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## Dad's House

by Jeff Golden

A woman calls the police and makes a false domestic violence charge against her husband. He is ejected from his own home. She automatically obtains an ex-parte temporary restraining order which prevents him from returning. If he knows how and is lucky, he will get the restraining order lifted. But where does he live until that happens?

A father is required to have only "supervised" parenting time (visitation) with his children at the home of a friend or relative. This person has agreed to act as supervisor, but did not anticipate that this arrangement would last for months (or more), and can no longer take time every Saturday supervising someone that s/he knows needs no supervision. If the supervisor is not available, the father and children can not see each other. What can they do?

A husband is the victim of ongoing verbal abuse and threats by his wife. He is not concerned for his personal safety because he is bigger and stronger than her, but maybe she will hurt him while he is sleeping. He believes that if he calls the police they won't take him seriously, so he doesn't call. Nevertheless, he is concerned for their children who witness the abuse. Is there somewhere he and his children can go where they will be safe from the abusive wife?

A man has just appeared in Family Court for the first time. His access to his children has been severely limited, and he is required to pay so much child support and temporary spousal support that he can no longer afford to support himself. He saw a FACE poster in the courthouse, and he calls our hot-line. He reaches an answering machine. He can't wait for a call back; he needs help right now. What can he do?

Today, there are no services available for any of these men or their children. Domestic violence victims are advised to phone the New Jersey Division on Women or their local battered women's program, but none of these have any services available for male victims. The best they may do is refer single men to a homeless shelter. These are inappropriate, dangerous, and have no facilities for children.

FACE wants to change this. We want to open the first shelter for men and children in New Jersey.

It will be a place where abused fathers and children and men who are ejected from their homes by restraining orders can find safe, clean temporary housing. It will have a Parenting (visitation) Room, with supervisors available for parents who require them. And it will house FACE headquarters, so we can have someone manning our hot-line 24 hours a day. "Dad's House" might be a good name for it - from Isolina Ricci's book "Mom's House, Dad's House."

To do this we need a building. Ideally, it should be located conveniently to at least one of the courthouses. But we don't have enough money to buy or even rent one. We are looking for someone who will either donate a building or allow us to establish our shelter in a building that they own.

Continued on Page 2

The board of directors of FACE-NJ apologizes for the unavoidable delay in releasing this edition of About FACE-NJ. Technical difficulties, finances, personnel changes and the rapidly changing legal environment for New Jersey families all contributed to the delay.

We plan to be back on our regular quarterly publication schedule in 1996. To help accomplish this, we again appeal to you, our members and supporters, to contribute articles and letters for publication.

We also need volunteers for a FACE-NJ editorial board that is now forming. If you have writing skills or resources for computer typesetting or printing are available to you, please contact a board member.

## Dad's House

Continued from Page 1

Critics and naysayers will say "If FACE doesn't have enough money to buy a building, how will you be able to run your shelter?"

With donations and grants. We will contact the same state agencies that fund the women's shelters. We will contact IOLTA (Interest On Lawyers Trust Accounts trust fund). And we will ask all the people who make the big bucks in Family Court to contribute - the lawyers, the judges and the psychologists.

They will say "If you do get a vacant building, how will you renovate it to be an appropriate shelter?" They forget who we are. FACE members are architects, carpenters, plumbers, roofers

and electricians. We have all of the skills to do the work ourselves, and the contacts with suppliers to get building materials donated.

They will also say "Even if you do get a building and complete the renovations, will you be able to operate a shelter?" We are also business managers, accountants, financial analysts and project managers. We are also experienced parents and grandparents. We will seek the advice of others who operate similar facilities, but we have spent our entire lives operating businesses and caring for children, and this will not be very different.

This has been a long range goal of FACE for a long time. It is now time to act on it. To get the Dad's House project rolling, we need to form a FACE Shelter Committee. We need volunteers to solicit donations and write grant applications. If you are experienced, or have time available and would like to learn how, call the FACE hot-line at 609/786-FACE and let us know.

Even if you can't be on the FACE Shelter Committee, there is something else, equally important, that you can do right now. Remember that lawyer and that psychologist that you

gave thousands of dollars to? Write or phone them and tell them that you expect them to make substantial donations to help build Dad's House, the FACE shelter for fathers and children, then give us their names and phone numbers.

## Public Apology

During our "Fatherless Day" demonstrations at several courthouses on June 16, 1995, an individual who is not a member of FACE distributed a satirical parody newsletter of a fictitious organization. The content of this newsletter does not reflect FACE's position or goals, and FACE did not authorize its distribution.

FACE apologizes to all who may have found this material offensive. Measures will be taken to avoid a recurrence of this unfortunate incident.

"Do right and fear no man;  
don't write and fear no  
woman."

Senator Sam Ervin,  
South Carolina  
Watergate Hearings

### About **FACE NJ**

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## Gloucester/Salem/Cumberland County Support Meeting

For the past three years, Harold Doty has hosted FACE's monthly Gloucester County support meeting at his Mullica Hill home. Business commitments prevent Harold from continuing to host this meeting, and he has asked us to locate another meeting site.

FACE extends sincere thanks to Harold and his sons Jason and Christopher for their warm hospitality over the years. Their meeting, our southernmost, was very important to FACE, and Harold contributed significantly to FACE's growth in the southern counties.

Now we need to find a new

location in Gloucester, Salem or Cumberland County. It's easy to host a support meeting. All we need is enough space for about four to ten people to meet, and a pot of coffee. We will provide a moderator for each meeting. You choose the day that's most convenient for you. We do, however, need a minimum commitment of six months so we can effectively publicize the meeting.

If you can open your Gloucester, Salem or Cumberland County home for a monthly FACE support meeting, please phone the FACE Hot-Line at (609) 786-FACE.

# 1996 Judicial Reappointments

**N**ew Jersey Judges are appointed for an initial seven year term. At the end of that term the Senate Judiciary Committee holds a hearing to see if he deserves to be reappointed. If he does, he is "tenured" and will remain a judge until mandatory retirement at age seventy.

By testifying at judicial reappointment hearings for Family Court judges, members of FACE and other New Jersey organizations were successful in blocking the reappointments of former judge Marianne Espinoza Murphy of Morris County and Judge Martin J. Herman of Gloucester County. We also testified unsuccessfully against Judge Vincent D. Segal. Murphy is no longer on the bench. We blocked Herman's reappointment, but he was appointed to another untenured term. Following Segal's hearing, judges were forbidden to solicit lawyers to testify in favor of their reappointment, and he was banished from Camden to Atlantic County.

In an attempt to prevent a reoccurrence of these volatile hearings, Chief Justice Wilentz has begun to reassign Family Court judges to other courts prior to their reappointment. We believe that he hopes the public will just forget about how they were treated in Family Court by these judges.

But FACE has a long memory. The sixteen current and former Family Court judges in the accompanying table are scheduled to be reappointed in 1996.

Hearings for these judges will be held in Trenton about a month or two before the reappointment dates. They are the **ONLY** opportunity the public has to be heard on why these judges should or should not be reappointed. If you have an opinion about any of these judges' qualifications (or lack of qualifications), disposition,

| Reappointment Date | Judge's Name              | Current Assignment               |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| February 3rd       | Mark A. Sullivan, Jr.     | Monmouth County Civil Court      |
| February 3rd       | Robert W. O'Hagan         | Monmouth County Family Court     |
| March 8th          | Lawrence D. Smith         | Bergen County Family Court       |
| March 10th         | Arthur N. D'Italia        | Hudson County Assignment Judge   |
| May 11th           | Michael Winklestein       | Atlantic County Civil Court      |
| June 27th          | Thomas P. Zampino         | Essex County Family Court        |
| July 5th           | Joseph M. Nardi, Jr.      | Camden County Family Court       |
| July 7th           | Frances Lawrence Antonin  | Hudson County Criminal Court     |
| July 7th           | Frank A. Buczynski, Jr.   | Ocean County Civil Court         |
| July 14th          | Vincent J. Grasso         | Ocean County Criminal Court      |
| July 27th          | Carmen H. Alvarez         | Cape May County Criminal Court   |
| August 2nd         | William L. Forester       | Cumberland County Civil Court    |
| August 2nd         | Rushton H. Ridgway        | Cumberland County Criminal Court |
| August 4th         | Louis F. Hornstine        | Camden County Criminal Court     |
| November 9th       | Paulette M. Sapp-Peterson | Mercer County Criminal Court     |

temperament, or demeanor, or have other information about a judge that will be useful to the Judiciary Committee, tell them you want to testify and ask to be notified of the hearing date. Write or phone:

Mr. John Tumulty, Committee Aid  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
The State House  
Trenton, NJ 08065  
(609) 292-5526

If possible, prepare your testimony in writing. Bring at least ten copies with you to distribute to the committee members and the press. If you are unsure of what to say or how to present your testimony, or just want to know what to expect, contact FACE for guidance and assistance.

New Jersey Family Court judges are paid \$100,000 per year. The public, who pays this salary, deserves to have the best qualified and most compassionate people available for this most sensitive position. Some lawyers as well as Family Court litigants have been reluctant to testify against a judge for fear of reprisal if he is reappointed. This is a fallacy. Testimony against a judge can be grounds for the judge's recusal or a change of venue. Your civic obligation to testify is just as strong as your civic duty to vote.

## Joint Custody in Washington

The Council of the District of Columbia, which is similar in law-making power to a state's legislature, is now considering the "Joint Custody of Children Act of 1995" which would provide a presumption of joint custody. It is interesting to note that Washington, DC, the site of the recent "Million Man March" whose leaders urged men to take up their responsibility as leaders of the family, and whose participants pledged to do so, would now be considering this legislation. Because of Washington's high profile in government, passage of joint custody legislation there will have a major impact on similar legislation around the country.

The bill specifies that a court shall "determine who shall have custody of a minor child or children" ... "without regard to the race, color, national origin, political affiliation, sex or sexual orientation, in and of itself, of a party..." and that "...the court may issue an order that provides for frequent and continuing contact between each parent and the minor child or children

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## Long Distance Telephone Service

FACE is making arrangements through Affinity Corporation of Waukesha, WI to offer long distance telephone service at a discount to our members and supporters.

FACE isn't a telecommunications business; we're a non-profit organization. Affinity is known in the communications industry as a telephone service "aggregator." They contract for large blocks of long distance service with a major telecommunications firm and resell it. Users are guaranteed a minimum 10% discount off of any long distance service they are now using.

Why are we doing this? Because in addition to the savings our members will receive, a percentage of the total monthly long distance bill will be donated to FACE.

FACE has always kept it's membership list confidential, but to get things started, we have been asked to provide a list of members and supporters for Affinity to contact for this service. If you do not wish to be contacted, please notify us in writing by December 22, 1995 and we will omit your name from the list. Otherwise, when you are contacted, please consider the offer carefully and remember that you will also be helping FACE.

If you sign up without waiting to be called, you get the same savings and FACE gets a larger percentage.

Call the FACE Hot-Line at (609) 786-FACE, and we will send you an application form.

**Q:** How many psychologists does it take to change a light bulb?

**A:** Only one, but it will take a very long time, and the light bulb has to really want to change.

## Divorce Stress Inventory

Dr. Jonathan M. Honeycutt, Ph.D., a Colorado psychologist, is currently gathering data on the effects of divorce. His doctoral dissertation was entitled "Casualties of Fatherhood: Traumatic stress responses in divorced fathers segregated from their children: Clinical, Professional & Ethical Implications," so he has a good understanding of issues that are important to all FACE members.

On the following four pages is a questionnaire for Dr. Honeycutt's Divorce Stress Inventory. Prior research in this area is limited, so it is important to all of us.

Please read the instructions carefully and complete the Divorce Stress Inventory to the best of your ability, and mail it to:

Dr. Jonathan M. Honeycutt, Ph.D.  
P.O. Box 38142  
Colorado Springs, CO 80937-8142

Dr. Honeycutt will let us know the results of his research when it is completed, and we will publish it in About FACE-NJ.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 13th to Friday, December 15th, 1995:

### 14th Annual Child Support Conference

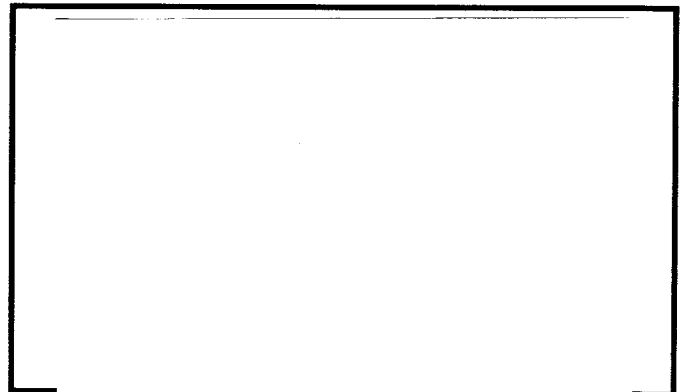
Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino,  
Atlantic City, NJ

This is the annual convention of the New Jersey Child Support Council, the trade association for the folks that enforce child support orders by collecting it, distributing it, harassing you, and occasionally even arresting you, but don't give a damn about whether or not your children get to see their non-residential parent. If you need to speak to your "investigator" on December 13th through 15th but s/he's not in the office, check out the casino floor. What do probation workers do for fun, anyway? And who pays for this junket? Who are the "private sector companies" that will exhibit their wares? There are seven "sponsored" breaks and meals. Who paid for them? And what about that reception 'til 1:00 AM on Wednesday night. Ever want to dance the night away with your probation officer?

But seriously, this may be a way to learn of what the future has in store for non-residential parents. Topics include "Guidelines of the Future," "Modifications in the Interstate Arena," "Domestic Violence" (What does that have to do with collecting child support?), "Assisting Pro Se Litigants" (Isn't that Unauthorized Practice of Law?), and "How To Communicate With Difficult People."

\$80 for the full conference, or \$50 for one day. Hotel rooms for \$65 a night. Contact Eileen Coughlin, (609) 588-2385, and request a flyer.

*Advertisement*



# Divorce Stress Inventory

Copy Right 1994 by Jonathan M. Honeycutt, Ph.D.

Current Age \_\_\_\_\_: Your Age at Time of Divorce/Separation \_\_\_\_\_: Sex (1) Female (2) Male: Number of Marriages \_\_\_\_\_  
 Education (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) College (1) (2) (3) (4) Graduate School (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)  
 Were your Parents Divorced? (Y) Yes (N) No. If Yes, How old were you when they Divorced? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Average Amount of contact w/ your own father \_\_\_\_\_ (days per month): Average Amount of contact w/ your mother \_\_\_\_\_ (days per month).  
 Are you Current on Child Support? (Y) Yes (N) No: Genders and Ages of children at time of Separation/Divorce (list below)  
 Children: (M) (F) \_\_\_\_\_ years, (M) (F) \_\_\_\_\_ years, (M) (F) \_\_\_\_\_ years, (M) (F) \_\_\_\_\_ years, (M) (F) \_\_\_\_\_ years, (M)(F) \_\_\_\_\_ years

For Questions 1 through 20 below, please put an "X" on the numbered line after each question line to indicate what percentage of responsibility or involvement you had for each Child Rearing Activity. On this scale, a "zero" equals "No involvement" or "No Responsibility," a "50" means responsibility was shared equally with spouse, and a "100" mark means that you had complete or full responsibility for the activity. You may answer using the percent scale (0 to 100 percent) to show how much much responsibility you had, or by using the days per weeks scale, to show relative frequency of your involvement.

## Level of Parental Involvement / Responsibility for Child Rearing

### Relative Amount or Frequency of Activity

Never  
 Very Seldom  
 1 X Week  
 2 X Week  
 3 X Week  
 4 X Week  
 5 X Week  
 6 X Week  
 7 X week  
 Almost Always  
 Always

### Child Rearing Activity

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Helping child(ren) get dressed  | 1. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100  |
| 2. Bathing child(ren)  | 2. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100  |
| 3. Helping child(ren) get ready for school   | 3. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100  |
| 4. Taking child(ren) to doctors' appointments, music lessons                                     | 4. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100  |
| 5. Helping child(ren) w/ homework, reading, etc.   | 5. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100  |
| 6. Soothing, comforting & tending to child(ren) when sick  | 6. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100  |
| 7. Preparing meals for child(ren)  | 7. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100  |
| 8. Spending time & playing with child(ren)   | 8. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100  |
| 9. Negotiating conflicts/problems between child(ren) and their friends, neighbors, & schoolmates | 9. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100  |
| 10. Negotiating between child(ren) & other parent  | 10. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100 |
| 11. Participating in child(ren)'s school programs, attending parent-teacher conferences, etc.    | 11. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100 |
| 12. Buying child(ren)'s clothes, books, toys, & supplies   | 12. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100 |
| 13. Recreational outings, movies, sporting events w/ child(ren)                                  | 13. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100 |
| 14. Time spent talking w/ child(ren), providing direction, advice, psychological guidance, etc.  | 14. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100 |
| 15. Time spent listening to child(ren)   | 15. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100 |
| 16. Interacting, teaching, supervising child(ren) in housework, school work, music lessons, etc. | 16. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100 |
| 17. Relative amount of daily contact w/ child(ren) <i>in hours</i>                               | 17. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100 |
| 18. Directing the spiritual/religious education of child(ren)                                    | 18. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100 |
| 19. Teaching child(ren) appropriate moral behavior & values                                      | 19. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100 |
| 20. Working to support the child(ren) financially  | 20. 0.....10.....20.....30.....40.....50.....60.....70.....80.....90.....100 |

My general custody &/or visitation arrangement was/is (check the numbered box which best describes your experience)

- [1] Voluntary, the result of private agreement between you & your ex-spouse.
- [2] Voluntary, the result of negotiated settlement using mediators or counselors.
- [3] Voluntary, the result of a "settlement" negotiated with attorneys.
- [4] Voluntary, the result of giving in because you did not want to fight over the children, did not have enough money, did not think you would win, etc.
- [5] Involuntary, the result of social pressures, demands of your job, not having enough money to go to court, or to have a custody evaluation, etc.
- [6] Involuntary, the result of giving in because you didn't believe that you could win a custody battle or a custody evaluation, etc.
- [7] Involuntary, the result of a custody evaluation and/or court trial
- [8] Involuntary, for other reasons (e.g., parental kidnapping, visitation interference, therapist interference, etc.).

Current Custody Status: (check the numbered box which best describes YOUR situation or experience)

- (1) Joint legal & Physical
- (2) Joint Legal with Visitation
- (3) Visitation only
- (4) No Custody or Visitation
- (5) Sole Legal Custody
- (6) Sole Legal & Physical Custody

Legal Custody by [1] Father [2] Mother [3] Both Mother & Father  
 Physical or Residential Custody by [1] Father [2] Mother [3] Both Mother & Father  
 Visitation by [1] Father [2] Mother  
 No Visitation was given to [1] Father [2] Mother

Actual Amount of time with child(ren) each month (in days) \_\_\_\_\_ Actual amount of time spent with child(ren) each year (in days) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you desire more time with your child(ren)? (1) Yes (2) No  
 Amount of time (in days) you would like to have with your child(ren) each month \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Days Each Year \_\_\_\_\_

**Part A: Instructions**

Read each question or statement very carefully. Some questions may require you to think for a moment in order to accurately remember important details. To answer, simply make a clear mark in the box on the answer scale directly beneath each question.

NOTE: Please answer all questions only as they relate to your separation, divorce and/or child custody situation.

- |   |     |                              |                             |
|---|-----|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Did you/do you have serious financial problems, as a result of your separation, divorce, and/or child custody situation?   | 1.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Did you lose your job or become unemployed because of divorce?   | 2.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Did you lose your job or become unemployed because of child custody, child support, or visitation?   | 3.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Did you lose your job or become unemployed because of legal problems related to your divorce or child custody situation?   | 4.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 5. Were you economically victimized by the legal system in your divorce or child custody case?  | 5.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 6. Were you economically victimized by your ex-spouse in your divorce or child custody case?  | 6.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 7. Were you/are you living in a state of poverty, as a result of your divorce and/or child custody situation?   | 7.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 8. Are you divorced or separated?   | 8.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 9. Did you involuntarily lose total physical contact with your child(ren) after your separation or divorce?   | 9.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 10. Has your ex-spouse attempted to terminate your contact with your child(ren)?  | 10. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 11. Has your ex-spouse attempted to limit or restrict your contact with your child(ren)?  | 11. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 12. Has your child(ren) said that he/she wishes to have less contact with you?  | 12. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 13. Has your child(ren) refused to have contact with you or refused to participate in visitation?   | 13. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 14. Did mental health professionals or social workers say that you should not have any contact with your child(ren)?  | 14. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 15. Did mental health professionals or social workers say that your contact with your child(ren) be limited to less than half time?   | 15. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 16. Did mental health professionals say that your visitation with your child(ren) should be severely restricted and/or "supervised"?  | 16. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 17. Did you involuntarily lose partial contact, or experienced unwanted restrictions in your contact, with your child(ren)?   | 17. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 18. Did you lose your home as a result of your separation, divorce, or child custody problems?  | 18. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 19. Did you lose most of your personal possessions & belongings as a result of your separation or divorce?  | 19. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 20. Did you lose most of your friends as a result of your separation or divorce?  | 20. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 21. After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel a loss of identity as a parent or a father?  | 21. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 22. Have you ever been jailed or imprisoned for reasons related to your separation or divorce because of (check all that apply)<br><input type="checkbox"/> allegations of spouse abuse, <input type="checkbox"/> allegations of child abuse or <input type="checkbox"/> child sex abuse? | 22. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 23. Have you ever been jailed or imprisoned for other reasons related to your child custody situation?  | 23. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 24. Was your contact with your child(ren) ever terminated because of allegation of (check all that apply)<br><input type="checkbox"/> spouse abuse, <input type="checkbox"/> child abuse, <input type="checkbox"/> child neglect, or <input type="checkbox"/> child sex abuse?            | 24. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 25. Did your ex-spouse accuse you of child abuse or neglect?  | 25. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 26. Did your ex-spouse accuse you of child sex abuse or child molestation?  | 26. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 27. Did your child(ren) accuse you of child abuse, or neglect?  | 27. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 28. Did your child(ren) accuse you of child sex abuse or child molestation?   | 28. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 29. After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel that your relationship(s) with your child(ren) were threatened?  | 29. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 30. Did you go to trial for (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> divorce and/or <input type="checkbox"/> child custody issues?   | 30. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 31. Were you falsely accused of child abuse and/or neglect during or after your divorce?  | 31. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 32. Do you feel fairly treated by the legal system in your divorce and/or child custody case?   | 32. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 33. Did you feel that you mostly had control over the process or the outcomes of your divorce and child custody situations?   | 33. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 34. Since your divorce, have you frequently worried about your child(ren)'s well being or felt that your child(ren) were having serious problems as a result of your divorce and/or custody situation?  | 34. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 35. Were you ever threatened with legal actions and lawsuits by your ex-spouse?   | 35. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 36. Were you ever threatened with legal actions and lawsuits by attorneys?  | 36. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 37. Were you ever threatened with legal actions or lawsuits by mental health professionals, psychologists or social workers?  | 37. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 38. Were you ever threatened with legal actions and lawsuits by creditors because of your divorce?  | 38. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 39. Do you feel discriminated against by the legal system in your divorce and/or child custody situation because of your gender?  | 39. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 40. Were your child(ren) used by attorneys (including guardian ad litem) as pawns to exploit you economically?  | 40. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 41. Do you feel that your child(ren) have been used by your ex-spouse as pawns or hostages to exploit you economically?   | 41. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 42. Do you feel that you and your child(ren) have been used or exploited by mental health professionals?  | 42. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 43. Do you feel that the legal system (i.e., lawyers, judges, and/or guardians) oppressed or victimized you in your custody case?   | 43. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 44. Do you feel that the legal system (i.e., lawyers, judges, and/or guardians) oppressed or victimized you in your divorce?  | 44. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 45. Were you falsely accused of child sexual abuse as a result of your divorce and/or child custody situation?  | 45. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 46. Were you falsely accused of wife-beating or spouse-abuse in the process of your separation or divorce?  | 46. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 47. In your child custody case, were you falsely accused of being an unfit parent or of being mentally disturbed by your ex-spouse?   | 47. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 48. In your child custody case, did a mental health professional say that you were an unfit parent or too mentally ill to parent?   | 48. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 49. Has a Court or Govt. Agency ever declared you (rightly or wrongly) guilty of child abuse or neglect?  | 49. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 50. Has a Court or Govt. agency ever declared you (rightly or wrongly) guilty of spouse abuse or battery?   | 50. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 51. Has a Court or Govt. agency ever declared you (rightly or wrongly) guilty of child sexual abuse, incest or child molestation?   | 51. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 52. Has a Court or Govt. agency ever declared you mentally incompetent or unfit as a parent?  | 52. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 53. Do you feel that mental health professionals oppressed and/or victimized you in the process of your child custody proceedings?  | 53. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 54. Do you feel discriminated against by mental health professionals in your child custody situation because of your gender?  | 54. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 55. Have you ever been diagnosed as having a mental illness by a licensed mental health professional? (Your reply is legally confidential, so please be candid.) If "Yes", please list Diagnosis: _____   | 55. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**INSTRUCTIONS: Parts B, C, D, E, & F**

Read each question or statement carefully. Some questions may require you to think for a moment in order to accurately remember specific details. To answer, simply check the YES or NO box below after question, and then *indicate how long* (in months) the situation, problem or experience lasted. Next, circle a number on the Frequency Scale to the right to indicate *how often* you experienced this feeling, problem, or situation. Please be candid in your responses and answer each question completely.

**Frequency Scale**

|                    |                 |             |                    |                 |                 |            |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Once a Month or so | Every Few Weeks | Once a Week | Several X per Week | Every Other Day | Several X a Day | Every Hour |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|

- |  |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.0 Did you/do you find yourself <i>involuntarily</i> thinking about the total or partial loss of your relationship(s) with your child(ren)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s)   | 1.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1.1 Did you/do you find yourself thinking about your loss of relationship(s) with your child(ren) at times or in situations where these thoughts seemed to <i>intrude</i> upon or <i>interfere</i> with what you were doing (for example, at work)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).   | 1.1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1.2 If you have had such <i>intrusive</i> thoughts, were they <i>distressing</i> to you (i.e., did they make you feel sad, depressed, anxious, angry, fatigued, etc.)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___Months.  | 1.2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1.3 After your divorce, were you <i>preoccupied</i> with thinking about <input type="checkbox"/> the trial <input type="checkbox"/> the custody evaluation, or <input type="checkbox"/> the loss of your relationship(s) with your child(ren)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___Month(s).  | 1.3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1.4 After your divorce, were you sometimes <i>preoccupied</i> with thoughts about <input type="checkbox"/> getting revenge, or <input type="checkbox"/> just getting the custody situation change? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).  | 1.4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1.5 After your divorce, were you sometimes <i>preoccupied</i> with thinking about the justice or injustice of the divorce and/or the child custody outcome? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).   | 1.5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1.6 After your divorce, were you sometimes <i>preoccupied</i> with thinking about what you should have done or said differently, to improve your child custody situation? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).   | 1.6 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 2.0 Did you/do you have <i>distressing dreams</i> or <i>nightmares</i> about losing your relationship(s), or important parts of your relationship(s), with your child(ren)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___Month(s).   | 2.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 2.1 Did you/do you have <i>distressing dreams</i> or <i>nightmares</i> about your <input type="checkbox"/> divorce, <input type="checkbox"/> the trial(s), <input type="checkbox"/> hearing(s) or <input type="checkbox"/> custody evaluation? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).  | 2.1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 4.0 Did you/do you get <i>upset</i> (e.g., angry, depressed, sad, agitated, feeling empty, alone, withdrawn, or hopeless, etc.) on days which <i>reminded</i> you of having lost important parts your relationship(s) with your child(ren), such as birthdays, Christmas, Thanksgiving? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).   | 4.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 4.1 If you still had contact with your child(ren) after separation or divorce, did you/do you get <i>upset</i> (e.g., angry, sad, depressed, withdrawn) <i>when you return the child</i> at the end of your visitation time or shortly afterwards? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).  | 4.1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 4.2 Since your loss of contact with your child(ren), did you/do you become <i>upset</i> when you saw/see any of the following: <input type="checkbox"/> children playing at playgrounds, <input type="checkbox"/> children playing games you used to play with your child(ren), <input type="checkbox"/> other fathers with their children? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).   | 4.2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| <b>Part C</b>  |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1.0 Did you/do you try to <i>avoid thinking</i> about having lost important parts of your relationship(s) with your child(ren) because thinking about it made you upset? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).  | 1.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1.1 Did you/do you try to <i>suppress</i> or <i>hold in your feelings</i> ("choke them down", "numb out", etc.) about having lost important parts of your relationship(s), with your child(ren) because you they make you feel upset? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).   | 1.1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1.2 Did you/do you try to <i>avoid thoughts and/or feelings</i> (i.e., "try to forget") about losing important parts of your relationship(s), with your child(ren) <i>by keeping busy with other things</i> (e.g., by "throwing yourself into your work", "jumping into another relationship", etc.)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).   | 1.2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 2.0 Did you/do you try to <i>avoid activities or situations</i> that remind(ed) your of having lost important parts of your relationship(s), with your child(ren), such as ( <i>check any or all that apply</i> ): <input type="checkbox"/> the presence of other children, <input type="checkbox"/> parties where children might be present, <input type="checkbox"/> sporting events where fathers and their children might be present, <input type="checkbox"/> parks or recreational facilities where children might be present, <input type="checkbox"/> playing games, or engaging in recreational activities that you used to do with your child(ren), like baseball, fishing, etc.? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s). | 2.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 2.1 After your separation or divorce, did you <i>avoid contact with your children</i> in order to forget about the unpleasant or painful feelings & memories associated with your divorce/child custody experience and/or the loss of relationship(s) with your child(ren)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).   | 2.1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 2.2 After your separation or divorce, <i>did you avoid contact with your ex-spouse</i> in order to avoid the unpleasant or painful feelings & memories associated with your divorce/child custody experience and/or the loss of your relationship(s) with your child(ren)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).  | 2.2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 4.0 After your separation from your child(ren), did you experience a <i>loss of interest</i> in formerly significant activities (such as the following: recreation, hobbies, work, socializing, personal hygiene, college, or other personal pastimes)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).   | 4.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 4.1 After your separation or divorce, was the shorter time you spent with your child(ren) <i>less fulfilling, less rewarding or less meaningful</i> for you? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).  | 4.1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 5.0 After your separation from your child(ren), did you experience <i>feelings of isolation, withdrawal, detachment, remoteness or estrangement from others</i> ? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).   | 5.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 5.1 After your separation from your child(ren), did you experience <i>problems in relationships with others</i> (such as a new mate, or members of your own family of origin)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).  | 5.1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 5.2 After your separation from your child(ren), did you experience <i>feelings of emotional isolation, inability to relate to others</i> , aloneness, or have <i>trouble expressing your feelings</i> to others? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).  | 5.2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 6.0 After your separation from your child(ren), did you have <i>difficulty feeling and/or expressing emotions</i> other than anger, sadness, and pain? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for ___month(s).  | 6.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

After you complete the final page of the survey, Please mail the completed survey (with appropriate postage\_\_ if you added extra pages, weigh to be sure) to:

Dr. Jonathan M. Honeycutt, Ph.D.  
P.O. Box 38142  
Colorado Springs, CO 80937-8142

Frequency Scale

Every Hour  
Several X a Day  
Every Other Day  
Several X per Week  
Once a Week  
Every Few Weeks  
Once a Month or so

- |   |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6.1 After your separation from your child(ren), did friends or acquaintances comment about your <b>inability</b> to "unwind", "let go", or to express loving, happy, relaxed, or tender feelings?<br><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 6.1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 6.2 After your separation from your children, were your <b>feelings sometimes more intense</b> , limited to the extremes of deep sadness, emptiness or intense anger? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 6.2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7.0 After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel that your <b>future looked bleak</b> , or that you would never have a family, a long life, children, or happiness? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 7.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7.1 After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel that you might <b>never be able to trust others</b> (e.g., women, social workers), <b>to be happy</b> , or to succeed in life? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 7.1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7.2 After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel that your <b>life was essentially over</b> or that it <b>just wasn't worth living</b> anymore? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 7.2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7.3 After your separation from your child(ren), did you ever <b>contemplate committing suicide</b> ?<br><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 7.3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| <b>Part D</b>   |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1.0 After your separation from your child(ren), did you have difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep, or sleeping too much or having difficulty getting up in the morning? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 1.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 2.0 After your separation from your child(ren), were you <b>more irritable than usual</b> , more easily "set off", or experience <b>outbursts of anger</b> ? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 2.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 3.0 After your separation from your child(ren), did you have <b>difficulty concentrating</b> on usual activities at home or in the work place? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 3.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 4.1 After your separation from your child(ren), did family members, friends or co-workers ever say that you seemed more <b>"on edge"</b> , more tense, <b>"up-tight"</b> or "paranoid"? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 4.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 5.0 After your separation from your child(ren), were you more easily surprised, frightened, or panicked by ordinary events, such as getting a certified letter in the mail? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 5.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 6.0 Since your separation from your children, or the changes in the amount of time you spend with them, have you experienced stress, illness, or disease that did <b>not</b> exist prior to your divorce or separation?<br><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s). Please list illnesses, accidents & symptoms on a separate sheet. | 6.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| <b>Part E</b>   |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1. After your separation from your child(ren), did you <b>feel hopeless</b> about your relationship(s) with your child(ren)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 1.  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 2. After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel <b>helpless or powerless</b> to do anything to improve your situation with your child(ren)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 2.  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 3. After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel like you had somehow <b>failed as a father</b> ? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 3.  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 4. After your separation from your child(ren), did you <b>feel ashamed or somehow guilty</b> about the changes in your role and relationship(s) with your child(ren)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 4.  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 5. After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel that your stature or image of yourself as a father had been <b>sullied, dirtied, debased, damaged or defiled</b> ? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 5.  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 6. After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel that <b>others could not possibly understand</b> how you felt or what you had been through? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 6.  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7. After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel that you were <b>somehow different from</b> —i.e., not as good as— <b>others</b> you knew, especially other (still-married or custodial) fathers?<br><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 7.  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 8. After your separation from your child(ren), did you ever think about <b>snatching your child</b> and moving with him or her to another state? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 8.  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 9. After your separation from your child(ren), was it <b>difficult for you to trust others</b> , especially those with whom you attempted to have intimate relationships? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 9.  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 10. After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel that your <b>life had lost its meaning</b> ?<br><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 10. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 11. After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel like the world was no longer a safe place for you? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 11. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 12. After your separation from your child(ren), did you <b>feel more vulnerable</b> , less secure, or as if you were somehow defenseless or at risk? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 12. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 13. After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel that there was <b>no justice</b> in the world?<br><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 13. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 14. After your separation from your child(ren), did you feel <b>stigmatized or branded</b> as an unfit parent or a bad father (e.g., "Deadbeat Dad")? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).   | 14. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| <b>Part F</b>   |     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1. After your separation from your child(ren), did you experience <b>significant</b> difficulties (e.g., with concentrating, interacting) or distress (e.g, upset) in your <b>social life, work, or daily functioning</b> ?<br><input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).  | 1.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 2. When you lost total or partial contact with your child(ren) or, during or after your custody evaluation or court experience, did you experience intense feelings of <b>fear, horror or helplessness</b> —a feeling like <b>"How could this be happening to me?"</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, for _____ month(s).                      | 2.0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |



# Public Hearings on Divorce Commission Legislation

by Jeff Golden

As a result of the recommendations of the Commission to Study the Laws of Divorce, there is more family law reform legislation pending in Trenton right now than at any time in recent years. The legislature seems to have been dragging its feet to not make any waves before the election. Now that it's over, expect a flurry of activity.

The last voting session for the 206th legislature will be on January 8, 1996. Any bills not voted on by the last session will expire with it and have to be reintroduced next year. In a recent article, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported that we can expect major changes in New Jersey divorce law in 1996.

Representatives from FACE and the other New Jersey groups MUST make themselves available to testify

before the committees about the bills that are important to us, and shepherd them through the legislature. At one recent hearing, modifications recommended by an influential women's group were not adopted because there was no one there to testify in favor of them.

Legislative committees meet in Trenton. Hearings are announced in the Legislative Calendar. To get on the mailing list, contact:

Office of Legislative Services  
CN-068  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0068  
609/292-4840 or 800/792-8630

You will receive calendars once or twice per week. Check for the bills that are important to us. Notice may be very short (sometimes 24 hours or less), but make every effort to get to Trenton to testify on our bills.

The Divorce Commission bills will be considered by the Senate Women's Issues, Children & Family Services Committee and the General Assembly Judiciary, Law and Public Safety Committee. Contact the aides for these committees, and ask them to notify you when these bills will be heard. They are:

Ms. Michele Leblanc, Committee Aid  
Senate Women's Issues, Children and Family Services Committee  
The State House  
Trenton, NJ 08065  
(609) 292-1646

Ms. Patricia K. Nagle, Committee Aid  
General Assembly Judiciary, Law and Public Safety Committee  
The State House  
Trenton, NJ 08065  
(609) 292-5526

## Pending Legislation

|  | Assembly Bill | Senate Bill | FACE's Position      |
|--|---------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Parental responsibility for college                        | A-1790        | S-1597      | In favor             |
| Divorce Commission Recommendations:                        |               |             |                      |
| 1. Irreconcilable differences                              | A-2740        |             | Opposed              |
| 2. Parents' education program                              | A-2741        | S-2083      | In favor             |
| 3. Parenting plan  | A-2743        | S-2046      | In favor             |
| 4. Maintain insurance coverage                             | A-2739        | S-2088      | In favor if modified |
| 5. Mediation program                                       | A-2744        | S-2054      | In favor if modified |
| 6. "Parenting time"  | A-2742        |             | In favor             |
| 7. Access to children's records                            | A-2746        | S-2087      | In favor             |
| 8. Visitation interference sanctions                       | A-2747        |             | In favor             |
| 9. Emancipation at age 18                                  | A-2749        |             | In favor             |
| 11. Review child support for students                      | A-2751        |             | Generally in favor   |
| 12. Rehabilitative alimony                                 | A-2748        | S-2214      | In favor if modified |
| 13. Limited duration alimony                               | A-2750        | S-2216      | Generally opposed    |
| 14. Frivolous motions                                      | A-2745        | S-2213      | Opposed              |
| 15. Income withholding for alimony                         | A-2752        | S-2044      | Opposed              |
| 16. Notification of remarriage                             | A-2753        | S-2089      | In favor             |
| 18. Retroactive modification of support                    | A-2754        | S-2221      | In favor             |
| 19. Equitable distribution - responsibilities for children | A-2755        | S-2219      | Generally in favor   |
| 20. Equitable distribution - deferred career goals         | A-2756        | S-2045      | Undecided            |
| 21. Alimony in child support calculation                   | A-2757        |             | In favor             |

# Parental Responsibility for College Bills A-1790 and S-1597

by Jeff Golden

On October 19th, the New Jersey Senate Women's Issues, Children and Family Services Committee conducted a hearing on bill S-1597, which would prohibit judges from ordering a parent to pay for a child's college or postgraduate education. The Assembly companion bill, A-1790, already passed by a wide margin. These bills, sponsored by Gloucester and Salem County Assemblymen Gary Stuhltrager and Jack Collins and Senator Raymond Zane, would overcome the legal precedent set in *Newburgh vs. Arrigo*, 88 N.J. 529 (1982), which establishes a twelve point test to determine a parent's responsibility for contributing to post-secondary education.

FACE has observed that, in practice, judges don't use the *Newburgh* test at all. They just routinely order divorced parents to pay for college, and say they are doing it because of *Newburgh*. FACE's position is that divorced parents are being discriminated against because of marital status. No one can force a married parent to pay for his/her child's post-secondary education. They do it of their own free will if they choose to, or don't pay if they choose not to. Divorced or never married parents should be able to freely make the same choice. These bills, if made law, would eliminate this dual standard. An equally acceptable alternative would be legislation requiring ALL parents to pay for their children's post-secondary education, regardless of marital status.

About a hundred people packed the committee room, but none of the bill's sponsors were present. Are they truly committed to this, or are they having second thoughts? Zane and Stuhltrager are both lawyers with lucrative Family Court practices.

Those in favor of the bill probably outnumbered those opposed by at least two to one, but committee chairman Senator James F. Cafiero called people to testify by alternating one opposed, one in favor, etc. This incorrectly created the impression that

sentiment was divided about equally. After only about an hour and a half, and with only twelve witnesses testifying, Cafiero adjourned the meeting without the committee taking any action.

The witnesses included many lawyers, all but one of whom opposed the bills. They would lose income if college costs were removed from the Family Court arena. Myra Terry, former president of the New Jersey chapter of NOW also was opposed. Testifying in favor of the bills were Robert Broderick and Sara Flohr, both members of the Commission to Study the Laws of Divorce.

Lawyer Robert Gidding, who represents three divorced fathers in a federal suit against the State of New Jersey on this issue, also was in favor. Divorced fathers Steve Gregory and Rich Myslinski also were in favor. Mr. Myslinski correctly pointed out that two days of litigation on this issue can cost more than a year of college.

What needs to be done now? Like all other pending legislation, if this is not voted on by the last session of the 206th legislature on

January 8, 1996, it will die. We all must write or phone Senator Cafiero. Tell him (or his aids) that you are in favor of S-1597, you want a follow-up hearing, and you want the bill released to the full Senate. His address is:

Senator James F. Cafiero  
P.O. Box 789  
3319 New Jersey Ave.  
Wildwood, NJ 08230  
(609) 522-0462

We must also flood the newspapers with letters to the editors in support of bill S-1597.

By the way, do you wonder why this legislation was introduced? Did its sponsors have empathy for a non-residential father-constituent who was ordered to pay more than he could afford for a child's education? No. It was actually a non-residential mother, Fay Leslie of Woodstown, who inspired their sympathy. Ms. Leslie was at the hearing, but even she did not have an opportunity to testify.

## Joint Custody in Washington

Continued from Page 3  
and for the sharing of responsibilities of child rearing and encouraging the love, affection, and contact between the minor child or children and the parents regardless of marital status. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that joint custody is in the best interest of the child or children..."

District of Columbia councilmembers would like to receive letters from interested parties all over the country in support of joint custody. Write to them with your experiences and wishes. Encourage your children to do so, too. If you are an adult child of divorce, your insight will be particularly important.

The Councilmembers are:

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Harold Brazil        | 202/724-8174 |
| Kevin Chavous        | 202/724-8056 |
| David Clark          | 202/724-8176 |
| Linda Cropp          | 202/724-8032 |
| Jack Evans           | 202/724-8058 |
| Charlene Drew Jarvis | 202/724-8052 |
| Bill Lightfoot       | 202/724-8045 |
| Hilda Mason          | 202/724-8064 |
| Kathleen Patterson   | 202/724-8062 |
| John Ray             | 202/724-8105 |
| Frank Smith          | 202/724-8179 |
| Harry Thomas         | 202/724-8028 |
| Eydie Whillington    | 202/724-8072 |

Their mailing address is:

Council of the District of Columbia  
District Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004



**FACE-NJ Hot Line  
609-786-FACE**

**FACE Pennsylvania:**

Philadelphia 215-355-4054  
Delaware Valley 610-688-4748  
Bucks County 215-322-3464  
Domestic Violence 215-333-3773

**FACE NJ**

**DIRECTORS**

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**Communication Coordinator**  
**Brian Rogers**  
**Director at Large**  
**Christopher L. Pedrick**

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

*All meetings begin at 7:00 PM*

**Phone for information and directions**

*First Monday of each month:*

**Mercer County Support Meeting**

Hamilton Township, NJ

Contact: Charles Forberg  
609-584-1887

*First Thursday of each month:*

**Burlington County Support Meeting**

Wrightstown, NJ

(Near McGuire Air Force Base)

Contact: Jane Hubert  
609-723-5996

*Second Tuesday of each Month:*

**FACE General Meeting (Open to the Public)**

Cherry Hill Free Public Library

1100 Kings Highway North

(Next to Richman's Ice Cream)

Cherry Hill, NJ

Directions: 609-667-0300

Join us for refreshments at Richman's at 9:00 PM following this meeting.

*Third Monday of each month:*

**Camden County Support Meeting:**

Westmont, NJ

Contact: George & Barbara LaMarra  
609-858-4272

*Third Thursday of each month:*

**FACE Board of Directors Meeting**

(FACE members and invited guests only)

Phone FACE Hot-Line for location

*Fourth Thursday of each month:*

**Gloucester/Salem County Support Meeting**

Phone FACE Hot-Line for location

*All who plan to attend support meetings should extend the hosts the courtesy of phoning in advance. Non-members are usually welcome, but it may be necessary to limit attendance.*

**IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE?**  
Check your mailing label. If the date of last renewal is more than twelve months ago, or if there is no date, it is time to RENEW NOW. See page 11.

**Forwarding and Address Correction Requested**

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