



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Children's Rights Council, Inc.
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New Laws Benefit Tennessee Children

Six new laws in Tennessee will change the face and nature of divorce in The Volunteer State, say observers of the new legislation.

The new laws:

1. Replace the terms "custody" and "visitation" with "shared parenting" and "parental responsibilities." Divorcing parents can participate in mediation and produce parenting plans;
2. Provide that blocking court-ordered parenting time will result in loss of recreational, professional, and/or business licenses. Because of budget problems, drivers' licenses were ex-



(l to r) Dominick Amari, David Courson and Don Peery (pro se expert) of CRC of Tennessee, Coni Herinkova and Ernie Weeks of DAD of Tennessee

cluded, but efforts will be made to add them in the future. (Note: Idaho and Iowa already have laws that result in loss of licenses for interference with access);

3. Grandparents rights. Though narrowly defined, supporters believe the law will survive the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the *Troxel* case (see Summer, 1999 "Speak Out for Children.");
4. Guarantee the right of noncustodial parents access to medical records of the child, unless forbidden by the courts;
5. Expand Parent Bill of Rights—adds three new

Continued on page 4

**Please Plan on Attending
CRC's 13th National Conference
Holiday Inn Bethesda
(inside the Beltway)
May 4-6, 2001**

**Reception at the British Embassy Residence and Gardens
to Benefit CRC May 3, the evening before the conference**

Register on Website at gocrc.com or on page 11 of this newsletter.



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, John Prior, Ken Skilling, and college student intern Abraham Perez, University of California at Santa Barbara. 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), CO-MAMAS, 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).

CRC's email address: crdc@erols.com Speak Out for Children is published four times a year and is sent free to members. Library rate: \$20.00 a year. Send letters, comments and articles for publication to Editor, CRC.

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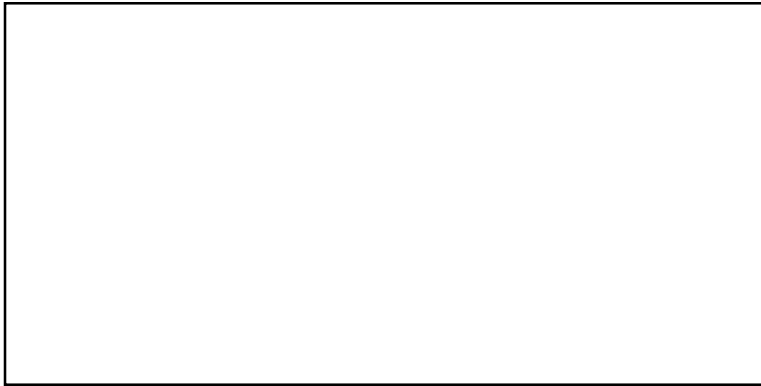
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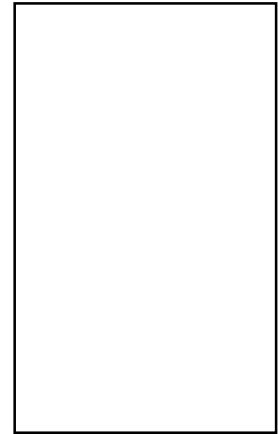
CRC of Sierra Leone Helps Distressed Children



*One of the children helped by
CRC of Sierra Leone*



Members and Supporters of CRC of Sierra Leone chapter



*One of the children helped by
CRC of Sierra Leone*

CRC's new Sierra Leone chapter works to relieve the suffering of children in war-torn Sierra Leone.

"Sierra Leone has been ravaged by one of the most brutal rebel wars ever known to mankind," said Yotro Kargbo, director of the chapter, who lives in the U.S. "The health and educational system is in complete disarray. Simple diseases result in swift deaths for unfortunate Sierra Leoneans, especially children, who are the most vulnerable and yet innocent about the conflict."

Families have been separated from their loved ones, made homeless, sexually abused, mutilated or otherwise traumatized. There are an estimated five thousand amputees, most of them children as young as three years old. Many

have been forced to be "child soldiers" who fight alongside adult combatants.

Children in this West African country near Liberia and Guinea are found scavenging the streets looking for food, clothing or anything else they can find.

The chapter, consisting of concerned Sierra Leoneans, has been meeting in metropolitan Washington, D.C., for nearly a year. The group has held fundraisers and obtained contributions from members and non-members.

The chapter is sending a two-man delegation to Sierra Leone in January 2001 to help with human relief. They will provide money, food, clothing and educational materials to help some of the children in refugee camps that have been set up around the country.

A church service was held for nine amputees from Sierra Leone, most of them children, at the Bread of the Life Church in Alexandria, Virginia, September 24, 2000. CRC of Sierra Leone donated \$500 to help with medical bills for these amputees.

"This is the tip of the iceberg of things that need to be done," said Kargbo. "CRC of Sierra Leone is doing its best, but needs further help for the children."

For more information, contact CRC of Sierra Leone, P.O. Box 13057, Alexandria, VA 22313, or visit their web site at www.geocities.com/crcsl. The chapter's phone number is 703/897-7845.

Haskins Moves to Brookings

Ron Haskins, the longtime staff director for the House Human Resources Subcommittee, has left to work for the Brookings Institute, a think tank in Washington, D.C. At a retirement party in the House, former subcommittee chairman Clay Shaw (R-FL) referred to Haskins as "Mr. Chairman" because of Haskins' knowledge and insights into the Welfare Reform law, which came out of that Subcommittee. Haskins was also on top of child support and access (visitation) measures, which also originated in that subcommittee. Haskins has been a good friend to advocates for the 2-parent family, and shall be missed on the Hill. A new staff director is to be named. The subcommittee can be reached at 202-225-1025.

**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 Laws

Continued from page 1

rights, including 48 hour notification of any events to which parents are normally invited to participate, noncustodial parent involvement in all school activities including lunch with child, and contact information when either parent leaves the state for two or more nights with the minor child;

6. Create a Tennessee Commission on Responsible Fatherhood, to make recommendations to the legislature for future legislation. DAD of Tennessee, one of the groups responsible for the new legislation, has a seat on the commission.

Credit for this legislation goes to DAD of Tennessee; a group called First Things First; CRC's Tennessee chapter; Judge Don Ash; Judge Marietta Shipley; Dr. Karen Sowers, dean of the College of Social Work, University of Tennessee in Knoxville; State Rep. Bob Patton (R-Johnson City), chairman of the joint legislative committee that studies all proposed divorce laws.

All six bills came out of that study committee, said Coni Herinkova, executive director of DAD of Tennessee. Coni is an attorney, paid by DAD of Tennessee to promote favorable legislation. Scott Roy is president of the group, which has a 16-person board.

CRC of Tennessee is headed by David Courson, whose organization worked to educate the legislature about the needs of children and families.

See the legislation at www.legislature.state.tn.us

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.

Inside CRC

Stabenow Elected to U.S. Senate

Congratulations to longtime CRC Advisor Debbie Stabenow (D) for winning a seat in the U.S. Senate. She defeated first term senator Spencer Abraham (R) in November, 2000.

Debbie came to our attention shortly after we formed CRC in 1985 as the prime author of the provision in Michigan's "Friend of the Court" law that expanded resources so that staff could informally resolve access (visitation) complaints, not just child support problems.

In 1988, Congress provided, at CRC's urging, seven access (visitation) demonstration grants to the states. The single most influential argument to sway Congress was learning that Michigan collected \$8.33 for every dollar spent to collect — the best ratio of any state's collections to costs in the U.S.

Debbie Stabenow sent CRC a letter, which we used to educate Congress about this ratio, and the need to provide for more access of children to non-custodial parents.

Debbie went on to become a member of the House of Representatives, and now she is in the Senate.

Levy Honored

The U.S. Office of Child Support Enforcement presented a "Lifelong Achievement Award" to CRC President David L. Levy for his "untiring efforts on behalf of the children of America."

The award was presented to Levy by Child Support Commissioner David Gray Ross at a Child Support Conference in Baltimore in September, 2000.

Ross said Levy was the father of the access (visitation) grants to the states authorized for the first time by Congress in 1988.

Ross referred to the various other programs, services, and educational materials CRC has provided since its inception in 1985

to help children.

Levy accepted the lovely all-glass plaque on behalf of the Children's Rights Council, and CRC supporters all around the country. "Without them," he said, "none of the progress CRC has made for children would have been possible."

3 CRC Folk Recuperating

Two state coordinators of CRC, David Courson of Tennessee, and Gary Maxwell of Alaska, are successfully recovering from heart attacks. Bruce G. Buffington, husband of CRC Texas coordinator Diana Buffington, is also recovering from a heart attack.

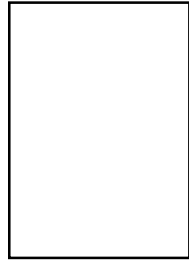
We are sure they would appreciate "Good Wishes" notes from any of you. Information on how to reach them are on the page listing all of our chapters (page 30).

Thank you for taking the time to wish them well.

CRC Establishes College Scholarship Fund

College Scholarship Fund Set for Relatives of CRC Members

In November 2000, CRC mailed its annual Holiday Appeal for Funds to present and some former members. We said:



Banner

Frank Banner's son Frank Banner III turned 13 on September 9, 2000, but his dad could not wish him Happy Birthday. That's because young Frank was one of 160,000 children kidnapped by a parent each year.

Was Mr. Banner an abusive or neglectful parent? Hardly. He is a deputy U.S. marshal, and has raised 6 other children just fine.

On October 23, Mr. Banner received the worst news a parent can hear. One of his daughters, 31-year-old Loretta Mae, was murdered. The killer was caught. The funeral was delayed until one of Mr. Banner's sons, Kiley, could return home from the U.S. military in Korea.

I have never begun our annual Holiday appeal with news this sad. But I felt I had no choice.

You see, Mr. Banner is the head of CRC's Washington, D.C. chapter. He operates a transfer center for children and offers weekly parenting education classes. He also runs other programs, including programs in the African-American community. He has done so at personal and financial sacrifice. He deserves our support.

CRC does not wish to make anything from this tragedy. This is why we ask you to designate how much of your Holiday contribution you want to go to CRC, and how much you would like to designate to the Frank Banner III College Scholarship Fund. The fund administrator will be Patton, Erskine and Braucht, the CPA firm that manages CRC funds. Each Spring CRC will offer a scholarship to the child of a CRC member. All may apply. Mr. Banner will chair the Selection Committee.

Thank you for your continuing support for CRC, and for children everywhere, like Frank Banner III.

*Sincerely yours,
David L. Levy, J.D.
President, CRC*

If anyone would like to contribute to the Holiday Fund and/or to the College Scholarship Fund, please do so. Fax your donation by credit card to CRC at 202-546-4272, or mail to CRC. Thank you.

Amicus Briefs May be Available

If your case is on appeal, and you would like CRC to consider writing an amicus brief, contact CRC. CRC cannot handle cases at the trial level, and we do not write the main appeal brief. An amicus brief is a supplemental brief, telling the court why this case is of significance not only to the parties in the case, but to other children and families as well. We generally need 30 to 60 days before the filing deadline.

CRC's latest amicus filing was in December, 2000 to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Goldhamer v. Cohen*, asking the court to take certiorari to consider expanded visitation between a child and the non-custodial parent. For a copy, including case citations, send \$10 to CRC for S/H.

Scholarship Application

CRC will award at least one \$350 scholarship in the Frank Banner III Scholarship Fund in 2001, depending on contributions.

The rules for applying follow:

The child should write no more than a two to three page letter to CRC (letters more than three pages long will not be read).

The letter should state the following:

1. Your name, address, telephone number and today's date at the top of the letter;
2. The name and location of your high school;
3. What college you plan on attending in the Fall of 2001 or Spring, 2002;
4. Your relationship (child, grandchild, other family member) to the member of national CRC. If unsure as to whether national membership is current, you or the adult can contact CRC;
5. Explain any struggle you had to overcome, what you learned from it, and how you will apply it to your college life;
6. Tell us about yourself, your plans, your accomplishments, and why you would like to receive this scholarship;
7. Sign the letter;

Attach unofficial transcripts and any other document, not to exceed three pages.

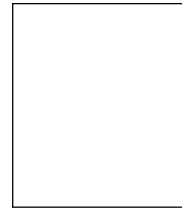
Letters of recommendation from the CRC member and one other person, such as a counselor or teacher.

Letters should be addressed to:

Mr. Frank Banner Jr.
Children's Rights Council
College Scholarship Fund
300 "I" Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Letters must be received by May 15. Recipient(s) will be notified by June 10.

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



Levy

Married Parents Would Revolt if Government Interfered in Access to their Children

CRC frequently receives inquiries from parents for help in their custody or access situations. We provide information, resources and referrals.

When people call CRC, they sometimes express wonder why they have to battle just to maintain a relationship with their child. We agree—you shouldn't have to. CRC encourages settlements, compromises, mediation and agreements. This is difficult, we know, but sometimes the alternative, going to court, is worse. Parents frequently find a way to disregard court orders, if they don't agree with them. Agreements reached between parents often have more validity and are more lasting if not coerced.

In marriage, parents would rise up in arms if the government made them prove their fitness to be parents. "What do you mean I can only see my child on alternate weekends Friday evening to Sunday evening?" a married parent would ask, incredulous. "No court has the right to restrict me like that!"

There would be marching in the street, protests at courthouses, and angry letters to the editor, if the government acted that way. The government invade the sanctity of marriage? No way.

Indeed, government does not get involved in child-parent relationships during marriage, absent a real or alleged showing of abuse or neglect to the child.

Thus the typical married parent doesn't think twice about the opportunity to be with his or her child for breakfast, dinner, weekends, or whenever else child and parents come and go in the home.

In divorce, it is Humpty Dumpty-time, and everything takes a big fall.

The government assumes it has the right to determine family relationships, including when and where you may see your child and your child may see you.

About half of families with children avoid this government interference by not going to court. Most of them are never-married, but some are separated or divorced. These parents do not apply for custody, court ordered financial support, or access. They work out financial and access arrangements informally, or not at all.

It is the duty of every parent to support his or her child emotionally and financially, and this should be the goal. But how best to bring it about? Shared parenting is the best approach to bring about both monetary and parenting involvement, says U.S. Census Bureau data.

And then there is personal experience. CRC knows of state legislators who never supported a shared parenting bill or a mediation bill—they thought it a remote topic.

But then they got divorced. And suddenly, as it is said, "they got religion." They experience first hand the horror and harm to children of custody battling, which enriches my fellow attorneys, but often imperils the family—emotionally as well as psychologically.

Celebrities are not exempt. I recently heard entertainer Joe Piscopo, who had a custody battle over his son Joey, say he is an advocate for a strong joint custody bill pending in the New Jersey legislature. Piscopo, who lives in New Jersey, described the proposal as a "Children's Bill of Rights."

How right you are, Joe.

Ernest Hemingway said that the purpose of life is to survive, and achieve your goals. Surviving a custody or access battle is a tall order for most parents. But sur-

viving in order to maintain a loving relationship with your child is the goal.

Many parents achieve it. Many do not. They are wiped out psychologically and/or financially from the fighting.

We urge them to stay and try to be a parent, anyway.

We know it can be difficult.

But some progress has been made in recent years. Legislators and the public have come to better understand that children raised with two parents have a better chance in life, regardless of the parents' marital status.

The road is not easy, but we must persevere. And someday, perhaps government will not try to dictate your relationship with your child post-divorce unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Let parents work out their own parenting arrangement—with resources available to them, including mediation, parenting classes, and parenting plans—with government not otherwise involved except in cases of abuse, neglect, abandonment, or parental kidnapping.

To change from a win-lose situation to a win-win situation, parents need the support and help of judges, lawyers, legislators, and mental health professionals.

When parents are led away from the adversarial system, towards resources such as mediation, parenting education, and parenting plans, it has been shown time and again that they can learn cooperation. You can lead parents to the waters of cooperation and expect refreshing results.

That's important if we want to raise children to be the happy, healthy adults they were meant to be.

Once Again — Census Report Shows Connection between Support and Joint Custody

A Census Bureau report released in October 2000 has found strong links between shared parenting and financial child support.

83 percent of custodial parents with joint (legal) custody and visitation arrangements received some or all of the child support they were due. In contrast, among parents with neither joint custody nor visitation, only 36 percent of custodial parents received any payments.

This important connection between shared parenting and financial child support was reported in *The Washington Times*, October 13, 2000, but in almost no other media.

The Census Bureau report states that of the 14.0 million custodial parents in 1996, 7.5 million (54.3 percent) had some type of support agreement or award for their children. When 6.6 million custodial parents without agreement or with non-legal, informal agreements were asked why they did not have a legal agreement, the most frequently given reasons was “they did not feel the need to get legal and go to court” (32.4 percent).

Other reasons include that they felt the other parent could not afford to pay or that the other provided what they could for support (about 23 percent each).

For a full listing of reasons given, see “Family Facts” elsewhere in this newsletter.

The report was based on 1997 data.

Other Findings

- About 59.5 percent of custodial mothers and 38.2 percent of custodial fathers had child support agreed to or awarded to them. Awards rates were highest (about two-thirds) for custodial mothers who were either divorced, non-Hispanic White, or had at least some college education.
- More parents are receiving the child support they are due, but the total number of parents who received no payments stayed about the same.

- 41 percent of some 7 million custodial parents who were owed support received all they were due. This is significantly more than in 1995, when 34 percent of parents said they were paid in full. However, the data show a decline in partial payments - only 27 percent of custodial parents received some of their child support payments, compared with 35 percent in 1993. Altogether, this meant that in 1997, around 68 percent of custodial parents got at least some child support, while 32 percent of parents got nothing.

This payment rate is virtually the same as in 1993, when 69 percent of parents received some support and 31 percent did not, the Census Bureau said.

It further noted that the average amount of child support received by custodial parents—\$3,500 a year in 1997—was also unchanged from 1993.

The 1996 Welfare Reform law passed by Congress included sweeping child support reforms, such as creation of a national database to track and gather payments from parents and requiring states to put liens on property, cancel passports, and revoke automobile, professional, and hunting and fishing licenses.

Those laws impact doesn't appear in the 1997 data—“It is sort of a cusp year,” said Michael Kharfen, spokesman for the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement.

Significant increases will be seen later, he said, noting that state data from 1998 and 1999 already have picked up higher rates of paternity establishment and collections.

Confirmation of Connection between Joint Custody and Support

Note: This 1997 Census Bureau data supports an earlier 1991 Census Bureau report that showed “A higher percentage of fathers with joint custody pay the

child support due (90.2 percent) than fathers who have visitation privileges (79.1 percent) or those without visitation or joint custody (44.5 percent).

Confirmation that Many Fathers are Unable to Pay

Further note: This report also substantiates a federal government report issued in 1992 that said 66 percent of mothers **with a child support award** who did not receive payment from the father said it is because the fathers were unable to pay. The 66 percent figure was reported by the custodial mothers regardless of whether the fathers lived in the same state or in a different state from the mother. The 1992 report was issued by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), report GAO/HRD-92-39 Mothers Report Receiving...

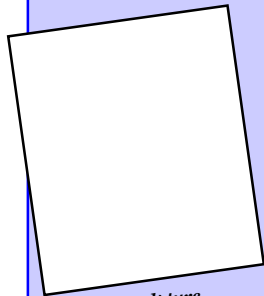
Several years after the GAO report was released, a federal official claimed that the report should have said 66 percent of parents were “unwilling” to pay rather than were “unable to pay.”

Aside from the several year delay in that official's “discovery” of supposed federal error, this new Census Bureau report appears to buttress the earlier GAO finding that many mothers regard fathers as “unable to pay.”

Another substantiation of inability to pay is the strong effort being made in the past years to reach out to young, never-married parents, to offer them jobs and job training. This effort is being led by the federal child support office, various foundations, and the National Center for Strategic Non-Profit Planning and Community Leadership (NPCL), which is funded by the Ford and Mott Foundations.

CRC General Counsel Michael L. Oddenino's email address is kidfirst@msn.com His website is www.oanglaw.com

Original Sculpture to be Ruffled



Sculpture

A fine sculpture depicting a young man, his belongings slung over his shoulders in a sack upon landing at Ellis Island, has been donated to CRC by internationally known sculptor Philip Ratner.

The sculpture, valued at \$3,000, is made from the original materials of the statue of Liberty which were replaced during the structural modifications in the 1980's. The sculpture is a limited edition collectible.

CRC is raffling this sculpture and will issue only 1,000 tickets. The tickets are available for \$3, three for \$8,

or 24 for \$59.

The drawing for the raffle will be CRC's 13th national conference banquet, Thursday evening, May 4. You do not have to be present to win.

"Not only are the Ellis Island sculptures beautiful, but they increase in value over the years as well," said Rabbi Mendel Abrams, a CRC advisor, who owns a number of the sculptures.

Ellis Island, in New York Harbor, was extensively restored in the '80's. As part of the renovation, a park on the island was created to memorialize the immigrants who came to the United States. A number of four-foot high sculptures by Philip Ratner are on permanent exhibit.

Young Man with a Sack is a replica of one of these.

Raffle Ticket

Value \$3,000. Send me _____ tickets at \$3 each, 3 for \$8, or 24 for \$60

Charge: MC Visa AmEX

CC: _____ Exp. date _____

Or amount enclosed _____

Name _____

Address _____

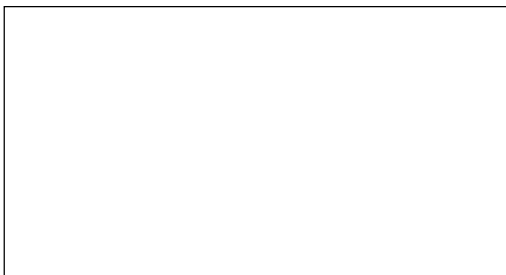
Phone No _____

Fill out form above, and mail to CRC at 300 "I" St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002 or fax to CRC at 202/547-6227.

Tickets will be mailed to you. You need not be present to win at drawing May 4, 2000.

CRC People Highlighted

Rick Kuhn



*(l to r)
Rick, and
his children
Christine,
Kevin and
Gary.*

Rick Kuhn has helped enormously to trouble shoot computer programs, and to upgrade our main website, at gocr.com

Rick is also a CRC evaluator of research, and finds important information on joint custody and access (visitation) that we periodically share with our readers in this newsletter.

Seven years ago, Rick received helpful information from John Bauserman, Sr., CRC's ace researcher on joint custody (shared parenting). Shortly after that, Rick volunteered to help CRC with statistics and computer work, and set up a website for the Maryland chapter.

Rick has three children, who keep him busy. He also serves as a den leader for his sons' cubscout pack.

"Rick is an excellent researcher, always accessible, and never says 'no' when it comes to helping CRC," said CRC President David L. Levy. "He is one of those terrific individuals a group comes to rely on very heavily."

CRC Needs

- Free or reduced-fee office space. Get a tax write-off as you help kids and CRC. 1,200 square feet or more anywhere in the Washington, D.C. area (Maryland, D.C. or Virginia).
- A new photocopy machine.
- Volunteers to help with filing, phone calls, and writing letters.
- Our chapters need computers.
- Lawyers to write CRC Amicus Briefs on appeal.

Our chapters around the country could use office space, photocopiers, and volunteers, too!

Upcoming Event

Stepfamily Association of America

The National Conference on Stepfamilies, sponsored by the Stepfamily Association of America, will be held at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel, Feb. 22-24, 2001, a few days before Mardi Gras. SAA is a national affiliate organization of CRC. This promises to be SAA's biggest conference ever. Speakers include Constance Ahrons, Margorie Engel, E. Mavis Hetherington, Wade Horn, David L. Levy, Neil Tift, and Emily and John Visher. Registration \$349, phone 617/469-6789, or email PIRIDC@mail.com Hotel rooms \$209, phone 1-800-228-9290, mention SAA conference.


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) ___."

Around the Country

Virginia Group to Implement Required Parenting Education

Works to Implement Parenting Education



A group called the Parent Education Network (PEN) has been established

in Virginia to assure compliance with a family-oriented parenting education law (see Summer 2000 "Speak Out for Children").

The law requires all parents involved in custody or visitation (access) disputes to attend parent education seminars in the state of Virginia. The law takes effect July 1, 2001.

The Parent Education Network will teach the effects of divorce on children, present alternative ways to resolve conflict resolution than litigation, including mediation, and alternative parenting arrangements.

Murray Steinberg, head of the Family Resolution Council in Richmond, Virginia, an affiliate of CRC, led the long effort to get Virginia to require parenting education for all divorcing parents.

Steinberg

Steinberg said the network is important to make sure that the law is implemented.

He said that the model curriculum for the course was established by a Virginia Supreme Court committee. The curriculum states that one purpose of the course is "to encourage positive involvement of both parents in the lives of their children."

Steinberg is treasurer of the organization. Others are parent educators throughout Virginia. The president of the organization is Ann Warshauer, a parent education/mediator in Falls Church, VA.

For those who wish to obtain a copy of the curriculum, phone 804-786-6984, and ask for House Document No. 26, 2000, which is the "Model Parent Education Curriculum and a Study of Related Custody and Visitation Issues."

Steinberg may be contacted at family@richmond.net, or by phone at 1-804-559-7090.

West Virginia Encourages Two-Parent Families

Starting in July, 2000, the state of West Virginia started increasing the marriage incentive payment made to cash assistance recipients. The cash assistance program in West Virginia is known as WV WORKS.

In 1996, the State Legislature passed welfare reform legislation that provided for a 10 percent increase in the cash assistance check a family receives when that family includes a man and a woman legally married to each other and there are dependent children of one or both. One of the main purposes of welfare reform is to encourage the formation and stability of two-parent families who receive public assistance.

To further encourage this goal, the legislature increased the marriage incentive payment from 10 percent of the calculated cash assistance benefit to a flat \$100 a month payment, added to the regular monthly benefit amount.

For example, the current maximum cash assistance benefit for a family of four is \$412 per month. If the family includes a man and woman legally married to each other, they will receive an additional \$100, for a total monthly cash assistance payment of \$512. Prior to July, 2000, the family would receive a marriage incentive of only \$41.

"The Legislature recognized that a key to helping families on cash assistance achieve self-sufficiency is to have both parents in the home, providing a stable environment. This increased marriage incentive was designed with this intent," said a press release from the Office of Family Support within the WV Department of Health and Human Services.

Shared Parenting — It Makes Sense

Theme for CRC's 13th National Conference May 4-6, 2001

Catherine Meyer, author of "They Are My Children, Too," Honorary President of the Children's Rights Council, and wife of the British Ambassador to the U.S., announces CRC will hold its 13th national conference, May 4-6, 2001, at the Holiday Inn, Bethesda, Maryland, adjacent of Washington, D.C. Lady Meyer announced that Mark Roseman, CRC Connecticut coordinator, who has 8 years experience in conference management, will be conference coordinator. Barbara Steinberg, Ph.D., is coordinating the faculty of presenters.

"This three day conference is multidisciplinary and will focus on parenting for children of never-married, separated and divorced parents, as well as national and international kidnapping of children," says Meyer.

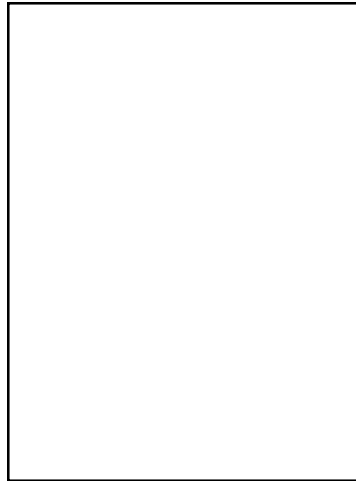
Conference seminars will be available for parents of kidnapped children, experts in The Abuse Excuse, educators, therapists, psychologists, mediators, faith-based community, lawyers, government officials, access (visitation) staff, attorneys and child advocates.

Call the Holiday Inn at 1-877-888-3001 for hotel registration, \$99 a night; mention CRC conference.

Earlybird conference registration to April 15, \$275 for CRC members; \$325 for non-members. After that, add additional \$40 for registration. Phone 202-547-6227, or register online at www.gocrc.com. Student/Scholarship Rate \$190.

All rates include six meals — 3 continental breakfasts (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), two lunches (Friday, Saturday), and banquet Friday evening.

CEU's are available through American Psychological Assn. and the Family Therapy Institute, Rockville, MD. CLE's are available for attorneys through the American Bar Association and state bar associations.



(r to l) CRC Honorary President Catherine Meyer; Willie Lewis, a friend of Lady Meyer, who is assisting with the benefit reception May 3; conference coordinator Mark Roseman, and CRC President David L. Levy, gather at the Embassy to discuss plans.

Awards Time Again

At the 2001 conference, CRC will present Chief Justice Warren E. Burger awards for "Healers" among judges, lawyers, and others; Best in Media Awards; and Active Parenting Awards. CRC has presented such awards at past conferences. These coveted awards provide national recognition for the winners, and an engraved plaque and other citations. More than one award may be given in each category. Only current members of national CRC may submit an application. If unsure whether your membership is current, contact CRC office in Washington, D.C.

Healer Awards

The Healer Awards are named in honor of Warren E. Burger, the late Chief Justice of the United States. When he was Chief Justice, Burger urged lawyers to be "healers," not just "litigators."

A "Healer" might be

- a judge who takes the lead in promoting joint custody (shared parenting);
- an attorney with a professional track record of promoting a child's

access to two parents and others who have bonded with the child.

Best in Media Awards

Possible contenders are:

- best treatment of children and parents of divorce in the news media (including newspapers, magazines, TV and radio coverage);
- best media coverage of a county agency that provides programs for teenage parents;

Active Parenting

Possible contenders are:

- programs that help with family formation and family preservation;
- programs that help parents do better parenting in the event of divorce.

Both you and the nominee will be expected to attend the CRC conference, where you will present the award to the winner on behalf of CRC at the banquet Thursday evening, May 4, 2000.

Enclose each nomination with a one or two page letter explaining why the nominee should be selected, together with a sample of the nominee's work. In all cases, the CRC chapter in your state (if there is a chapter) must support the nomination. See list of chapters in this newsletter. If no chapter, the nomination must be supported by at least one other member (beside yourself) of national CRC. If unsure whether your national membership is current, contact CRC.

Send all nominations and supporting documents to:

Mark Roseman,
CRC Conference Coordinator
48 Shepards Knoll Drive
Hamden, CT 06514
phone: 203/288-7827
fax: 203/281-1425
email: LIBROS3@aol.com

Do not send nominations to the CRC office; that will only delay the process. Send them to Mark Roseman. Thank you.

Come to the Children's Rights Council 13th National Conference May 4-6, 2001



**Holiday Inn Hotel
Bethesda, Maryland**

Shared Parenting — It Makes Sense

“CRC conferences are fantastic! High energy, lots of ideas, terrific networking, the latest information on children and families to energize you and your colleagues back home.”

—Margaret Wuwert, Ohio, grandmother,
attended 4 conferences

“The quality of speakers and information offered at CRC conferences is the best bang for the buck I have ever seen — and I attend many conferences!”

—David Arnaudo, former administrator,
federal access (visitation) grants to the states,
Child Support Office, U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services (HHS).

Conference

More than 30 conference seminars for parents, child advocates, stepparents, grandparents, social workers, pediatricians, educators, experts in The Abuse Excuse, therapists, psychologists, mediators, faith-based community, government officials, access (visitation) experts, and attorneys.

Registration	\$275 (CRC member)
	325 (non-member)
	190 (student/scholarship rate)
Day Rate (Fri, Sat or Sun)	100
CEUs (APA) ___ or CLEs ___	10

All rates include 6 meals — Continental breakfast Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; two lunches Friday and Saturday; and Banquet Friday evening.

Gala Benefit Reception

Benefit for Children's Rights Council at the British Ambassador's Residence, 3100 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. (adjacent to the Vice-President's Home). CRC is requesting from \$500 to \$5,000 per ticket. Free transportation from hotel to the Embassy.

Thursday evening, May 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. (the evening before the CRC Conference).

For CRC Members	\$100 (2 for \$195).
Additional tax-deductible contribution	\$ ____

Total enclosed	\$ ____
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Membership in CRC is \$35 per year.

Note: Please consider an additional contribution to help make this conference and the Gala Fundraiser Reception a success. Thank you.

All contributions to CRC are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Your name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Enclosed is _____ per registrant. I enclose check, money order, or charge my Visa ___ MC ___ or AMEX _____

Account No _____ Exp. date _____

_____ I can't attend but wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the success of the events.

Make Your Own Hotel Reservation by April 10. Call Holiday Inn Bethesda, Maryland at 1-877-888-3001, \$99 a night; mention CRC conference. Shuttle service between airports; subway connection from National Airport.

Co-Mamas Affiliates with CRC



*Lynne Oxhorn-Ringwood
The Ex-Wife*



*Louise Oxhorn
The Second Wife*



*Dr. Marjorie Krausz
Psychologist and
Stepmother*

Co-Mamas. What an interesting name! Louise Oxhorn and Lynne Oxhorn-Ringwood barely knew each other when they found themselves part of a new step-family. Louise had married Lynne's ex-husband. These two women had something important in common, raising Lynne's 5 year old son Evan. And like many ex-wives and second wives, they disliked each other.

For 10 years, Louise and Lynne fumbled around each other, often using Evan to communicate. Lynne, like many ex-wives, felt replaced. Louise, like many step-moms, felt Lynne was trying to intrude on her new life. The hostility bubbled silently just below the surface of every decision and everything that involved Evan.

One day they got together and decided to cooperate instead of fight. That worked so well, they decided to help other people. The result was an organization which now receives calls from around the country and TV appearances. They recently appeared on TV

on "To Tell the Truth." After contestants tried to guess who was telling the truth, the host said,

"Now will the real Co-Mamas Please Stand Up."

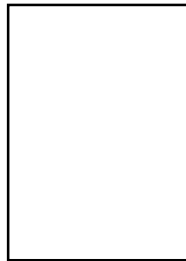
They just received a contract with Simon and Schuster/Fireside to publish a book about their struggle, which resulted in the organization Co-Mamas.

Louise has years of experience conducting seminars and trainings. Lynne co-developed a technique to help people who stutter.

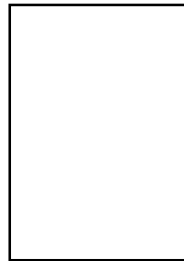
They work with a psychologist, Dr. Marjorie Krausz, who has 27 years of psychological experience. Dr. Krausz has led workshops on such topics as The Dynamics of Healthy Relationships, Parenting, and Coping with Difficult People.

See page 30 for information on how to reach Co-Mamas.

Parenting Coalition International Affiliates with CRC



*Belinda Rollins
President*



*Suzanne Begin
Board Chairman*

Belinda Rollins, the indefatigable head of Parenting Coalition International, Inc. has accepted an invitation from CRC to affiliate her organization with CRC. Rollins, whose organization is based in Washington, D.C., has spent more than six years building a coalition of parenting organizations. PCI works to help parenting organizations around the country to fulfill their own missions by improved networking with other groups, including potential funding sources.

PCI's Board Chairman is Suzanne

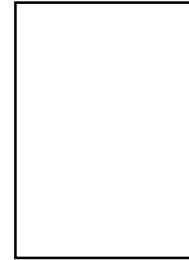
Begin, of Atlanta, certified as a Family Life Educator by the National Council on Family Relations.

PCI was instrumental in convincing Congress in 1993 to declare the fourth Sunday in July as National Parents Day. Each year, groups around the country are urged to hold celebrations and activities acknowledging parents.

PCI describes itself as the "clearing-house of clearinghouses." Its website is parentingcoalition.org

Prior to the 9th annual Family Re-Union Conference in Nashville, Tennessee in November, sponsored by Vice-President Al Gore and Vanderbilt University, Rollins led a networking session that included CRC, Parents Without Partners, and other groups. See Page 30 for additional information on PCI.

First Ever Chapter in Maine



Jan Brown

Jan Brown of Maine has formed the first ever CRC chapter in that state. Jan is a custodial mother of children Desiree, 18, and Sean, 10, but whose husband Tedd has gone through an enormous battle with his ex-wife over access to his children Charlotte, 11, and T.J., 7. Tedd has not seen his two children, who live in Massachusetts, for four years. Jan is a paralegal student, due to graduate in 2001, Jan opened the first ever Men's Help Line in Maine, tollfree at 1-877-643-1120, access code 0757, which also makes referrals to the existing 14 projects for women across the state. Jan plans to work on the legislative front for more prosecution of false allegations, so officials can provide help to children who really are abused.

They live in Harmony, a town one hour from August, the state capitol.

Family Facts

Again — The U.S. Census Bureau Shows Connection between Shared Parenting and Financial Child Support

For the second time, the U.S. Census Bureau has shown a connection between joint custody (shared parenting) and a higher payment of financial child support.

A Census Bureau report released in October 2000 found that 83 percent of custodial parents with joint (legal) custody and visitation arrangements received some or all of the child support they were due. On the other hand, among parents with neither joint custody nor visitation, only 36 percent of custodial parents received any support. The most frequently given reason for not having a legal agreement that would provide for support are, in percentages:

- Parents did not feel the need to get legal and go to court (32.4);
- Felt that the other parent could not afford to pay or that the other parent provided what they could for support (about 23 percent each).
- Did not want other parent to pay (18.9)
- Did not legally establish paternity (17.5)
- Did not want to have contact with other parent (15.3).
- Other reasons (14.3)
- Could not locate other parent (13.3)
- Child stays with other parent part of the time (12.7)
- Child was too old (0.4)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Child Support for Custodial Mothers and Fathers: 1997 (P60-212)*.

This confirms an earlier (1992) Census Bureau report that said 66 percent of mothers **with a child support award** who did not receive payment from the father said it is because the fathers were unable to pay.

And an earlier (1997) U.S. Census Bureau report found the connection between joint custody (shared parenting) and a higher payment of financial support.

The earlier report found that 90.2 of fathers with joint custody paid all of their support owed, 79.1 percent of fathers with access (visitation) to their children paid part of their support, while only 44.5 percent of fathers with neither joint custody nor visitation paid child support.

Start Saying “Parenting,” Not “Paternity”

Some parenting activists, state officials and child support vendors (companies that sell products to child support offices) are starting to use the phrase “parentage establishment,” not “paternity establishment.” Paternity refers only to fathers, while parentage refers to fathers, mothers and children. Raising of children is an effort that requires both mothers and fathers—and this includes babies born in hospitals to never-married parents. Parentage gets parents thinking from Day 1 that they are mutually responsible for raising of their child. Parentage suggests that parents need a parenting agreement as to how they will provide for their child emotionally and financially.

Research shows that when both parents are involved in raising their children, children do better on all measurements of behavior. (See American Psychological Association, Section on School Psychology Report, 1998, available from the Children’s Rights Council, 300 “I” Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.)

70% of Highly Conflicted Parents Reach Parenting Agreements

A Special Masters program to help highly conflicted parents to cooperate in the raising of their child has been established in several states.

One such program, in New York State, is a specialized mediation service for parents who have a high level of conflict, are chronic litigators and whose children pay the price for this conflict.

In New York, 70 percent of parents have reached parenting agreements.

Because of the high conflict, the parents are usually seen separately, not together. Parents are encouraged to adopt a flexible position rather than “my way or the highway.”

Much attention is given to the introduction of solution focused models or problem solving.

Connecticut and California are among other states offering similar programs.

For more information, contact CRC.

Congressional Update

New Law Would Establish Police-Station Type Transfers for Children

Congress has passed a \$30 million dollar provision—\$15 million a year for each of 2 years—to establish supervised visitation as part of an effort to protect Women Against Violence.

Section 305 of the Violence Against Women Act signed by President Clinton would authorize the Attorney General to set up such sites around the country.

To receive funding, states or non-profit groups would have to work with local women's shelters, and organizations designed to protect women from violence.

Organizations which operate supervised access sites find that violence against women or children constitute about 15 percent of the clients who use these sites. Other reasons that judges refer parents to the site are for alcohol and substance abuse problems, severe communication problems between the parents, or re-entry of a parent into a child's life after a long absence.

About 40 percent of parents court ordered to use these sites are women.

CRC has operated one supervised access site in Maryland for more than a year. We take security precautions to protect participants, but we believe that the requirement to work with domestic violence shelters would lead to supervised visitation in settings that are as difficult for parents and children as police stations.

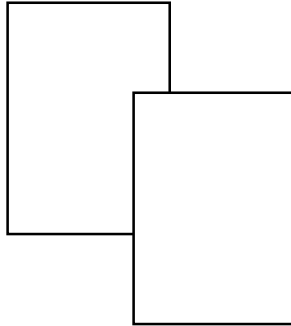
Families need "neutral settings" and so long as these settings protect children and parents and offer a "Safe Haven" for transitional parenting to take place, they should receive funding.

Although this bill is now law, **THE FUNDING FOR THE BILL WILL NOT OCCUR UNTIL FEBRUARY, WHEN THE NEW CONGRESS CONVENES.**

We ask you to write the following letter to the Appropriations Committees in the House and the Senate.

ACTION ALERT! ACTION ALERT!

Write to Appropriations Committee Chairman Stevens (Senate) and Young (House) urging more funds for Family Friendly Programs, and only \$1 million a year for Police Station Type Supervised Access to Children



C. W. Bill Young,
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
H-218
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Ted Stevens,
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear _____

I urge Congress to fund the pilot program for supervised visitation under the Violence Against Women Act for only \$1 million a year, not \$15 million.

The balance of the funds should go to increase the \$10 million a year provided by the Welfare Reform Law for **six different types of programs** for the states, including supervised access to children, transfer of children between parents, mediation, parenting education, and parenting plans.

Setting up sites in cooperation with domestic violence shelters has already proven to be unworkable, because too many children and parents feel uncomfortable in such police station type settings.

Existing supervised sites run by the Children's Rights Council and other groups provide security and safety, but they are run in a "neutral" way that respects parents, and helps them do better by their children.

Visit one of these existing sites. Call CRC at 202-547-6227, or see their website at gocrc.com

Please provide just \$1 million a year for the "pilot program" in VAWA and provide other funds to proven, established programs.

Signed,
Your name

Short Version

I urge Congress to fund the pilot program for supervised visitation under the Violence Against Women Act for only \$1 million a year. Give the other \$14 provided in the pilot program to increase funding for access (visitation) programs provided for in the Welfare Reform Act, including transfer sites for children, mediation, parenting education and parenting plans.

Print your name, address and date on the letter (not just on the envelope)
Send a copy, with request for reply, to your own House Member and Senators.

Send a copy to CRC, at fax 202-546-4272 or address, 300 "I" Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Language of Act to Establish Supervised Access in Police-Station Type Settings

Violence Against Women Act, H.R. 1258

Title III, Subtitle B – Limiting the Effects of Violence on Children

Section 305. SAFE HAVENS FOR CHILDREN PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) In General – The Attorney General may award grants to States, units of local government, and Indian school governments that propose to enter into or expand the scope of existing contracts and cooperative agreements with public or nonprofit entities to provide supervised visitation and safe visitation exchange of children by and between parents in cases of domestic violence, child abuse or sexual assault.

(1) CONSIDERATIONS – In awarding grants under subsection (a) the Attorney General shall take into account

(b) the number of families to be served by the proposed visitation program and services;

(2) the extent to which the proposed supervised visitation programs and services serve underserved populations (as defined in section 2003 of title 1 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 USC. 36796ggg-2));

(3) with respect to an applicant for a contract or cooperative agreement, the extent to which the applicant demonstrates cooperation, and collaboration with nonprofit, nongovernment entities in the local community served, including the State domestic violence coalition, State sexual assault coalition, local shelters, and programs for domestic violence and sexual assault victims; and

(4) the extent to which the applicant demonstrates coordination and collaboration with State and local court systems, including mechanisms for communication and referral.

(c) APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS—The Attorney General shall award grants for contracts and cooperative agreements to applicants that –

(1) demonstrate expertise in the area of family violence, including the areas of domestic violence or sexual assault, as appropriate

(2) ensure that any fees charged to individuals for use of programs and services are based on the income of those individuals, unless otherwise provided by court order;

(3) demonstrate that adequate security measures, including adequate facilities, procedures, and personnel capable of preventing violence are in place for the operation of supervised visitation programs and services or safe visitation exchange; and

(4) prescribe standards by which the supervised visitation or safe visitation exchange will occur.

(d) REPORTING –

(1) IN GENERAL – Not more than 1 year after the last day of the first fiscal year commencing on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than 180 days after the last day of each fiscal year thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report that includes information concerning—

(A) the number of –

(i) individuals served and the number of individuals turned away from visitation programs and services and safe visitation exchange (catalogued by State);

(ii) the number of individuals from underserved populations served and turned away from services, and

(iii) the type of problems that underlie the need for supervised visitation or safe visitation exchange, such as domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, other physical abuse, or a combination of such factors;

(B) the numbers of supervised or safe visitation exchanges under a separation or divorce decree or protection order, through child protection services or other social services agencies, or by any other order of a civil, criminal, juvenile, or family court;

(C) the process by which children or abused partners are protected during visitations, temporary custody transfers and other activities for which supervised visitation is established under this section;

(D) safety and security problems occurring during the reporting period during supervised visitation under this section, including the number of parental abduction cases, and

(E) the number of parental abduction cases in a judicial district among supervised visitation programs and services under this section, both as identified in criminal prosecution and custody violations.

(2) The Attorney General shall establish guidelines for the collection and reporting of data under this subsection.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS – There is authorized to be appropriated from the Violence Crime Reduction Trust Fund established under the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 1421) to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 and 2002.

(f) ALLOTMENT FOR INDIAN TRIBES – Not less than 5 percent of the total amount made available for each fiscal year to carry out this section shall be available for grants to Indian tribal governments.

This sign appeared on 50 buses in Washington, D.C. during August and part of September, 2000. CRC received many phone calls from parents who saw the signs.

New Proposal Could Encourage Parental Abductions

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) Family Law Section [<http://www.nccusl.org/uniformacts-subjectmatter.htm#family>] has recommended that states adopt a replacement for the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA) known as the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) which can be viewed at:

<http://www.law.upenn.edu/bll/ulc/fnact99/1990s/uccjea97.htm>

While the intent of the proposal is to minimize parental abductions and jurisdiction shopping, the new "Emergency Jurisdiction" language will not only defeat the intent of the proposal, but will encourage parental abductions.

This new "Emergency" language provides for unsubstantiated "threats" a parent claims were made against him/her to be sufficient to nullify jurisdiction in the home state.

Adoption of this language will allow a parent to go to the state with the highest child support guidelines, make an unsubstantiated allegation of abuse or threat of abuse against him/her... and that state can (and will) assume custody

jurisdiction. Once the state assumes custody jurisdiction, they can (and most likely will) assume child support jurisdiction.

This proposed "Emergency Language" is a major change. It expands the criteria from abuse, neglect or threat of the same against the child to "threats against parent" 22 states have already adopted this law.

As a typical example, in Virginia, this bill, introduced by Senator Bill Mimms (R-Leesburg) is SB 462 (carried over from 1999.) It can be viewed at: <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?ses=001&typ=bil&val=SB462>

The emergency jurisdiction language is in section 20-146.15. ^o 20-146.15. Temporary emergency jurisdiction.

A. A court of this Commonwealth has temporary emergency jurisdiction if the child is present in this Commonwealth and the child has been abandoned or it is necessary in an emergency to protect the child because the child, or a sibling or parent of the child, is subjected to or threatened with mistreatment or abuse.

Compare this language to the existing VA Code: ^o 20-126A.3:

The child is physically present in this Commonwealth and (i) the child has been abandoned, or (ii) it is necessary in an emergency to protect the child because he has been subjected to or threatened with mistreatment or abuse or is otherwise neglected or dependent.

All courts agree that the "emergency" section is the one most subject to manipulative abuse by child-snatchers and forum-shoppers because it throws out all the careful jurisdiction-allocation rules of the UCCJA and the PKPA (Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act.)

This is an important proposal to watch. Most states already have sufficient domestic violence safety-nets incorporated into their laws. Please share your concerns with legislatures that are considering this proposal and for the 22 states that have already adopted this language, collect the data showing how the new "emergency custody jurisdiction" language has caused an increase in parental abductions and ask them to modify that section so that the law conforms to NCCUSL's original intent... to eliminate "forum-shopping" and parental abduction.

Updated Parenting Directory Available

Help More People! Find out about the 1,050 other groups around the country working on family issues, so that you can make referrals to parents who call you and need help.

Order CRC's "International Parenting Directory" in hardcopy or disc. It is also on our parenting website, info4parents.com

The Directory contains listings of about 1,050 organizations that work in areas such as custody, access (visitation), and prevention of parental kidnapping.

The Directory is \$12 for CRC members, and \$15 for non-members. CRC thanks Paul Robinson and Ed Mudrak for their hard work in updating this Directory.

The hardcopy is updated once a year; the disc and website are updated frequently. Order from CRC and specify which version you want—hardcopy or disc.

Please fax us corrections or updates on information whenever you can, to 202-546-4272.

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.

Congressional Update

Fatherhood Bill Stalled in U.S. Senate

The \$150 million Fatherhood bill that was approved twice by the U.S. House of Representatives stalled in the Senate before the November 7 election.

The bill, H.R. 4689, would have provided funds to encourage the role of fathers as parents in low income families and to help fathers better provide for their children.

There was a strong push to have the Senate pass the bill in October or early November, but it did not come to a vote.

The bill could have been considered if a special session of Congress was convened after the November election. Alternatively, the bill could be considered by the new Congress that convenes in late January, 2001.

Welfare Reform, passed by Congress for the first time in 1996, is up for renewal in 2001. A fatherhood bill may be considered as part of Welfare Reform renewal.

The Fatherhood bill was passed for the first time by the House in 1999. The second time, it was attached to the Child Support Omnibus Bill of 2000. That bill provided that when child support is paid by, say, a father *after* the mother receives welfare, the child support should be forwarded to the mother. In the past, the child support would be split 50-50 by the state and the federal government, to reimburse them for the payment of welfare to the mother.

In order to help families, both the states and federal government were willing to give up their portion of reimbursement. Senator Don Nickles (R-OK) was concerned that the bill would “mandate” the states to pass through their child support reimbursement to the custodial parent.

In order to win Nickles’s approval, House managers of the bill “converted the mandate to an option, thereby making Senator Nickles and the state orga-

nizations happy,” according to one Capitol Hill observer.

The federal government mandate for pass-through was not changed.

Still, Sen Nickles, who chaired a powerful Senate committee, would not approve passage of the over-all legislation.

Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank in Washington, D.C., wrote to members of Congress urging that the Fatherhood bill not be passed, because it was “anti-marriage.”

Chairman Nancy Johnson of the Human Resources Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Committee, who had led House passage of the bill in two occasions, wrote a follow-up letter to Congressmembers saying that the bill was not anti-marriage.

To what extent Sen. Nickles may have been affected by the Robert Rector letter was unclear.



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 2000–2001, CRC has three new levels of support of CRC. They are:

- A **PLATINUM LIFE MEMBER** is one who donates \$5,000 or more
- A **GOLD LIFE MEMBER** is one who donates \$2,500 to \$4,999.
- A **SILVER LIFE MEMBER** is one who donates \$1,000 to \$2,499.
- 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.

CRC Wants Chapters in Every State

For development of chapters in states that do not yet have any CRC chapters,

For information on states out west, contact CRC Board Member from the chapters Terry Cady in Illinois.

Re: states in the south, contact Board Advisor from the chapters Fred Wall in North Carolina.

Re: states in the east, contact Board Advisor from the chapters Margaret Wuwert in Ohio.

See their names and numbers above.

Join CRC, then ask for a copy of the 100-page CRC booklet that explains everything you need to know about affiliation. The cost of the booklet is \$15.00.

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

MANY BOOKS DISCOUNTED!

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Discounted Books Are in BoldType

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 genders 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 is rather, humor, and funny 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: It's Not What It Used to be, by Irene Endicott, forward by Gloria Gathier, Expert Answers to your questions.

SB-402 ----- Reg. \$15.00
*Discount Price \$7.00

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

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.

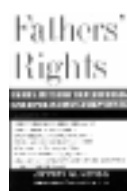
HB-506 \$19.95

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.

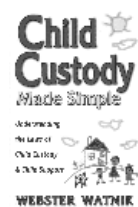
SB-510 \$12.50

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 ----- not for parents.

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

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.

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**Add \$2 for shipping first mug, \$1 each
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The Best Parent is Both Parents, white printing on a
 black background.

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Equal Parents' Week

Sent a Message Around the World

September 25–October 1, 2000



By Patti Diroff

CRC National Director of Equal Parents Week

“The Best Parent is Both Parents” message was sent this year with purple ribbons and candlelight vigils in 25 states. Equal Parents Week Vigils were held in prominent locations such as the Historic Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and the Jacob Purdy House in White Plains, New York. Individuals and organizations in the following states participated this year: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Through the efforts of Margaret Wuwert, CRC Ohio Coordinator and her enlisted support of Judge Andrew Devine of the Juvenile Court, Ohio Governor Robert Taft formally adopted the Equal Parents' Week from September 17-23, 2000. A family/social theme was designated for each day during the week and week-long activities took place involving several community groups.

This year, support for Equal Parents' Week gained significant international momentum and support. Six foreign countries—Canada, England, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile—were the sites for thirteen vigils and purple ribbon displays.

There are universal issues which affect people throughout the world. Many people have heartfelt devotion to their children and families. They have a deeply rooted dedication to reform their laws and legal systems. This motivates them to work together on such issues as Equal Parents' Week.

Special thanks to George Brito, director of “Corporation of Parents for the Equality of Rights in Front of the Child” in Santiago, Chile, and Julian Fitzgerald of the Equal Parenting Platform in England, whose international contacts were instrumental in gaining support for Equal Parents' Week, as well as preparing and distributing translations.

Patti Diroff may be contacted at 909/591-3689 and pattidiroff@worldnet.att.net <http://members.tripod.com/epweek>

International News

Two international events took place during Equal Parents' Week. On October 2, the Equal Parenting Party of England (CRC of the UK) presented the government with the Petition for Equal Parenting containing more than 20,000 signatures. This day marked the 1-year anniversary of the UK's Human Rights Act, which requires British judges to apply the European Convention on Human Rights in domestic courts.

During September and October, a Canadian movement called “Unity Trek” held meetings in various parts of Canada to gain political, public and media attention to the issues of family, divorce court, and enforcement of custody and access orders. As part of this movement, an organization called “Fix It for Kids” is being formed to unite people in Canada to work together for reform.

**The Next
Equal Parents Week is
Sept. 24 –Sept. 30**

**Candlelight Vigils for 2001
Wednesday, September 26 8:30 p.m.**

A Way to Adjust the Guideline

Ask a state agency working on child support guidelines in your state to invite Don Bieniewicz, CRC's expert on guidelines, to testify.

Asking Bieniewicz to testify could help convince your state to adopt portions of the only guidelines we know of that is based on a child having two parents.

This CRC guideline, authored by Bieniewicz, was published by the federal

government in a publication entitled “Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation.”

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

Copies of the guideline itself as published by the government are available from CRC for \$5.00 for CRC members, and \$10.00 for non-members, including shipping and handling.

Write to Bieniewicz at 10004 Fairoaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181, contact him via email at DonBien@erols.com, or phone 703-255-0837 (evenings).

Access Counseling in Nebraska

CRC of Nebraska/Iowa has received a \$5,000 access (visitation) grant from the state of Nebraska. This is the third year in a row that the chapter has received a modest portion of state access grant funds.

The chapter will use the funds to augment volunteer efforts to provide access counseling to parents, other types of counseling, such as anger management and communication skills, parenting education, and a drop-off and pick-up site for children.

Parents who want access counseling must complete a two-page "Children and Parents Access Form".

Access counselors accredited by the Children's Rights Council conduct a review of the parent's case history and past relationship with his or her child. They review any parenting plan, access schedule and financial support orders and history. The focus is on the needs of the child and the benefits of a child-parent relationship.

For accuracy, the access counselor requests all relevant court document.

This review, which takes one to two hours, leads to a diagnosis of the type and cause of access problems that prevent a conflict-free and meaningful relationship between child and parents.

The accredited access counselor is not an attorney and will not give legal advice; but will recommend remedies which have proven to be effective, to improve access (visitation). These include "low adversarial litigation". Low adversarial litigation is conducted by lawyers with mediation training, who work to keep the conflict to a minimum, said Lyn Huerter. Lyn, with her husband Bill, are CRC co-coordinators of NE/IA.

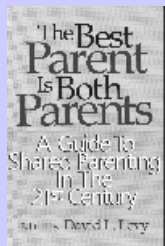
"Access counselors provide specific written recommendations for problems," said Lyn.

CRC of Nebraska/Iowa has eight trained access counselors. All were trained by Dick Woods through CRC. Dick Woods of Iowa has developed the only comprehensive access counselor training course known in the U.S., and CRC is the only organization that offers accreditation for access counselors. The accreditation course will be again offered as a pre-CRC conference Institute at the CRC conference all day Thursday, May 3, 2000. Contact CRC for information.

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Order bulk copies (10 or more) of the still popular 1993 publication, *The Best Parent is Both Parents*, 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 are \$10.

Grandparents Access Denied

Vice-President Al Gore sponsored his 9th annual Family Re-union Conference at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, on November 19, 2000.


The emphasis at the conference was on grandparenting, but no one mentioned interference with grandparents access (visitation) to their grandchildren until CRC President David L. Levy raised the issue during a breakout session. He asked how many grandparents in the room had problems getting to see their grandchildren? About 18 of the 125 people in the room raised their hands. Levy recommended that because of this high number, denial of access (visitation) between grandparents and grandchildren should be talked about more frequently.

Mediation, Moveaway Help

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

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

More Attention Paid to Kidnapping of Children



Catherine Meyer Wages Efforts on Behalf of All Abducted Chil- dren

Meyer

More public attention is being paid to international child abduction in the past few years, but the plight of many children goes unheeded.

CRC receives complaints from parents whose children are being held in Sweden, Germany, Japan, and other countries that have either not signed the Hague Convention, or have signed it but don't enforce it.

Background

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction is a multilateral treaty which seeks to protect children from the harmful effects of international child abduction and retention by establishing administrative and judiciary remedies to bring about their "prompt" return to their country of habitual residence.

The Hague Convention is not concerned with the merits of a custody case. Complaints about the custodial parent or the terms of a custody award, are matters to be dealt with by the jurisdiction of the child's habitual residence. The paramount objective of the Convention is to return the child promptly, so that any subsequent welfare issues relating to the child can be decided in the home jurisdiction.

Except in unusual circumstances, the Convention is based on the assumption that it is in the child's best interest to be returned quickly to its country of

habitual residence. This ensures that the abducting parent cannot profit from the abduction by choosing one jurisdiction over another, i.e., "forum shopping", in the hope of reversing previously custody decisions.

The Convention also seeks to secure protection for rights of access.

Sixty-three countries are parties to the Convention. For the Hague Convention to work effectively in its dual purpose of discouraging and returning abducted children promptly to the country of habitual residence, it must be consistently interpreted and enforced.

In the past few years there has been growing concern that the effectiveness of the Convention is being undermined by the failure of some signatory states to fulfill their obligations. Currently, the U.S. State Department says that it has files on more than 1,100 open international child abduction cases involving U.S. citizens. Congressional investigators estimate that the number of such cases is around 10,000, because many parents do not file.

CRC's honorary president and wife of the British Ambassador to the U.S., Catherine Meyer, is a victim parent. Her two sons were illegally retained by their German father in 1994 in defiance of their custody agreement. Despite initial court decisions in her favor and the pleas of high-ranking officials, she has been unable to get them back. Worse still, she has encountered enormous obstacles to gaining access to her two sons.

Campaign for All Children

While continuing her struggle, Catherine has waged a campaign on behalf of all children in a similar plight. As a result of the wide publicity for her case,

including the publication of her book, "They Are My Children, Too," scores of American parents in a similar plight approached her.

Three Congressional hearings, at which she and other American parents testified, have been held within the past two years. This led to the passage of a resolution by Congress in May 2000, calling for the improved implementation of the International Hague Convention on Child Abduction by several countries, including Austria, Germany and Sweden.

Several days later, Joseph Cooke's story (his abducted children are in a foster home in Germany and he has no access to them) hit the front page of *The Washington Post*. Top officials immediately reacted. And in June, 2000, President Clinton raised these cases with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder during Clinton's official visit to Berlin. They agreed to establish a bi-lateral commission to examine the systemic problem and ways in which victim parents can have access to their children.

"CRC has always been against parental kidnapping of children," said CRC Board Chairman John L. Bauserman, Jr. "We want the return of children to the country of habitual residence, to enforce both custody and access (visitation). That is, where the custodial parent has taken the child, that child should also be returned to the country of habitual residence so that access can take place in a normal way.

CRC favors more shared parenting, because indications are that parents who are involved in their children's upbringing are less likely to kidnaping. "Almost all parental kidnapping take place in the context of sole custody adversarial battles," Bauserman, an attorney, noted.

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.

Relinquishing Custody to Get Health Care

The practice of parents having to relinquish custody in order to obtain mental health care for their children has become all too common. Parents are unable to get adequate medical care through private insurance, so they turn to the child welfare system for help. However, they are told that health care can only be provided if the child is a ward of the state. The foster parent is then eligible to receive the resources and help that is denied to the child's parents. Once custody has been relinquished, parents are denied access to visit their child and to make important decisions concerning the welfare of the child.

According to research from Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, custody relinquishment such as this has been known to happen in at least twenty-seven states and affects "as many as twenty percent of families of children with serious emotional disturbance". There are several reasons why so many parents are asked to give up custody. Most often it is the inadequacy of states to provide and enforce health services that brings parents to the child welfare system in the first place.

The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law and the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health have written a guide, entitled *Staying Together: Preventing Custody Relinquishment for Children's Access to Mental Health Services*. This guide recognizes two clear goals toward finding a solution to this problem. Goal number one is "to prohibit child welfare agencies from requiring custody relinquishment for families to get services for children with significant mental health needs". Goal number two is "to prevent families from having to turn to the child welfare system for help by expanding access to home-and community-based mental health services and supports through the mental health care system". As disturbing as the practice of custody relinquishment is, the guide recognizes that the solution is not simply to end custody relinquishment. An end to custody relinquishment needs to be combined with expanded and more accessible mental health services for children.

Ways to Keep Children at Home

The guide suggests two important ways that states could possibly expand their Medicaid coverage. The first is the "Katie Beckett" option. This option allows states to expand Medicaid benefits to individuals who would normally have to live in an institution in order to receive medical coverage. This option allows a child with mental health needs to live at home and still be able to collect Medicaid benefits.

The second is the home-and community-based waiver. This allows states to cover the care of individuals through home and community based services, without which the individual would need to be hospitalized. Medicaid would normally pay for the cost of that hospitalization. a State may obtain such a waiver from the HealthCare Financing Administration.

There are options available to states to try to prevent custody relinquishment. No child should be forced to leave his or her home because the proper support system has not been set up to help them. Forcing a special needs child into an unfamiliar environment cannot be the best way to deal with his needs.

In addition, it deprives fit parents of the privilege of raising their children. Family support is necessary to deal with these difficult circumstances. Attempts should be made to strengthen families rather than tear them apart. State legislatures should be encouraged to explore alternatives to custody relinquishment and strengthen the mental health care system so that families are not forced to give up their children in order to help them.

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.

2000 Awards

Entertainer Joe Piscopo highlighted the 5th annual Awards Dinner sponsored by the New Jersey Council for Children's Rights (NJCCR) at the Mayfair Farms, November 14, 2000.

"The annual dinner serves as a break from our daily turmoil, celebrates our hard-won victories, and honors those people who have helped us in our struggles," said chapter president Eric Purasoon.

2000 award recipients were:

- Senators Louis C. Bassano and Anthony R. Bucco, sponsors of S-1095, the New Jersey presumption of joint custody bill;
- Douglas Hyatt, NJCCR board member and editor of the NJCCR newsletter, *The Children's Advocate*;
- Robert Kowal, past executive Vice-President of NJCCR, and leading member of the NCJJR pro se network;
- CRC President David L. Levy;
- Serge Prengel, author of the book *Still a Dad*.

Shared Parenting in Massachusetts

A divorced couple will rotate custody of their son under an Appeals Court ruling that eliminates what the father's lawyer called the notion of a main parent and a visiting one.

Under the unusual arrangement, Ippolita Freedman will have son Alex, 7, during the school week for one year, and Roger Freedman will have him on weekends. The next year, they'll switch. The rotation will continue as the boy grows up.

"Our hope is that this ruling shows a trend toward really focusing on the needs of the children," said lawyer Elizabeth Lewis, who represented Roger Freedman. "Every child has a right to equal access to the parent, unless there is something wrong with the parent."

Both parents had asked for sole custody. The state Probate and Family Court crafted the rotating custody plan, and the mother appealed.

Judge Rudolph Kass, writing for the appeals court, upheld the lower court ruling, but acknowledged potential problems, if one parent moves.

James DeGiacomo, the mother's lawyer, said his client is concerned that the decision will limit her career.

"It wasn't in the best interest of the child," DeGiacomo told the Boston Globe. "When a parent is unsettled, that has to have an impact."

Roger Freedman, 49, lives in Wessley. Ippolita Freedman, 30, lives in Brookline, a few minutes away. The boy will attend the same school regardless of where he is living.

Note: Steve Carrier, of CRC of Massachusetts, who brought this case to CRC's attention, said "The decision is significant, considering that only 6 percent of children in Massachusetts enjoy the benefits of shared physical custody."

Carrier said Attorney Elizabeth Lewis is a member of CRC, and is also a spokeswoman for CRC of Massachusetts. "Elizabeth truly believes in the motto of CRC —The Best Parent is Both Parents."

To help CRC of Mass, call 508-347-5960 or e-mail CRCMass@aol.com

Freedman V. Freedman, Mass. App. Ct., No 98-P-1399, 6/27/00, Lawyers Weekly No. 11-134-00, or page 28 M.L.W. 2555, July 10, 2000.

Federal Role in Financial Child Support Enforcement

The federal government has no constitutional authority to pursue criminal charges against parents who owe financial support but live in another state, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit said in a Sept. 26 decision. The Court of Appeals was considering a case involving the arrest of a father in California by U.S. marshals, on the basis that he violated the federal Child Support Recovery Act of 1994 by failing to pay financial child support to the mother of his child, who lived in Michigan.

The Court of Appeals said that the Child Support Recovery Act was "not a proper exercise of Congress's power to regulate interstate commerce." Congress's power to regulate interstate commerce is an inadequate basis for the Act, the court said, because the activity criminalized by the Act "is not commercial in nature." The U.S. Supreme Court already has warned in a recent case against overly elastic interpretations of the Commerce Clause. The Supreme Court said that even though "the aggregate effect of marriage, divorce, and childrearing on the national economy is undoubtedly significant," this does not mean the Commerce Clause applies." the Appeals Court noted.

U.S. v. Faasse, U.S. 6th Cir. Ct of App., No. 98-2337, 9/25/00

Modification of Joint Custody

A parent seeking modification of a joint custody award is not required, as a threshold before he or she may proceed, to prove an inability by the parents to cooperate concerning their child's welfare, the Kentucky Court of Appeals ruled June 23. The case involved a situ-

ation where the parents had joint custody of their five-year-old son, with the mother designated as the child's primary caretaker, although the child subsequently spent more time in the father's home. The mother remarried, and planned to move to Georgia. The father then sought either custody, or to be named as the child's primary caretaker. The trial court denied his motion because he had failed to prove that the parties were unable to cooperate in the joint custody arrangement, as required under the precedent of an earlier case. However, the Court of Appeals said the earlier case involved a court exceeding its judicial authority, since there was no threshold requirement in the statute. It allowed consideration of a possible modification of custody.

Scheer v. Zeigler (Scheer), Ky. Ct. App., No. 1998-CA-002017-MR, 6/23/00

Time Spent With Noncustodial Parent

An automatic deviation from state child support guidelines is not warranted solely as a result of the amount of time that a child spends with a noncustodial parent, the Louisiana Supreme Court decided March 24. The court found that the noncustodial parent must show that the extra time the child is with him results in a greater financial burden on him and a lesser burden on the parent. In the case before the Supreme Court, there was joint legal custody, the mother was the primary domiciliary parent, and the father had extensive visitation.

The trial court granted the father's request for modification of child support, and reduced the amount by 30 percent to reflect the 37 percent of the time the children spent with him under the visitation schedule. Shared custody is more expensive than traditional arrangements, the Supreme Court said, and courts must ensure that any deviation from the guidelines will not result in the domiciliary parent's inability to provide adequately for the child. The Supreme Court said the lower court

should have considered whether application of the guidelines in this particular case would not be in the child's best interest or would be inequitable to the parties.

Guillot v. Munn, La., No. 99-C2132, 32400.

Father's Rights in Adoption

A man who brought a paternity suit, upon finding out that his ex-girlfriend had given birth to their child six months earlier, acted too late to defeat the child's adoption, the Indiana Court of Appeals ruled Aug. 30. The promptness of a paternity claim is measured in terms of the child's life, and not by the time at which the father became aware of the child's existence, the Court of Appeals said. The father's action was barred by time limits in the state's Putative Father Registry statute, the court said. Under the statute, a father who registers with the Putative Father Registry no later than 30 days after his child's birth or the date of filing of the adoption petition, whichever occurs last, is entitled to notice of his child's adoption.

Jones v. Maple (In re Baby Doe), Ind. Ct. App., No. 16A01-0001-JV-35, 8/30/00

With exception of the first case, the above court decisions are summarized from Family Law Reporter, published by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. They appear here by permission of the publisher.

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Fall, 2000 CRC Intern Abraham Perez, University of California at Santa Barbara, helped CRC write 5 grant proposals for funding.

Upcoming Event 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. The theme is: The Formation of Fatherhood. For conference information, contact Charlene Meeks or Jacqueline Ratley at NPCL, phone 202-822-6725. NPCL is the largest national group working to help never-married parents, but all parents and professionals working with families will gain information and contacts.

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How to Purchase A FAMILY DIVIDED

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

National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

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Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC)

Jennifer Isham, coordinator
website only: <http://www/motherswithoutcustody.org>

Parenting Coalition International, Inc.

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1025 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Suite 615
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website: parentingcoalition.org

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)

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650 J Street, Suite 205
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Joint membership in SAA and CRC: \$35.00 for the first year
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