said family members providing child care would constitute a positive step toward breaking the cycle of dependency and reducing the economic burden of providing benefits when family care is available.

For example, a brother might be able to care for a child of a drug abuser with or without a change of custody/

guardianship, or the father of a child might be willing to provide child care with or without a change of custody while the mother works, or grandparents might be willing to care for their grandchild while the adolescent mother completes school or works.

Expansion of the access (visitation) grants is one inexpensive way to strengthen 2-parent contact and provide more resources for the child.

Access Grants Were Part of Welfare Reform

The Welfare Reform law provides \$10 million a year for all 50 states and territories to share in encouraging contact between a child and his/her non-custodial parent. The average state receives about \$185,000 a year. We are now in the fourth year of funding for that child access program. At \$10 million a year, 4 years add up to a nice tidy sum of \$40 million dollars. This is the largest federal government program that has ever existed to encourage child and non-custodial parent contact. States have been using the \$40 million to provide mediation (both mandatory and voluntary), counseling of parents, parenting education, parenting plans, and neutral drop-off and pick-up of children centers and supervised visitation centers. CRC recommends an increase in funding for these programs as a part of welfare reauthorization.

Some states have worked with non-profit organizations like CRC or other community-based organizations to carry out these programs. Other states have given all their money to the courts or to

state-run programs.

CRC has been working with the faith-based community, because all of our "Safe Haven" sites for children are located in church day care centers. We are increasingly involving churches and synagogues in the running of portions of the programs, while CRC provides over-all management.

The states which do the best job of accomplishing the goals of welfare reform qualify for extra federal bonuses worth up to \$100 million a year. But CRC has concluded that most states do not know how to encourage family formation and family preservation. More of us need to contact our state officials to offer programs that will accomplish those goals. States can obtain extra bonuses, and we can have stronger families.

Note: Send for the CRC Welfare Reform booklet. Free to members; non-members, send \$5 for S/H.

CRC and our chapters need grant and proposal writers.

Important Phone Number

The phone number for the Congressional switchboard, which will reach all offices and committees, is (202) 225-3121.

New CD

Continued from page 1

Alan of Georgia, Darren Rhodes of Alabama, and Haddassah of New York. Keith Bradford (singer as well as owner of KMA Records), Anna Prince, Allie E., Vicki Leigh and Charlotte Bradford, are from various parts of Tennessee.

CD Release Party in Nashville Was a Terrific Event

"The CD release party in Nashville was much bigger than I expected," said Ohio CRC Coordinator Margaret Wuwert. "More than 200 artists, their families, and supporters showed up. This was a terrific event."

Harvey Walden, Maryland CRC coordinator, who also attended, said, "This is a highly professional CD that KMA records has produced."

David Courson, CRC coordinator of Tennessee, said he was "impressed" with the professionalism of the country music artists.

CRC President David L. Levy also attended the Nashville release of the CD, and said, "We are delighted that country music artists have decided to support children and CRC."

Jean Massengale especially had been working hard behind the scenes to bring artists together for about 12 months, but did not tell the national CRC office about her plans until the idea was a reality.

"If I had told anyone what I was trying to do, they would have thought I was crazy," said Massengale, whose friends call her "Sarge."

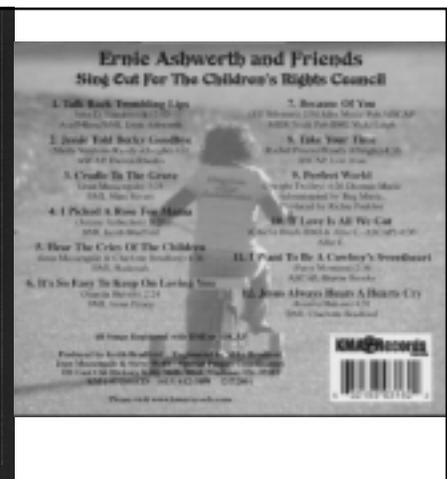
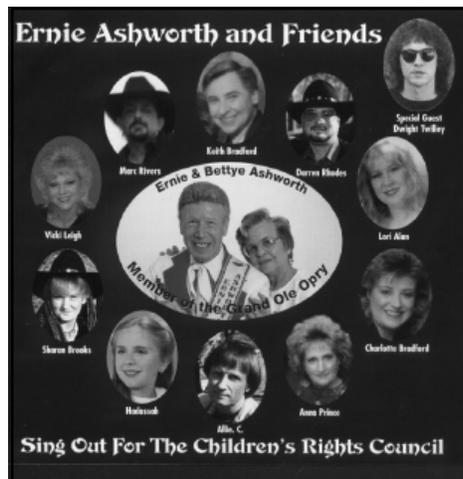
Massengale got involved with CRC in 1994, "when the late, great Sonny Burmeister, CRC Georgia coordinator, helped me in the process of gaining custody of my grandchild, when the parents were unable to take care of their children," she said. After going through the illness and death of her husband, she decided to help CRC.

CRC thanks: Keith Bradford's brother Michael, the engineer of the CD album; Keith Bilbry and Alan Dennis of WSB650 radio; Bill Bailey; Carole Hall; Kriste Barfield; guest artist David



Country Music Artists who appear on the CRC CD "Ernie Ashworth and Friends Speak Out for the Children's Rights Council"

Front row (l to r): Sharon Brooks, Hadassah, Anna Prince; Rear: Darren Rhodes, Marc Smith, Lori Alan, Ernie Ashworth, Vicki Leigh, Charlotte Bradford, Allie C. and Keith Bradford.



The front and back of the new CD.

Carlson; Jimmy and Lorraine Smart of Nashville Video Showcase; Charlie Ray of the International Country Music Association; Anna Prince and her daughter Sandy; Jason Hawkins and Jennifer Fox of Airplay International; and Dan Wunsch of the Nashville Music Guide.

Anna Prince hosts a community news TV show "Real Heroes of Country Music" and is in development of the show "Future Heroes of Country Music" on Nashville's CATV Channel 19. Anna interviewed Keith Bradford, Hadassah, Courson and Levy on March 17 on the "Real Heroes of Country Music" TV show. It aired multiple times on CATV channel 19 the following week.

WSM650, the national Grand Ole Opry Radio station (www.650wsm.com) also interviewed Bradford, Hadassah and Levy as well, and Alan Dennis replayed the interview multiple times over the weekend.

Airplay International's Jason Hawkins and Jennifer Fox presented

their "Humanitarian Award" to Keith Bradford and Jean Massengale in an emotional ceremony at the CD release party.

KMA Records and Country Music Webs arranged for a full page ad in the Nashville Music Guide for Ernie Ashworth and Friends, and will have limited supplies of copies at the CRC conference.

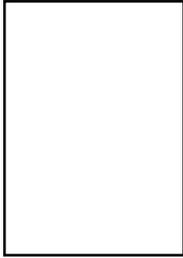
Individual copies of the CD may be ordered online at www.gocrc.com, or by writing to the national CRC office at 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002. The price is \$12 per CD, including S/H.

Bulk orders of 6 or more CD's are \$10 per CD, including S/H.

KMA Records can be reached at 256 East Old Hickory Kitty Wells Blvd, Madison, TN 37115, phone (615) 612-3899, or at www.KMArecords.com Additional information can be obtained at www.TNcrc.com for CRC chapters, or by sending email to Office@TNcrc.com

Around the Country

Wade Horn Appointed to a Top HHS Job



Horn

Wade Horn Will Oversee Child Support

Wade F. Horn, Ph.D. has been nominated by President Bush to be assistant secretary of Health and Human Services for Family Support. Horn, who is well known in Washington as a former HHS official for President Bush's father, and president of the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) since 1996, will take office as soon as his appointment is confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Tommy Thompson is secretary of HHS, and under him is a Deputy Secretary, below which are several assistant secretaries, one of whom would be Wade Horn.

As assistant secretary of HHS for Family Support, Horn would have jurisdiction over the Administration for Children, Youth and Families (his former position under former President Bush). He would also be in charge of the Office of Child Support Enforcement, low income housing energy assistance program, and the administration on Native Americans. The Commissioner of Child Support has not been named. Judge David Gray Ross held that post during the Clinton years.

The mission of the National Fatherhood Initiative is "to improve the wellbeing of children by increasing the number of children growing up with involved, committed and responsible fathers in their lives."

Horn was a member of the U.S. Advisory Committee on Head Start Research and Evaluation within HHS from 1989 to 1993. He is the author of numerous journals, articles and several books, and writes a weekly column for The Washington Times, one of Wash-

ington, D.C.'s two daily newspapers.

At each of NFI's national conferences the past few years, there have been speakers on divorce and custody issues. CRC President David L. Levy and lawyer Jeffery Leving spoke in 2000, and psychologist Dick Mikesell is speaking in 2001.

NFI received a special Congressional appropriation of \$3.5 million at the end of the Congressional session in December, 2000 for a nationwide media campaign to promote fatherhood.

States Urged to Modify New Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA)

[Compiled from The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws website and from recommendations from Richard Crouch, Esq., Editor, Virginia State Bar Family Law Section Newsletter.]

A proposal to revise the 1968 Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act was completed in 1997 by the Uniform Law Commissioners. The intent of the Act is to bring every state into compliance with the federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act. The act is intended to limit child custody jurisdiction to one state, and provides enforcement provisions for child custody orders.

Several states have already adopted the Act: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

2001 introductions include: Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, and Maryland.

Overall, CRC strongly supports enacting the UCCJEA. However, we suggest that states adopt the bill with the following changes. All of these suggestions would preserve existing UCCJA

and PKPA language by omitting some changes and exceptions that the UCCJEA makes.

- (UCCJEA Section 102 <<http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/102.html>>)

DEFINITIONS. "Abandoned" definition (Subsection 4) should be omitted. It is unnaturally overbroad. Present Act uses the term without a special definition, and that has worked perfectly. Used in applying the extremely broad "emergency" exception to all of the Act's other jurisdiction limitations.

- (UCCJEA SECTION 202 <<http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/202.html>>)

EXCLUSIVE CONTINUING JURISDICTION.

Omit Subsection (A)(1). Makes statute fearsomely and unnecessarily complex, for no supportable reason, works against overall intent of UCCJA and PKPA to discourage child snatching through clear, objective rules. Defeats supposed intent to conform UCCJA to PKPA.

- (UCCJEA Section 204 <<http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/204.html>>)

Emergency Jurisdiction. Very good overall, but wording needs care to avoid unintended results.

- (UCCJEA Section 209 <<http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/209.html>>) Proposal on information required to be submitted with every initial pleading. The drafting Commissioners bracketed this language to show that it was not necessarily recommended. Because it allows an interstate abductor of children to keep the child's location and abduction history secret, and rewrites a concept that has worked well in the past, care must be taken with language. The present

Continued on page 10

unnecessarily broad and vague wording works against the overall intent of UCCJA and PKPA to discourage child snatching. Legitimate ends can be served with tighter language.

- (UCCJEA Section 305 <<http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/305.html>>)

REGISTRATION. Present system is easy and economical. New one is just the opposite, and confuses enforcement procedures with subject-matter jurisdiction decisions.

- (UCCJEA Section 110 <<http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/110.html>>)

**C O M M U N I C A T I O N
B E T W E E N J U D G E S.**

Mandatory judge-to-judge communication is a key part of the UCCJA/PKPA system, deals with substance of jurisdiction decisions efficiently.

- (UCCJEA Section 108 <<http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/108.html>>) **METHODS OF NOTICE.** The language of UCCJA, § 20-108(A)(2a) states: "Notice may also be by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the person to be served. The new Act attempts to defer to local procedures, but inadvertently repeals procedures currently in use.

- (UCCJEA Section 106 <<http://patriot.net/~crouch/uccjea/106.html>>) **BINDING FORCE OF A CUSTODY DECISION.** This says a custody decree of any state which properly had jurisdiction will remain binding – until modified. This would be fine if it just said until modified by a court properly having jurisdiction, under the standards of this statute, which is what the UCCJA says.

Divorced Mother Drops Online Parenting Request

by Leslie Brody, Staff Writer

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A divorced Midland Park mother who sought court permission to move to California and proposed using the Internet to bolster communication between her daughter and ex-husband has decided to stay here after all.

The father had fought the long-distance move, and the two parents resolved their dispute last month before facing another trial. Attorney Charles Ryan, who represented the mother, Kyron Henn-Lee, said that she found a new computer job in New Jersey and then dropped her request to relocate with her 9-year-old daughter.

The litigation attracted a flurry of media attention in January, when an Appellate Division panel praised Henn-Lee's "creative" suggestion: a Web site and camera system that would let her daughter have daily "face-to-face" conversations with her father online, along with in-person visits during vacations. The panel told a Bergen County judge to reconsider the case and try to fashion a visitation schedule that would let the mother and daughter move.

Parenting groups expressed dismay at the prospect that the courts might start to consider "virtual visitation" to be anything akin to real parenting time. Some therapists said some children might enjoy such electronic contact as an addition to in-person visits, but it should not be considered a replacement.

Henn-Lee said she wanted to move to pursue a better-paying job with flexible hours in California, but the opportunity she found here made this unnecessary, her lawyer said. She plans to use a Web-camera hookup herself, however, for communicating with her daughter when she travels for business.

(CRC note: CRC President David L. Levy was quoted in a national Associated Press story and appeared on CBS Evening Weekend News in January stating that technology, such as mail, phone and websites should be used to assist with contact, but they cannot take the place of a child's actual time spent with a parent. We are delighted with the outcome, because it demonstrates that a parent can usually find a job close to where the other parent lives if he/she tries hard enough. Even if the job doesn't pay as much as one likes, the loss of a child's close contact with a parent is a far more expensive price to pay. Both mothers and fathers should stay in the same geographic area as the other parent).

Beat the Tax Man: Contribute to CRC

Keep working for children. If you wish to consider leaving a bequest or property to CRC, please state the following in your will: "I hereby leave the following to the Children's Rights Council: ___(state your bequest)___."

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.

Chapter News

David Dinn Coordinator Emeritus for Indiana



Dinn (r) and Musseter

David Dinn, longtime CRC coordinator for Indiana, has become Coordinator Emeritus. David was active in custody reform in Indiana

starting in 1983, before CRC began in 1985. David led his organization, Parents and Children Equality, into CRC as a chapter in 1992. He organized subgroups and held meetings in 5 different Indiana counties. Now, he continues to provide consultation to groups in Indiana and to national CRC.

Dinn was instrumental in creating the Indiana Custody and Child Support Committee, of which he was a charter member. The Committee, a part of the state legislature, recommended several changes which became part of Indiana law, including making it a criminal violation to deny visitation. It has been nearly impossible to get prosecutors to enforce the law, but there has been some success when prosecutors have sent a letter to the custodial parent informing them of the law. "We have had a number of parents thank us on behalf of themselves and their children because they were able to see their children as a result of the letters sent to the custodial parents from the prosecutors," said Dinn.

"I enjoyed the continuing friendships that have developed from my work in CRC. I urge other individuals to participate in the 2-parent movement, because in the long run, it is extremely rewarding," said Dinn.

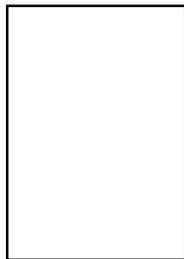
Dinn was one of the first individuals to receive funding for work on custody reform issues — a grant from the Eli Lilly Endowment, one of the largest foundations in the country.

David has seen both sides of the aisle, as both a custodial and noncusto-

dial parent. He said Bev Musseter has been an excellent stepmother to the Dinn children, David, Katie, and Robbie.

"David Dinn has provided continuing and earnest leadership in the movement to provide children with two parents whenever possible," said Levy. "We thank him."

Bob Monday New Indiana Coordinator



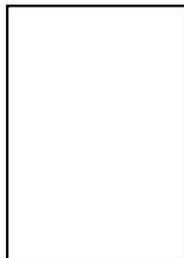
Monday

Bob Monday is the new CRC Coordinator for Indiana. Monday is a longtime advocate for the 2-parent family. "He is so well trusted that he sits on the Domestic Relations Committee meetings of the Indiana Judiciary Center, which consists of 13 judges who develop financial and parenting guidelines," said David Dinn, Coordinator Emeritus for Indiana.

"I just started going to the court house and hanging around, until they got to know me," said Monday.

A provision recommended by the Council, which went into effect on March 31, states that there shall be frequent and continuing contact between children and their parents. "For the first time, this is a rebuttable presumption for shared parenting in Indiana, and it is a statewide policy," said Monday.

James Welty Opens First-Ever Northeast Ohio Chapter



Welty

James Welty has formed a new CRC chapter in Northwest Ohio, the first ever in that part of Ohio. Jim is a corporate flyer of turboprops and corporate jets, and is a

freelance flight instructor, usually out of Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) airport. He has suffered frequent denials of access to his daughter, Riley, age 2. The chapter is assisted by Bob Moline, who has helped publicize their work, Jill Koman, a non-custodial mother who has obtained meeting space at her local Presbyterian church, and Leah Turri, who writes a guest column for the Star-Beacon in Ashtabula, OH. The new chapter plans to develop a website and place "disruptive, but positive" billboard signs.

Marlin Pierce Opens First-Ever Albany Chapter



Pierce

Marlin Pierce, who has been working for custody reform for 17 years, primarily as an activist in the Fathers Rights Association of New York State, has formed a CRC chapter in the Albany area

of New York. This is the first-ever CRC chapter in the New York State capital.

"In New York State, we need many changes in divorce law," said Pierce. "The divorce legal process is devastating on the lives of every person involved, the mother, the father, and, of course the children. In New York State we have very little joint custody, and only a token mediation program. Because we do not have mandatory mediation, few people complete their divorce with the mediation process. This must change."

Marlin has 2 children, Jody and Jason.

Nancy Rexford, a computer programmer, is among the chapter advisors.

Continued on page 24

Advertisement

Family Psychology Forensic Evaluation Service (Specializing in Custody Evaluations)

Contact: S. Richard Sauber, Ph.D., ABPP, 561/750-9200

Court Cases

Parents Cannot Modify Support Agreements as Children Come of Age

from an article by Arlo Wagner, the Washington Times, March 27, 2001

Parents cannot decide on their own to reduce child support payments when their children reach age 18, but must return to court to obtain a change in the child support order, a Virginia Court ruled Feb. 27, 2001.

The American Fathers Coalition says the decision provides lawyers with more money and judges with too much intrusive power.

"It's the Lawyers Full Employment Act," said Stuart Miller, director of the American Fathers Coalition.

"It has scared everyone," said Murray Steinberg, president of the Family Resolution Council in Richmond. "They really opened a big Pandora's box...It's not a public policy. It's a court policy."

Two of the three judges of Virginia Court of Appeals said Francis E. Shoup of Fairfax was in contempt of court and would have to pay \$33,838 in back child support to his ex-wife, Heidi Shoup.

Mr. Shoup had argued that their 1994 divorce decree allowed him to reduce child support payments by one third as each of their three daughters graduated from high school or turned 18.

He reduced his \$2,177 monthly payment to one-third and then by two-thirds after their first two children turned 18 and graduated in 1995 and 1997.

Mrs. Shoup, who did not initially object to the reduction, returned to court in 1999. Fairfax County Circuit Judge Kathleen H. McKay ruled in her favor and found Mr. Shoup in contempt.

That ruling was upheld by two of the three appellate judges. "The jurisdiction to make and modify child support awards is the courts," wrote Appeals Judge Rosemarie Annunziata, who was joined by Chief Judge Johanna Fitzpatrick.

"The court must approve modification to the amount of support at the time

the modification is made," Judge Annunziata wrote.

In a dissenting opinion, Judge James W. Benton Jr. said the ruling undermines a previous policy that encourages ex-spouses to work out their differences voluntarily. The ruling, he said, gave divorced parents no choice but to return to court.

"If people have to keep going back, all the money that should be spent on families will go to lawyers," said Mr. Shoup's attorney, Betty A. Thompson of Arlington. "How does that help the children?"

Mrs. Thompson, who has specialized in divorce cases the last 20 years, has filed for a rehearing before the full five-member Court of Appeals. The next appeal would be to Virginia's Supreme Court.

"It is too early to make judgment" said Paul Fletcher, a Richmond lawyer and publisher of Virginia's Lawyers Weekly, adding that the rehearing might resolve the case.

"These self-executing support agreements were really quite common. People felt like it was a normal divorce they could use with kids coming of age in a couple of years," Mr. Fletcher said.

"The impact that could affect thousands of divorced persons is just beginning to trickle out across the states," Mr. Fletcher said. "The lawyers are quite concerned."

CRC note: This may have been a family order, that is, an order that contains one set amount for all children in the order, but doesn't break out how much is owed for each child. Therefore, it is not clear that as each child is emancipated, the parents or the court contemplate a one third reduction as each child is emancipated. The parents or the court would have to clearly state this and con-

sider the age of the children. They should also consider continuing child support until the child completes high school.

We have heard of this problem in other states, e.g., CRC Maryland coordinator Harvey Walden was required to file a modification request in court to end the child support transfer to his daughter's mother when the daughter reached age 18, and had finished high school.

Query: Even if there was no agreement between the parents, shouldn't the parents be allowed to follow state law, and terminate support transfer when the child reaches majority?

CRC believes parents should support their children through college or other post-high school education and training, but believes the best way to encourage that is to have involved both parents in the raising of the child. Involved parents are paying parents.

Parental Relocation and ALI Standards for Joint Custody

A trial court did not err in changing a joint custody award to sole custody for the father, after the mother relocated out-of-state, the Vermont Supreme Court decided October 20, 2000. Among the factors in the decision were the amount of time the father spent caring for the children and the breakdown in the parties' ability to coparent them. Dissenters from the decision relied on relocation standards prepared by the American Law Institute, but the court said that applying the ALI standards for joint custody would have produced the same result

[Hoover (Letourneau) v. Hoover, Vt., No. 99-084, 10/20/00]

Parental Relocation in Joint Custody Situation

A parent who wishes to modify a joint custody arrangement in order to relocate with his or her child is subject to the same standard that applies when deciding a relocation petition filed by a parent with sole custody, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled December 22, 2000. On the basis of this principle, the Supreme Court denied a mother's request to relocate to New York. The divorced couple in the case before the court had shared joint legal and physical custody of their two young children until 1998, when the father requested custody, alleging that the mother's lifestyle was inappropriate.

The mother filed a cross-petition for sole custody and for leave to relocate with the children. The mother said that she had secured employment in New York, and that her income would increase with the new job. The judge in the lower court ruled that it was not in the children's best interest to set aside the joint custody arrangement. The children's quality of life would not be improved in New York, and their best interests did not favor such a move, the lower court found.

[Brown (Morales) v. Brown, Neb., No. S-99-144, 12/22/00]

Child Support Recovery Act Held Unconstitutional

Congress's power under the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution did not warrant its enactment of the Child Support Recovery Act, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York held Feb. 8. The Act made it a federal crime punishable by up to two years' imprisonment to fail to pay a child support obligation pursuant to a state judicial or administrative order, whenever the defendant and the child live in different states.

The case before the court arose out of the indictment of a Texas man for failing to make support payment for his daughter, who lives with her mother in New York. A settlement had been negotiated under which the man would repay the City of New York for welfare

payments made to the mother during the relevant period, and would pay the mother \$100,000. However, the government contended that the restitution element was a separate issue from the purely punitive elements of the Act.

The District Court held that the alleged justification for the Act, the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce, was not persuasive. The Act exceeded the permissible limits of Congress's Commerce Clause power, the court said, and it granted the obligor's motion to dismiss the indictment.

[United States v. King, S.D.N.Y., No. S1 00 Cr. 653 (RWS), 2/8/01]

Child Support Paid by Non-Father

A juvenile court cannot order the state of Tennessee to repay a man the support he paid as reimbursement for a child's welfare benefits, despite the fact that he

later discovered that the child was not his, the Tennessee Court of Appeals held February 16. The Court of Appeals said juvenile courts did not have jurisdiction to award money judgements against the state in such situations. The man involved had been married to the mother, and mistakenly thought that the child was his. After the divorce, tests showed that the man was not his father, and the man sought an end to his support obligation, which had been in effect for three years. The appeals court ruled that he was entitled to prospective relief from the obligation, but it refused to order the state to repay him for all support paid.

[White v. State ex rel. Armstrong, Tenn. Ct. App., No. M1999-00713-COA-R3-CV, 2/16/01]

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

National Child's Day

By the time you receive this newsletter, the U.S. Senate should have passed a resolution designating the first Sunday in June as "National Child's Day." This year, National Child's Day falls on June 3.

The U.S. is one of the few countries in the world that does not have a day especially set aside for children, in the way that Mother's Day and Father's Day are designated days.

This is the third year in a row that the Senate will have passed a Child's Day Resolution. We hope that President Bush will use the Resolution as a basis for declaring a permanent observance of "National Child's Day."

We ask CRC members to hold observances, barbecues, church socials, and other events to celebrate Children's Day this year on June 3. Send us photographs of the children and adults who are participating in the event. We will publish some of the photos in future issues of the CRC newsletter.

CRC and a group called FOCUS in Miami, Florida, headed by child activist Lee Rechter, are working to promote children's day activities.

CRC Wants Chapters in Every State

CRC wants chapters in every state! Go CRC!

For development of chapters in states that do not yet have any CRC chapters, contact Margaret Wuwert, CRC Coordinator for Ohio, who is helping CRC with chapter development. Contact Margaret at 2745 Sagamore Road, Toledo, Ohio 43606, phone 419/473-8955.

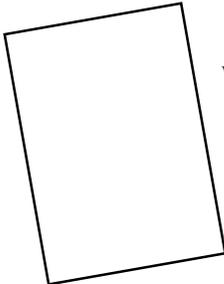
If your state already has a chapter, call the State Coordinator in the chapter heads listing in this letter; or call the national CRC office at 202-547-6227.

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 \$12.

Book Nook

Breaking Apart — A Memoir of Divorce

by Wendy Swallow. 292 pages, hardback, \$24.00. Published by Hyperion, New York.



This book, an excerpt of which is due to appear in the May *Reader's Digest*, stems from an article appearing in *Washingtonian Magazine* several years ago. She originally thought sole custody would be best for her

children, but when her ex-husband insisted on joint custody, she finally agreed, and "I have learned over time that it has been the best way to raise our boys."

She told CRC, "I think every child has a relationship with both their parents, however challenging that may be. There should be a presumption for joint legal and physical custody in every state.

That is what I have learned from co-parenting with my former husband for the past 9 years."

Wendy and her ex-husband's two boys are now 12 and 13, and she says "they are wonderfully adjusted kids."

In the book, Wendy Swallow, writing in a style that is both piercingly honest and profoundly moving, traces the arc of her marriage to a complex man ten years her senior.

She looks into her own heart and at her childhood and young adulthood as a way of understanding the relationship and its ultimate breakdown. She also examines her struggle to balance her burgeoning career and the demands of motherhood.

And then she writes of divorce: the hopeful fantasies she conjured while still in her marriage, as well as the harsh realities she faced when she and her husband finally separated. "People say marriages break up," writes Swallow, "but mine finally broke down."

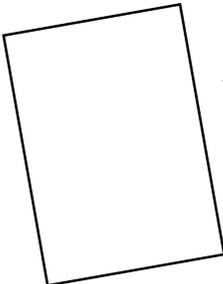
Swallow illuminates the overwhelming financial and emotional stresses of divorce, the daily, unforeseen difficulties. But she writes too of the joys of independence and renewal. Her journey through divorce's rough terrain—and the triumphant reconstruction of her life after divorce—offer encouragement and inspiration to anyone struggling with a marriage, as well as an insightful literary portrait of what it is to relinquish the comfort and security of a long-held dream.

A former staff writer for the *Washington Post*, Wendy Swallow is currently a journalism professor at American University and a freelance writer. A divorced mother of two, Swallow lives in Kensington, Maryland, outside of Washington, D.C.

Note: A portion of Wendy Swallow's book is not the only item scheduled for the May Reader's Digest. Also look for a portrait of former federal Child Support Commissioner Judge David Gray Ross, and his support for the 2-parent family.

Father and Child Reunion: How to Bring the Dads We Need to the Children We Love

by Warren Farrell, Ph.D. 300 pages, hardback. \$25 Tarcher/Putnam, a member of Penguin Putnam.



The author of *Why Men Are the Way They Are* demolishes conventional wisdom about the nature of fatherhood and shows how the courts, media, and government create subtle, immensely powerful

undercurrents that separate men from their children.

Anyone who cares about the nature of fatherhood today, anyone interested in the legal and emotional issues that divide fathers from children, anyone viewing fatherhood from the perspective

of a journalist, social worker, or lawmaker, and any single, married, or divorced parent needs to read this thoughtful and engaging book.

Dr. Warren Farrell argues—with surprising and convincing evidence drawn from court cases, law-enforcement records, national statistics, and therapeutic case studies—that the judicial system, media, and government often make dads "the enemy." Fathers enjoy no parenting rights within the legal system and even in other, less typically confrontational arenas—such as the public education system—a wide range of unreported forces divide fathers from their children.

For all its explosive conclusions, *Father and Child Reunion* ultimately calls for a rejoining of families and of children with parents who can care for them. Dr. Farrell has written a significant book on a vital issue facing men, women, and families today.

Warren Farrell, Ph.D., is the author of Women Can't Hear What Men Don't Say and The Myth of Male Power. Dr.

Farrell taught at the School of Medicine at the University of California in San Diego, and has taught psychology, sociology, and political science at Georgetown, Rutgers, and Brooklyn College. He is the only man elected three times to the board of N.O.W. in New York City.

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.

Children's Rights Council
2001 CATALOG OF RESOURCES
for parents and professionals

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BOOKS FOR KIDS

A Heart Full of Love, written by Bette S. Margolis, illustrated by Christie L. Kline. A wonderful book for that special 7- to 9-year-old in your life who is undergoing parental divorce.

SB-101 ----- **\$15.00**

I Love You More Than..., by Elizabeth Hickey and James Cohen. Illustrated by Lynda Smart Brown, 1998.

HB-102 ----- **\$16.95**

Daddy Day, Daughter Day, by CNN's Larry King and Chaia King, 1997. A true story of divorce told through both a child's and a father's perspective.

SB-103 ----- **\$12.95**

How to Survive Your Parent's Divorce: Kids Advice to Kids, by Gayle Kimball, 1994. Easy-to-read one-of-a-kind guide for young people and their parents as they reshape their lives post-divorce.

SB-104 Reg. \$9.95 *Discount Price **\$4.00**

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.

SB-105 ----- **\$4.95**

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-106 ----- **\$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-107 ----- **\$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-108 ----- **\$15.95**

My Book, My Self for Boys, by Linda Madaras and Area Madaras, 1995. The "What's Happening to My Body for Boys."

SB-109 Reg. \$11.95 *Discount Price **\$6.00**

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

NEW!

The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce—A 25-Year Landmark Study, by Judith S. Wallerstein, Julia M. Lewis, and Sandra Blakeslee, 2000. The best-selling book that says many children of divorce suffer long-term effects from divorce.

SB-200 ----- **\$24.95**

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-201 ----- **\$9.95**

Divorce Book for Parents, by Vicki Lansky, 1987. Warmly supportive and reassuring, this comprehensive guide speaks to all divorced and divorcing parents.

HB-203 ----- **\$6.00**

The Divorce Help Source Book, by Margorie Engel, 1994. Combines sound advice with hundreds of potential sources of help to assist you in getting the results you deserve.

SB-204 Reg. \$17.95 *Discount Price **\$7.00**

Divorced Dads, Shattering the Myths, by Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., 1998.

The surprising truth about fathers, children and divorce.

HB-205 ----- **\$24.95**

For the Sake of the Children, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, 1992. Discusses how to share your children with your ex-

spouse despite your anger. Kline is CRC's Florida coordinator. **PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!**

HB-206 Reg. \$18.95 *Discount Price **\$9.00**

Divorce: Crisis, Challenge, or Relief?, by David A. Chiriboga and Linda S. Catron, 1991. Addresses the impact of divorce on children through different stages of their lives.

SB-207 Reg. \$22.50 *Discount Price **\$5.00**

Why Parents Disagree: How Women and Men Parent Differently and How We Can Work Together, by Dr. Ron Taffel, 1994. An explanation of why parents begin to lead different lives and how parents can raise kids as partners, not enemies.

SB-208 ----- \$23.00

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.

HB-209 ----- \$23.00

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.

SB-210 Reg. \$10.00 *Discount Price \$5.00

Families Apart, by Melinda Blau, 1993. 10 Keys to Successful Co-Parenting. A blend of the author's own research, and that of other experts, and rich in anecdotal information.

SB-211 Reg. \$22.95 *Discount Price \$10.00

REVISED!

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!

SB-212 ----- \$20.00

Negotiating Love: How Women and Men Can Resolve Their Differences, by Riki Robbins Jones, 1995.

Points out destructive habits by both sexes which, when realized, strengthen families and relationships.

SB-213 ----- \$14.00

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Surviving Divorce, by Paula Weintraub and Terry Hillman, 1996.

SB-214 Reg. \$16.95 *Discount Price \$7.00

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-215 ----- \$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-216 Reg. \$14.95 *Discount Price \$5.00

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.

SB-217 Reg. \$14.00 *Discount Price \$10.00

REVISED!

Creating a Successful Parenting Plan, by Dr. A. Jayne Major. Nationally acclaimed author of "Breakthrough Parenting" and "Winning the Custody War Without Casualties"

SB-218 ----- \$24.95

3 Steps to a Strong Family, by Linda and Richard Eyre, 1994. A 3-step program that can make your family life happier, less stressful, and more rewarding.

HB-219 ----- \$19.50

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

HB-220 Reg. \$21.00 *Discount Price \$10.00

The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century, the CRC

book edited by David L. Levy. Order bulk copies (10 or more) for only \$4 a copy, resell the copies for the list price of \$10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies will continue to be available from CRC for \$10 each, plus \$4 for postage, as long as supplies last. 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).

SB-221 ----- Order 10 copies or more each only \$4.00

----- Individual copies \$10.00

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-222 ----- \$25.00

The Sibling Society, by Robert Bly, 1996, author of "Iron John." Describes our culture as one where adults remain children, and children have no desire to become adults—a nation of squabbling siblings.

HB-223 Reg. \$25.00 *Discount Price \$12.00

NEW!

Ceasefire, by Cathy Young, 1999, syndicated columnist. Why women and men must join forces to achieve true equality; how that will help children, too.

HB-224 ----- \$25.00

Saying No Is Not Enough, by Richard Schwebel, Ph.D., 1989. Raising children who make wise decisions about drugs and alcohol.

SB-225 ----- \$11.00

Abolition of Marriage, by Maggie Gallagher, 1996, syndicated columnist. How we destroy lasting love.

HB-226 ----- \$25.00

Friends for Life, by Susan Jonas and Marilyn Nissenson, 1997. Enriching the bond between mothers and their adult daughters.

HB-227 ----- \$29.00

Talking Back to Ritalin, by Peter R. Breggin, M.D., 1998, 4-time guest on Oprah. What doctors aren't telling you about the dangers of stimulants.

HB-228 ----- \$25.00

The Assault on Parenthood, by Dana Mack, 1997. The author, a scholar at the Institute for American Values, describes how our culture undermines the family.

HB-229 Reg. \$25.00 *Discount Price \$10.00

Babyhood, by Paul Reiser, 1997. This is not a how-to-book. It contains humorous stories by the star, co-creator and executive producer of the NBC Series *Mad About You*. Reiser's first book, *Couplehood*, was a #1 New York Times bestseller list.

HB-230 Reg. \$22.00
*Discount Price \$10.00

Working Fathers, by James A. Levine, CRC Advisor, and Todd L. Pittinsky. A guide to help fathers as well as mothers, employees and managers, succeed in managing the competitive demands of home and work.

HB-231 Reg. \$23.00 *Discount Price \$10.00

The War Against Parents, by Sylvia Ann Hewlett and Cornel West. Praised by CRC in a letter to the Washington Post Book World when the book was published in 1998.

HB-232 \$24.00 *Discount Price \$10.00

The Divorce Culture, by Barbara Dafoe Whitehead (1996). Worth reading for its insightful views of marriage and divorce, but deficient in not recognizing the phenomenon of the "forced away" and "pushed away" parents.

HB-233 Reg. \$24.00 *Discount Price \$10.00

Business Dad, by Tom Hirschfeld. How Good Businessmen Can Make Great Fathers (and Vice Versa), 1999. Recommended by Stephen R. Covey author of *The 7 habits of Highly Effective People*, and by James A. Levine, director, The Fatherhood Project, Families and Work Institute.

HB-218 Reg. \$17.25 *Discount Price \$10.00

Ask the Children, by Ellen Galinsky, president of the Families and Work Institute, 1999. What America's Children Really Think about Working Parents.

HB-235 ----- Reg. \$25.00
*Discount Price \$10.00

BOOKS FOR STEPPARENTS

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-302 ----- \$7.95

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

SB-303 ----- \$9.95

BOOKS FOR GRANDPARENTS

Grandparenting in a Changing World, by Edna LeShan, 1997. "Common sense presented with uncommon grace." — Kirkus Reviews.

SB-401 Reg. \$12.00
*Discount Price \$6.00

Grandparents as Parents: A Survival Guide for Raising a Second Family,

by Sylvie de Toledo and Deborah Edler Brown. A "how-to" manual for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

HB-403 ----- Reg. \$17.00

BOOKS FOR SINGLE PARENTS

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.

SB-2501 ----- \$13.95

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.

HB-502 ----- \$5.00

Another Way Home: A Single Father's Story, by John Thorndike, 1996. A memoir of Thorndike's life with his wife and the difficult decisions he has had to make regarding their son's life.

HB-503 Reg. \$24.00 *Discount Price \$12.00

Fatherless America, by David Blankenhorn, 1995. Shows the devastating consequences of fatherlessness in both individual families and in our society.

HB-504 Reg. \$23.00 *Discount Price \$10.00

The Masculine Mystique: The Politics of Masculinity, by Andrew Kimbrell, 1995. Presents the argument that American men are in crisis and includes what lead to this phenomenon.

HB-505 Reg. \$23.00 *Discount Price \$10.00

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

HB-506 \$19.95

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

SB-507 \$22.00

Why Men Are the Way They Are, by Warren Farrell, 1986. Provides insights into loved one's secret insights and desires.

SB-509 Reg. \$5.99 *Discount Price \$3.00



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

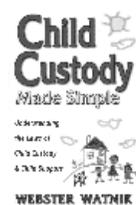
SB-510 \$12.50

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.

HB-511 \$21.00

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-512 Reg. \$21.95 *Discount Price \$11.00



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

SB-513 \$21.95

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.

SB-514 Reg. \$14.95 *Discount Price \$6.00

Questions from Dad, by CRC Spokesperson and pop singer Dwight Twilley, 1994. A very cool way to communicate with your child. Introduced by Dr. Susan Forward.

SB-515 \$17.00

I Am the Mother of Sons. Poems by Jayne Jaudon Ferrer, 1996. Illustrated by Lina Levy.

HB-516 \$10.00

Men on Divorce—The Other Side of the Story, edited by Penny Kaganoff and Susan Spano, 1997.

SB-517 Reg. \$12.00 *Discount Price \$6.00

One Swell Dad, by Pat Ross, 1992. The book of memories and expressions of fatherly endearment from the past.

HB-518 \$9.00

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-601 \$45.00

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-602 \$15.00

Parent Vs. Parent: How You and Your Child Can Survive the Custody Battle, by Stephen P. Herman, M.D., 1990. Expert advice for parents through all stages of the divorce process.

HB-603 \$20.95

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.

SB-604 Reg. \$13.95 *Discount Price \$6.00

LEGAL ISSUES

NEW!

From Courtship to Courtroom: What Divorce Law Is Doing to Marriage, by Jed H. Abraham, 2000. Abraham, a lawyer, mediator, and joint custody advocate, writes a chilling picture of how today's divorce laws make life miserable for families.

SB-701 \$15.00

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

HB-703 Reg. \$21.00

*Discount Price \$10.00

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

HB-704 Reg. \$21.00 *Discount Price \$15.00

Custody for Fathers, by Carleen and Michael Brennan, 1994. Includes more than 100 strategies that have helped fathers win (share) custody of their children in a mom-biased system.

HB-705 Reg. \$24.95 *Discount Price \$12.00

Divorce and the Myth of Lawyers, by Lenard Marlow, J.D., 1992. The exposition of myths regarding the legal system and its effects on divorcing couples.

HB-706 ----- \$10.95

The Father's 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-707 ----- \$15.00

Every Parent's Guide to the Law, by Deborah L. Forman. Everything you need to know about legal issues affecting parents and children pre-birth through the child-rearing years.

SB-708 ----- \$18.00

Divorce Yourself, the National No-Fault Divorce Kit, by Daniel Sitarz, 3rd ed. 1993. Everything you and your spouse will need to obtain your divorce without using a lawyer. Instructions, easy-to-use legal forms, checklists, and courtroom guidelines. Legally valid in all 50 states and D.C.

SB-709 Reg. \$24.95 *Discount Price \$15.00

PARENTAL KIDNAPPING

Autographed Copies!

They Are My Children, Too, by Catherine Meyer, 1999. Powerful account of a mother's loss of her children. A case of international parental kidnapping. Written by CRC's new Honorary President.

HB-801 ----- \$23.00

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-802 ----- \$22.95

CHILD ABUSE

Ashes to Ashes...Families to Dust, by Dean Tong, 1996. False accusations of child abuse: A road map for survivors that helps to answer their questions.

SB-901 ----- \$15.95

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-903 ----- \$35.00

NEW!

Therapeutic Interventions for Children with Parental Alienation Syndrome, by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. (2001). This is a book for therapists working with families where children are alienated from a parent.

SB-904 ----- \$40.00

Children Held Hostage, Dealing with Programmed and Brainwashed Children, by Stanley S. Clawar, Ph.D., C.C.S. and Brynne Rivlin, M.S.S., 1991. This book is approved by the American Bar Association.

SB-905 ----- \$50.00

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

SB-906 ----- \$12.00

The Book of David, How Preserving Families Can Cost Children's Lives, by Richard Gelles, 1996. A convincing and dramatic book about the flaws of the child welfare system.

HB-907 ----- \$23.00

Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, by Alex V. Levin, MD., and Mary S. Sheridan, 1995. Issues in Diagnosis and Treatment. Deliberate creation or false reporting of illness, to gain attention for the caretaker. This is a form of child abuse.

HB-908 Reg. \$60.00

*Discount Price \$30.00

The Abuse Excuse—And Other Cop-Outs, by noted lawyer Alan Dershowitz, 1994. Sob stories and evasions of responsibility.

HB-909 Reg. \$23.00 *Discount Price \$10.00

PSYCHOLOGY

Father/Daughter, Mother/Son, by Verena Kast, 1997. Self-Help/Psychology. A modern analysis of parent-child relationships and their psychological effects — both negative and positive.

SB-1001 ----- \$13.00

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.

V101 ----- \$25.00

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.

V102 ----- \$20.00

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.

V103 ----- \$25.00

REPORTS

Interference with Access (Visitation) as a Tort.
Updated 1997. Not a frequent remedy, but one that may
 be available.

R101 ----- \$10.00

Parenting Plans. Three different parenting plans that can
 help you and other parents.

R102 ----- \$10.00

Joint Custody as a Child's Right—a law review ar-
 ticle (1988), a legal brief with citations up to 1994 and a
 report by Section 16 of the American Psychological Asso-
 ciation describing "favorable outcomes" for children with joint
 custody (1995)

R103 ----- \$10.00

Send for a list of other reports.

PINS AND BUTTONS

The famous "Children First" pin.
 8 colors, with figures of seven
 children standing on a field of
 green with logo "Children First."
 Two prongs. 3/4" high, 1-1/2"
 wide.

P101 ----- \$8.00

BUMPER STICKERS

The Best Parent is Both Parents, white printing on a
 black background.

----- \$1 apiece, 6 for \$5.00

Button created by Patti Diroff that says
 "Child support is more than a check, it's
 being a parent." With CRC logo, includ-
 ing children's faces. 4 colors, round, 2-
 1/4" diameter.

B202 ----- \$2.00

T-SHIRTS

CRC 4-color t-shirts say "Help
 Stop Crime, Give Children 2
 Parents" Specify size: child S,
 M, L; Adult S, M, L, XL. Specify
 color: white or blue.

----- \$10 adults, \$8 children

MUGS

Each white ceramic mug says "Children's
 Rights Council" and "The Best Parent is
 Both Parents." A Mark Roseman cre-
 ation.

----- \$8 each or two for \$15.
**Add \$2 for shipping first mug, \$1 each
 additional mug.**

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Equal Parents' Week

The CRC's National Mandate for a 2-Parent Focus

September 24–September 30, 2001

“Just Say Yes!” to Shared Parenting

Spread the word to family, friends, and other organizations to join us in making our message “The Best Parents Is Both Parents” during Equal Parents’ Week stronger than ever this year by tying purple ribbons throughout Equal Parents’ Week. On Wednesday, September 26, 2001 at 8:30 p.m. “A Moment In Our Hearts, A Moment Of Solidarity” will be held nationally and internationally, by holding candlelight vigils. For persons who cannot attend a public vigil, we urge you to hold your own “Home Vigils” to add your voices and strengthen the message we are sending. Last year, 25 states throughout the United States and six foreign countries—Canada, England, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile—held public candlelight vigils, “Home Vigils,” and tied purple ribbons.

The Equal Parents’ Week message is spreading and is being observed at other times by other organizations. On March 14, 2001, the Empire State Building in New York City was illuminated in red and blue lights through the joint efforts of the New York City CRC Chapter and the Father’s Rights Association NYS, Inc. in declaring that day Equal

Parents’ Day. In addition, purple ribbons were worn to signify a child’s natural right to both parents. (See additional information on page 25.)

Equal Parents’ Week advocates that a 2-parent focus should be established as our national priority, maximizing the involvement that both parents are willing and able to contribute in raising their children, and promoting the ability of both parents to meet all their children’s needs without compromising or imposing financial impediments to nonfinancial forms of child support.

To call attention to 2-parent focus is the “Just Say Yes! to shared parenting” campaign. “Just Say Yes” calls attention to the problem of parental “veto” which unreasonably and arbitrarily defeats shared parenting and all too often deprives children from the contact they need and deserve from loving and responsible parents through laws or judicial discretion. Vetoing shared parenting is a negative choice.

The response of statutes and judges should instead require parents to make a choice to exercise their first responsibility as a parent...to “just say yes” to making a commitment to doing what is

truly in children’s best interests...to “just say yes” to unconditionally loving and sacrificing for their children...and that means, “Just Say Yes!” to shared parenting.

For those who would like to keep their purple ribbons tied permanently and send this message year-round, we want to encourage you to do this and we want to know if you’re doing it! Every voice counts and every purple ribbon sends a message.

Tie ribbons to your car radio antenna, to the door of your house or apartment, or to your briefcase.

Please contact the National Coordinator, Patti Diroff, at (909) 591-3689 and at pattidiroff@worldnet.att.net to let her know if you are tying/holding purple ribbon activities and holding candlelight vigils or “Home Vigils” so they can be included in the international press release. You can also use the sign up links for activities on the Equal Parents’ Week website at <http://members.tripod.com/epweek>

Order Parenting Time Calendars

Judges in Lucas County, Ohio have approved the use of a calendar for parenting time issues decided in court. The calendar was developed by CRC of Ohio. Various colored blocks on the calendar represent time between the child and the non-custodial parent that is spent together (green), times missed (red), and special times (blue). The calendar makes it easy to record these times, and you can show the calendar in court, if you have to. Order from CRC of Ohio, 4069 West Sylvania St., Toledo, OH 43623. \$10 plus \$4 shipping, total of \$14. For orders of 10 or more for your group, the total shipping charge is \$8 total.

Get a 3.9 percent CRC Credit Card

Get the CRC VISA Credit Card, and obtain a low 3.9 percent introductory rate. The credit card displays the CRC logo, and CRC receives a small contribution every time you use the card. CRC receives more if you break up a large purchase into several small purchases. For an application, contact CRC, or call MBNA at 1-800-523-7666. If you have trouble obtaining approval, contact CRC; we can’t guarantee approval, but we will gladly try.

Contact Other CRC Members by E-mail

Send and receive e-mail from other CRC members around the country.

If you are a CRC member, e-mail the following message to Harry Prillaman, CRC Coordinator for Georgia, who is supervising this service. He can be reached at ppilla@us.ibm.com

Dear Harry. I am a national CRC member who would like to join the crc-general@egroups.com distribution list.

*Thanks,
Your name, mailing address,
phone number, and e-mail address*

Call the CRC national office at 202-547-6227 or fax 202-546-4272 to make sure your national membership is current.

Available on Audio Cassette

Children's Rights Council's 13th National Conference *Shared Parenting—It Makes Sense*

May 3-6, 2001
Bethesda, Maryland

CRC Audio Cassette List:

- CRC 101 The Perspective on Families: How Foundations, Government Agencies and Non-Profit Organizations View Family Issues -Moore, Haskins, Kaiser, Smith, Mellgren, Perrin, Gallagher, Levy
- CRC 102 Grandparents Are Parents, Too! -Castagno
- CRC 103 Parents: The Key to Student Success -Hodge
- CRC 104 Focused Thinking in Parenting: Teaching Children to Think and Solve Problems Successfully -Posthumus
- CRC 105 Gender Politics and Shared Parenting -Young
- CRC 106 Developments on Capitol Hill that Affect Children and Families Panel -Hill staffers
- CRC 107 The New American Family: What Was Wrong With the Old One? -Kathleen Parker
- CRC 108 Creative Writing Group: "Telling Your Story of Loss, Hope, and Renewal" -Roseman
- CRC 109 Dads and Stepdads Parenting with Moms and Stepdads -Engel
- CRC 110 Parental Conflict Resolution -Cooper
- CRC 111 Financial Child Support: Obligation or Burden? -Kaiser
- CRC 112 Still a Dad: The Divorced Father's Journey -Prengel
- CRC 113 Developmentally Effective Parenting Plans -Stahl
- CRC 114 Healthy Men, Healthy Fathers, Healthy Families -Bartlett
- CRC 115 The Politics of Parenting -Baskerville
- CRC 116 A New Administration: A Return to Dignity for Families -Crouch
- CRC 117 Parallel Parenting Strategies: Keys for Success in High Conflict Divorces -Mikesell
- CRC 118 Generative Parenting: Seeking Peace in the Mediation of Divorce -Rogers, Leving
- CRC 119 ADVOCACY: Playing a Responsible Role -Henry
- CRC 120 False Allegations of Parental Alienation -Darnall
- CRC 121 Establishing and Operating Successful 'Safe Haven' Child Transfer and Supervised Access Centers -Banner, Cady, Huerter, Wall, Wuwert, Ellis
- CRC 122 Should Access be Provided to Kidnappers after Children have been Recovered, and if So, Under What Circumstances -Dabbagh
- CRC 123 Alienation: How it Feels; What we should Do About It! -Holstein
- CRC 124 Alienation and Malpractice: A Case Study -Gidding
- CRC 125 Caught in the Crossfire: Dispelling Myths About Child Abuse and Custody Cases -Tong
- CRC 126 In the Best Interests of Children & Families -Judges
- CRC 127 Creative Process Group: "What are We Taking Home?" -Prengel
- CRC 128 Moments to Memories: Creating Legacies for Families of Divorce -Isham
- CRC 129 Rebuilding the Bond -Stuart-Mills Hock
- CRC 130 A Working Vision of Cost Shares: Child Support Guidelines -Rogers, Bieniewicz
- CRC 131 Why Supervised Visitation? -Olesh
- CRC 132 Reunification Success Stories -Darnall
- CRC 133 No One is Immune: A Psychologist's Encounter with the Tyranny of Conventional Wisdom -Dave
- CRC 134 Representing Single Custodial Fathers -Leving
- CRC 135 The Distressed Children of Sierra Leone -Kargbo, The Disturbing Reality of Parental Abductions, Divorce and Custody in Japan -Benda, and Children of Divorce in England -Coe
- CRC 136 The Future of CRC. Questions and Answers -Levy, Bauserman

Unable to Attend CRC's 13th National Conference?

Order the CD "Ernie Ashworth and Friends Sing Out for the Children's Rights Council", including Hadassah Luther sing "Hear the Cries of the Children" and songs by 11 other artists. \$12.

Order Booklet of Materials submitted by many of the speakers, and some conference handouts. An overview of many topics affecting custody, access (visitation) and parental kidnapping of children. \$10

Audio Cassettes Recorded at the Conference \$10

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Bills in Congress

Fatherhood Bill Re-Introduced

S. 653 (Senate bill) and H.R. 1300 (House bill).

The Responsible Fatherhood Act, which was passed by the House last year, and stopped in the Senate, has been re-introduced in the House and Senate. It is essentially the same bill in both House and Senate.

The legislation provides for \$77 million in fatherhood programs, with a heavier emphasis on marriage than the legislation last year.

Last year's bill provided for a 50/50 split in funds, half to promote marriage, and half to promote fragile families.

This year's Senate version requires more emphasis on marriage. Governors of the states must certify that funds are being used to promote or sustain marriage, or fatherhood. Whether fatherhood can be promoted outside of marriage depends on which Hill staffer you talk to.

The Senate bill's major sponsor is Sen. Evan Bayh (D-IN), and the House's main sponsor is Rep. Julia Carson (D-IN). Each bill has both Republican and Democratic co-sponsors.

Rep. Carson wants to fund success programs that promote fatherhood, said one of her aides.

At the request of CRC, Sen. Bayh added a provision to the bill that in considering funding, one of the factors should be programs that explain "the benefits of the involvement of both parents in a child's life."

The Senate bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee, 202/224-4515 and the House version was referred to House Ways and Means Committee, (202) 225-3625.

Denial of Passports

H.R. 407, introduced by Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ), to establish a denial of passports to noncustodial parents in cases of nonpayment of child support. Authorizes the Secretary of State to refuse, revoke, restrict, or limit use of a

passport if the applicant or passport holder is a noncustodial parent who is the object of an outstanding State arrest warrant for nonpayment of child support, where the amount in controversy is not less than \$10,000. Referred to House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, phone (202) 225-3345.

CRC has asked Rep. Andrews to provide a balancing amendment to this bill to deny passports to custodial parents who have been found to be in violation of any state or federal visitation order, including violations of the interstate visitation law sponsored by Rep. Andrews which became law in October, 1999. That law requires all states to recognize the visitation orders of other states. Write to Rep. Andrews asking for this balancing amendment.

Tax Interception

H.R. 869, introduced by Rep. Michael N. Castle (R-DE), titled the Child Support Fairness and Tax Interception Act of 2001. This bill amends title IV part D (Child Support and Establishment of Paternity) of the Social Security Act to provide for the use of the tax refund intercept program to collect past-due child support of behalf of children who are not minors. Referred to House Subcommittee on Human Resources, phone 202-225-1025. **Write to Rep. Castle to ask for the same kind of balancing amendment as recommended above for Rep. Andrews' bill.**

Anti-Joint Custody Resolution Knocked Out

Congress dropped the anti-joint custody resolution from the Violence Against Women Act. At least one House member, Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), told CRC that contacts from constituents was the reason he informed Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), the Resolution sponsors that he opposed passage of the anti-joint custody resolution. CRC had asked individuals and groups around the country to let their members of Congress

know about the importance of children having access to both of their parents. The resolution was part of a crime bill, the Violence Against Women Act, and did not adequately represent the need of children to have access to both parents in most situations. We thank everyone who contacted their House members against this resolution, and against an earlier, even stronger anti-joint custody resolution that was part of VAWA.

Can't Compel Child-Parent Testimony

H.R. 733, introduced by Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ), to establish a parent-child privilege. Neither a parent nor a child shall be compelled to give testimony as a witness in a court proceeding against each other. Referred to House Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property, phone (202) 225-5741.

Correction and Discussion of Safe Haven Sites

In the last issue of this newsletter (Fall, 2000/Winter, 2001), we erred in stating the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) bill number that Congress passed. It is H.R. 3244, which is Public Law 106-386. We also stated that funds had not yet been appropriated under the law. They had. However, the funds are less than contemplated. The law itself authorized \$15 million, but the Congressional appropriators only allotted \$2 million for the "Youth Safe Havens".

VAWA states that Safe Havens would be operated in conjunction with domestic violence programs in the various state(s). CRC pointed out that Congress already appropriates \$10 million a year for all states to share for programs that help children connect to their non-custodial parents, including transfer sites for children and supervised access (visitation) programs. These programs, some of which are run by the Children's Rights Council, are very aware of the need to

Continued on page 24

Bills in Congress

Continued from page 23

protect individuals who use the sites.

CRC stated that this was a duplicative program, which focuses only on domestic violence, and not on the broad range of issues that cause judges to refer parents to supervised sites, including substance abuse, longtime absence from the family, and severe communications problems between parents.

The Justice Department is in the process of preparing regulations under which non-profit groups could apply for some of the funding. We will keep you posted.

The phone number to reach all members of Congress is (202) 224-3121.

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

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 part of 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.

Chapter News

Continued from page 11

New Leadership in New York City

Rafee Kamaal and Elizabeth Schnee have been elected co-presidents of CRC of New York City. We thank Thomas Thornton, whose term expired in December 2000, and welcome Rafee and Elizabeth, who were elected by the chapter for a two year term starting in January, 2001. Raffi has been a CRC member for 4 years, and is a multi-media producer. Rafee has one son, Rami, 8 years old. Elizabeth owns her own business — a glass etching firm called Townsend Glass in Long Island City. She is a non-custodial mother who raised 4 kids. She has been class parent for the last 12 years, in all of her children's classes. They are Tona, 20; Roddy, 16; Sarah, 15; and Jacob, 12. And yet she has been repeatedly blocked from visitation with the children.

Center for Divorce Education for Sale

The Center for Divorce Education is a thriving mail order business that we are selling due to retirement. We want this good work to continue. We produce the award-winning Children In The Middle video program and booklets for divorcing parents. We have been recognized as having the best divorce education programs in the country, and sales steadily have increased.

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Letter to the Editor

Don't Create Bigger Incentives for Divorce

Editor:

It is no exaggeration to say that politicians are destroying the foundations of American society. Many people are concerned about our high divorce rate and the large number of children affected by these broken homes. However, only the libertarians seem to have noticed that the government is subsidizing single parent homes and thus creating more of them.

Now the Republicans are blindly moving to pump up these subsidies. President Bush proposed to double the child-tax credit by 2006, and the congressional Republicans want to do it even faster. They seem unaware that this credit is available only to custodial parents, but not to the non-custodial parents who are paying child support. This is just one of at least six divorce incentives in the IRS rules, along with numerous other government support programs just for custodial parents.

The groups that are working to reduce our divorce rate are concentrating mostly on promoting marriage counseling. Those measures won't go far unless we start repealing the divorce subsidies, too.

Neil Steyskal
Arlington, VA

Upcoming Events

Fatherhood Conference

The International Fatherhood Conference 2001, sponsored by NPCL (The National Center for Strategic Non-Profit Planning and Community Leadership), will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, May 28-30, 2001, at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, 1-800-325-3535.

For conference information, contact Charlene Meeks or Jacqueline Ratley at NPCL, phone 202-822-6725.

Smart Marriages, Happy Families

Smart Marriages, Happy Families, The Fifth Annual Conference of the Coalition for Marriage, Family and Couples Education, in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Center Hotel, 1-800-204-7234, June 21-24. For registration information, call 215/822-6319 or email maccinc@enter.net. David L. Levy of CRC will be on a panel at the conference on Saturday, June 23, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to discuss Divorce Law Reform: Building a Movement.

National Summit on Fatherhood

The National Fatherhood Initiative's 4th national summit, June 7-8, 2001 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, phone 202/737-1234. For registration information, contact NFI at 301/-948-0599, or at www.fatherhood.org. Dick Mikesell, Ph.D., will speak on Working with Divorced Parents.

Hertz Car Rental Benefits

Hertz and CRC are getting together! Get a free upgrade or 5 percent off your next Hertz Card Rental. Call your travel agent or call Hertz in the U.S. at 1-800-654-2200. Mention CDP Card# 1218734 (the CRC Code number) to receive your free benefit.

Children Denied Access in New York

Representatives of the Children's Rights Council, Fathers Rights Association, and other pro-family individuals and organizations held a press conference March 14 in Albany, NY. At the press conference, participants read off the number of children denied access to one of their parents in New York, county by county.

This is based on a CRC report that there are more than 5,500,000 children who are denied access to their non-custodial parents; CRC broke the list down by population reports in each state.

Assemblyman David Sidikman (D), Sen. Owen Johnson (R), and Assemblyman Jay Dinga (R), all of whom are co-sponsors of either A3673, or S2828 – shared parenting legislation – spoke at the press conference, as did other pro-family legislators.



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For information contact Julie at the CRC office.



The Year 2000 was CRC's 15th Anniversary— But We are Still Celebrating Until British Embassy Reception and Conference!

We appreciate everyone who has worked for children and CRC. We thank all those who have enabled CRC to improve the lives of children and families. So many have given so much, of their time, efforts, and financial contributions.

For 2001, CRC has four life member levels of support. They are:

- A PLATINUM LIFE MEMBER is one who donates \$5,000 or more
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- A LIFE MEMBER is one who donates CRC \$500 to \$999.

Anyone who has contributed to CRC in the past may increase the donation to reach any of the life member levels. If you are unsure about your previous donation level, contact CRC, and we would be glad to let you know. Thank you.

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