



Fathers' and Children's Equality, Inc.

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by Stan Rains

If false sex abuse allegations are the "atomic bomb" of custody battles, then supervised visitation is the Dracula. For a father to visit his children at a supervised visitation center in my part of the world, it can cost upward of \$300 or more a month. The money is a major drain, but the worst blood letting is the formalized Parental Alienation efforts of the visitation centers.

Falling under the maxim that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely", visitation centers subject their "client children" and "visiting" parents to a gamut of demeaning and disruptive bites to the jugular

FAMILY COURT DRACULA

vein. Children are acutely aware of the ever present, note taking case workers and of the cameras located every ten feet along the walls. I have seen a parent and child cling to one another and stare back

and even death. With this parent child pair, their desperate, mutual clinging to one another, seemed to be viewed negatively by the case workers. The parent and child have not been back to the center, since. Was that the death of a parent/child relationship. What crime did that child commit to be subjected to such cruel torture?

Visitation Centers often contract out with State Child Welfare Agencies. These agencies are concerned with creating cases for the Fed's bounty



FACE'S DADS HOUSE...

would be a parent and child-friendly center in which parents can enjoy parenting time with their children, and parents in high-conflict can peacefully exchange their children.

This article explains why it is needed:

at the narrow eyed, stern visages of several caseworkers studying this parent and child clinging to one another in terror and desperation. They reminded me of two neurotic and traumatized research monkeys reacting to the observations of white frocked researchers, conditioned to the fact that these white coated observers had the power to inflict pain, anguish

money on child abuse cases 'created' in each state. Child Welfare Supervisors receive pay proportionate to the number of case workers beneath them. The number of case workers for an area are determined by the number of cases 'created'. Child Welfare agencies are known to work with the contractors who assist in validating 'created' cases and who can create new cases.

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Nanny State Clobbers Fathers' Rights in Court

by Stephen Baskerville

Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore has been calling for yet another crackdown on "deadbeat dads," with a view toward sending more to jail. The House of Representatives, meanwhile, passed the Fathers Count Act of 1999, which commits \$150 million to promote fatherhood and reconnect fathers with their children.

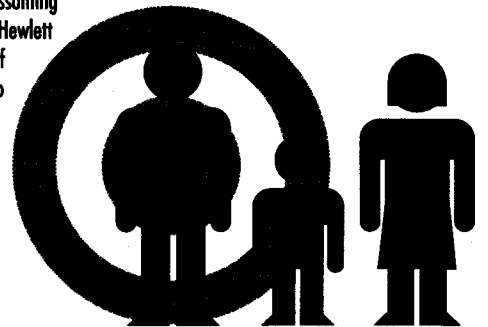
These two measures might seem to indicate a contradictory national love-hate relationship with fathers. Yet in some ways they are two sides of the same coin, which is the government involving itself in the most private corner of our lives: the family. The state promotes fatherhood but denigrates fathers. The state defines fatherhood and punishes fathers who fail to measure up.

What Democrats are promoting as a crackdown and some Republicans are furthering through a social program is based on assumptions about husbands and fathers that increasingly are recognized to be untenable. It now has been more than a year since psychologist Sanford Braver, in the largest federally funded study ever undertaken on the subject, conclusively demonstrated that the so-called "deadbeat dad," who deserts his children and evades

child support, largely is a myth. Braver confirmed previous studies showing that it overwhelmingly is mothers, not fathers, who are walking away from marriages and that most forcibly divorced fathers pay child support when they are employed. Columnist Kathleen Parker likewise has written that "the deadbeat dad is an egregious exaggeration, a caricature of a few desperate men who for various reasons — sometimes pretty good ones — fail to hand over their paychecks, assuming they have one." Sylvia Ann Hewlett and Cornel West, coauthors of *The War Against Parents*, also question the state's war against fathers, calling it "ugly and fierce."

The deadbeat dad is typically a fully responsible and loving father who has

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FACE IS A SELF-HELP GROUP. WE ARE NOT LAWYERS. WE DO NOT GIVE LEGAL ADVICE. WE CAN NOT AND DO NOT REPRESENT ANYONE IN COURT. If you find a competent, capable lawyer who fully understands your and your children's rights, who is willing and able to tenaciously fight to secure those rights, who completely understands the facts in your case, and who you can afford to pay, you should hire that lawyer and seek that lawyer's advice. If you can not find or afford to pay such a lawyer, we urge you to seek all available resources to aid yourself in securing these rights.

President's message: Vision for FACE

As our children grow, babies become toddlers, toddlers become youngsters, youngsters become adolescents, and so life goes on. As with every aspect of life, things change. So it comes as no surprise that, at some point, even FACE will change. The time is upon us. Our past president, Michael Fox, has retired. For almost a decade he and co-founder, Jeff Golden, lead the battle of fathers who were thrown out of their homes to regain the respect and the dignity of fatherhood. Their most important battle was to regain their children.

While it is thought that dad's groups such as FACE are disgruntled, misdirected family court litigants, that is far from the truth. The membership is composed of fathers, second wives, grandparents, and even mothers abused by the legal system. It is not only a gender bias issue any more. Some of the most active supports of FACE are grandparents who watched their children's family's start, grow, and then to be decimated by irate spouses abusing the legal system and the children.

The most common thread of FACE membership is that of being ejected from the home or from the children's lives by false allegations of domestic violence, false allegations of child abuse, or other forms of parental alienation imposed by the 'custodial parent'.

Relegated to a visitor, the ejected parent had no where to turn, no house to live in, their family ripped apart. No one can understand the hurt and anguish a parent goes through except another parent dealing with the same issues. MADD, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, and countless other organizations were formed in the same manor when adults are dealt with such a severe blow to their families and there is no where to turn but to others experiencing the same dilemmas.

In a past life, where woman burned their bras, FACE members demonstrated at family court or judges houses. Our past president, Michael Fox, put it very well; "it is coming to an new era. FACE has accomplished it's goal, in part, and must now change it's focus." Mike is exactly right. Times change, methods change, people change. Everything changes with time and so must FACE change. The most important message here is that people learn as time progresses. FACE must move into a new era, an era where education, mentoring, and fathering are more the focus.

The tide has turned and fathers and fatherhood are now again being recognized as important aspects of life. In more than fourteen states and more to follow, dad's groups have achieved legislation in which the "presumption of shared parenting" is now the law. Why have we achieved this? National Center for State Courts reports that juvenile crime is up 59% in the ten year period 1984-1994. Divorce cases are up 65% in the same period. Teen pregnancies up dramatically. These are only a few of the many facts which society will have to deal with as a result of ejecting the father's from the home. This legislation indicates that society recognizes the importance of fathers and fatherhood. Society is changing as it always has and always will. Our task now is to keep the pendulum from shifting back too far and ejecting mothers from the home.

The roots of the current problem stem from a long history of seemingly minor social shifts. The shift from agriculture to industrialization, for example, was the first event that moved dad out of the home. This required women to be almost solely responsible for the children. This eventually led to the women's movements which then lead to the usurping of the women's movement by male bashing feminazi and the likes of N.O.W. Well that era has changed. They have now ejected enough fathers from the home to form a formidable army against them. They have ejected enough fathers from the home to allow those ejected fathers to show other fathers still at home how to eject mothers from the home. And so the cycle comes full circle and that is how you know that the cycle is destructive.

Men all over the world want to replace that vicious cycle and the false image of fathers, promoted by domestic violence child abuse advocates, with the real image of fatherhood. Society wants that image changed. Society has finally found the result of creating millions of single parent homes. Our children are growing up, learning to become victims themselves of the dysfunctional nature of a single parent home. Some homes are better off with a single parent, but that is so far from the normal divorce situation that society need not the altered view of fathers that is prevalent today.

Our children are growing up with only a half the view of the world, and the half they do pick up is a misguided other half from an angry or overwhelmed parent. This is not what we want for our children. It is no wonder the juvenile crime rates grow steadily. Family court was fueling the effort for over thirty years.

The new era of fatherhood is a stark contrast to the intense male bashing and the removal of males from the homes. It is our challenge today not to let the pendulum swing so far back in retaliation of the current misdirected women's movement. Children need both parents, both parents need the children, and the children need the parents intact, and not battle weary from litigation.

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AboutFACE

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FACE Burlington County Meeting

Each week, FACE has a workgroup meeting in one of the local counties. You can find out which meeting dates for each county on page 10 in this newsletter. These weekly workshops are geared for addressing our members situations and specific problems which they have.

In the next Burlington County meeting, we are going to try something different to augment our members understanding of several aspects of the legal system. We will be reviewing case law and how to apply case law to your individual case. During this workshop, we will look at published cases and some unpublished cases. These cases will be discussed and organized into an exhibit suitable to be included in your moving papers. Additionally, we will discuss how to pick apart the case law detail and identify how to relate the published findings to your individual case.

If you have case law or have used case law, please bring a copy to the Burlington County workgroup meeting. The copy you bring will be required to be left in our library, so please plan according and do not bring your only copy of the published findings. When organizing the findings, we will also discuss electronic methods of organizing information for the world wide web.

It will be a very interesting and different meeting with a unique and diverse educational opportunity. Plan to attend the next Burlington County meeting.

What if Father's Day Were Eliminated For a Few Years?



by
Kathleen Parker

Published in
The Orlando Sentinel
on June 18, 2000

Not to be a party pooper, but Father's Day just isn't fun anymore.

At least it's not for millions of divorced fathers who don't see enough of their children. Nor for as many children who barely know who Dad is. And certainly not for columnists, who are supposed to say something pleasant when there's very little pleasant to say.

In fact, our culturally designated days of celebration have evolved instead into days of protest. At this moment, assuming you're reading this on Father's Day, hundreds of divorced fathers are protesting in Washington.

Or maybe it's thousands or even millions, depending on which press release you read. More likely, you read little more than a small blurb in your local paper. Johnnie Cochran's Rule of Headline Writing is this: "If you can't alliterate, don't pontificate."

Which is why you know everything about "Deadbeat Dads," a favorite alliterative standard among headline writers, but less about millions of fathers who have been sidelined by a cruel and greedy divorce industry.

A Million Moms is another story. Put a million moms on the front lines and you've got a front page. Recall that Mother's Day 2000 was also a protest moment with "millions" of moms picketing pistols and other gun fare.

The fact that there weren't actually millions of mothers marching in Washington was an annoying detail much more easily ignored than writing a dud like "Hundreds of Mothers Want Gun Controls."

The tired truth is, fathers have legitimate reasons to protest. Divorced fathers — 80 percent of whom lose primary custody to their ex-wives — know too well that being a weekend/holiday visitor to a child's life is not parenting. It's sad and alienating and counterproductive both to children and society. Don't we all know the stats by now?

In a bombshell, father absence is the most important predictor for drug abuse, truancy, sexual experimentation and criminal behavior. More than 70 percent of all juveniles in long-term correctional facilities are young men who grew up without fathers in their homes.

Good fathers know this and so gather each year near Washington's monuments and in other city centers, hoping someone will notice the empty space in America's family portrait.

Though surely scoundrel-dads are plentiful — and I've heard from most of their ex-wives in 12 years of column-writing — surely, too, a larger percentage of the millions of divorced fathers are decent guys. They are fellows good enough to have attracted and held the love of their children's mother for at least a few years.

As for those deadbeats, 80 percent of fathers who have regular visitation with their children also pay child support in full and on time, government figures show. Yet you would think from the relentless reportage on deadbeat dads, especially emanating from the Al Gore campaign these days, that most divorced fathers are nursing Dark 'n Stormies on a pink Bermuda beach.

Given that Father's Day is a painful mockery for many of today's dads, perhaps we should eliminate the day for a while. A national resolution might go something like this: "Whereas society no longer values fathers or recognizes the importance of fathers in children's lives, encouraging through commission or

omission the expansion of new father-absent 'families';

"Therefore be it resolved that Father's Day be eliminated until further notice, instead designating the third Sunday of June as a national day of post-divorce cease-fire during which children are free to spend a guilt-free day with the parent of their choosing."

I realize such a resolution falls short of a Hallmark moment, but it might produce the relatively pleasant possibility that a few more fathers might see their children on the date formerly known as Father's Day.

Kathleen Parker's column appears in the Orlando Sentinel's Living section.

Also check out her web site:
www.kparker.com.

Her e-mail address is:
kparker@orlandosentinel.com

Judicial Complaints

Have you filed a complaint against a judge? The Center for Judicial Accountability is tracking the results of judicial complaints nationwide. They would like to learn of your complaint and the results of it.

When you file a complaint in New Jersey, the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct advises you that the complaint and all actions they take are confidential, and, if you breach this confidentiality, they will terminate their action. Therefore, if your complaint is currently active, you may not want to share information about it until the process is completed. You may, however, want to talk to the Center for Judicial Accountability before you file a complaint.

To share information on your judicial complaint, or to get pointers on filing judicial complaints, contact:

Elena Ruth Sassower
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.,
P.O. Box 69, Godfrey Station,
White Plains, NY 10605-0069
914-421-1200
judgewatch@aol.com, www.judgewatch.org

If you have a complaint against a judge in any New Jersey court, send it to:

Patrick J. Monahan, Jr.
Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex,
PO Box 037
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-2552

"Nanny State Clobbers Fathers' Rights in Court", continued from page 1

been divorced over his objections, whose children then have been taken with no evidence of wrongdoing on his part and who has been thoroughly plundered by a powerful machine of judges, lawyers, psychotherapists and enforcement bureaucrats. Once the state has seized control of his children, a father can be forced to pay almost any amount for attorneys' fees, psychotherapy and child support (which his children may never see); he can be summoned to court so often he loses his job; and he can be jailed without charge, trial or counsel.

It is especially ironic that conservatives should be silent on this abuse, for every prophecy about the dangers of judicial tyranny, bureaucratic expansion and feminist extremism is being fulfilled in the government's unrelenting war on fathers.

Many are upset about the trial lawyers' plundering of tobacco companies and gun manufacturers. Yet lawyers loot vastly more from fathers — private individuals who are much less able to defend themselves or their children's patrimony from the shakedown of court-ordered attorney's fees, for which they can be jailed for not paying.

Conservative critics are unsettled at the costs imposed on business by bureaucratic regulators. But many more fathers are reduced to servitude by bureaucratic courts and police who, in violation of the separation of powers, set the very child-support guidelines they also apply and enforce and which they have a vested interest in making as onerous as possible. By establishing crushing burdens that may consume a man's entire salary, these agents create the very "deadbeats" they are pursuing and generate demand for an ever-larger coercive enforcement bureaucracy with ever-more intrusive powers.

We hear the term "totalitarian" used to characterize the criminalization of private behavior through sexual-harassment and date-rape laws. But the criminalization of fathers is far more invasive and follows the forced dissolution of their families, the invasion of their homes, the raiding of their bank accounts, the micromanagement of their personal and family lives, the use of their children as informers and coerced psychotherapy. Fathers and children also are separated by protective orders that are issued without any evidence of wrongdoing and that cannot protect anyone because they serve to criminalize not violence (which of course already is criminal) but a father's contact with his own children. It might be one thing if all this somehow benefited children, but it is destroying them. It now is well-known that every major social pathology of our time — including violent crime, drug and alcohol abuse, unwed pregnancy, truancy and suicide — all correlate more strongly to fatherless homes than to any other factor. It also is established beyond doubt that removing the father from the home dramatically increases the exposure of children to violence and sexual abuse — up to 33 times, according to a British study.

Yet, ironically, the new awareness of fatherhood is appropriated by politicians and bureaucracies to further demonize actual fathers and penetrate deeper into the private lives of individuals and families. "Child support is more than money," declares the National Child Support Enforcement Association. Child support also is love, emotional support and responsibility. This sounds reassuring. Yet there is something troubling about government officials taking it upon themselves to define and enforce a parent's

love and emotional support of his own children. Are the state and its operatives mandated to punish fathers who are deemed to have defaulted on this as well? In Massachusetts, state officials have used federal money to draw up a list of "Five Principles of Fatherhood," including: "give affection to my children" and "demonstrate respect at all times to the mother of my children." One cannot help but wonder what penalties the state will bring to bear on fathers who fail to show sufficient "affection and respect."

Government-sponsored media campaigns similarly claim to promote fatherhood by vilifying fathers with the slogan, "They're your kids. Be their dad!" The Department of Health and Human Services, or HHS, is spending \$1.4 million to put out advertisements in nearly 25,000 newspapers, magazines and TV and radio stations around the country. The spots portray fathers walking out on their children for no apparent reason: "When Vanessa's Daddy walks out the door today, he's never coming back," declares the voice-over. "Goodbye Vanessa," the pretend father says coldly. "Goodbye Daddy," says Vanessa.

The Christian Science Monitor sees these ads as "the

"If our leaders were serious about providing for children, they would end the power of the divorce industry to rip apart their homes in the first place."

latest sign that Americans, including the government, are waking up to the importance of fatherhood." Perhaps, but fathers who have been ejected from their families by the full force of the state find them disturbingly close to propaganda, reinforcing the assumption that being pursued by federal agents is their just desert for having, in President Clinton's words, "chosen to abandon their children." By comparison, mothers account for at least 55 percent of child murders, according to a Justice Department study (and fathers for a tiny percentage), but were HHS to sponsor TV commercials showing a mother smothering her infant and saying, "They're your kids. Don't kill them!", it would not likely be taken to indicate an awareness of the importance of motherhood.

This agenda is institutionalized in what is perhaps the most dishonest and frightening side of government promoting fatherhood: programs billed as facilitating access and visitation with children. This entails creating supervised visitation centers, institutions where fathers charged with no wrongdoing must pay up to \$80 an hour to visit their own children under the gaze of social workers.

Rick Brita is a father in Massachusetts who has been forced to use such a center, though he was never convicted of child abuse. Brita tells me: "It's like being in jail. Everything the father does on the visitation has to be permissioned. Even hugging your own children could end your visit." He can't take the children out to a park or anything else outside the center. He can't even take pictures of his own children. Expansion of these centers is being pushed by the Cambridge,

Mass.-based Supervised Visitation Network, described in a series by the Massachusetts News as a "matrix of lawyers, judges, social workers, academics and domestic-violence activists who have networked, talked with each other, served on various commissions, boosted each other's careers and helped to expand state and federal funding massively."

If our leaders were serious about providing for children, they would end the power of the divorce industry to rip apart their homes in the first place. On economic grounds alone, the most effective antipoverty program is an intact family; this even was recognized in a 1998 paper by the Democratic Leadership Council. Those concerned about encouraging irresponsible men should consider that there is nothing mutually exclusive about protecting the rights of fathers and their children not to be separated without cause and enforcing child-support collection on those men who truly abandon the offspring they have sired. That the former would benefit vastly more children than the latter is precisely why the iron triangle of family courts, child-support-enforcement bureaucracies and organized feminism won't allow it to happen.

Not since the overthrow of the Weimar Republic have the leaders of a major democracy used their offices and the mass media to disseminate invective against millions of their own citizens. In fact it was Adolf Hitler who urged that "the state must declare the child to be the most precious treasure of the people" and who explained, in the words of Rabbi Daniel Lapin, that "as long as government is perceived as working for the benefit of children, the people happily will endure almost any curtailment of liberty." Using children to tug on our heartstrings may be not only a weakness of the sentimental. It also may be a ploy by those cynical and unscrupulous enough to exploit children for their own purposes. This is likely to be remembered as one of the most diabolical perversions of governmental power in our history, a time when we allowed children to be used and abused by fast-talking government officials and paid for it with our families, our social order and our constitutional rights.

Stephen Baskerville is a professor of political science at Howard University in Washington. First published in "Insight", June 26, 2000.
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New Jersey Legislation

by Jeff Golden

As I write this in mid-August, the New Jersey Legislature is on summer recess. Of the many family-issues bills still pending in the legislature, two are of particular interest to FACE members.

S-1095, sponsored by Senators Anthony R. Bucco and Louis Bassano, provides that "There shall be a presumption in a court determination of child custody that an order of joint physical custody is in the best interests of the child." Although some critics feel this bill is not strongly enough supportive of joint physical custody, this bill would reign in judges' broad discretion by requiring them to consider eight factors in deciding custody and, if joint custody is not ordered, explain in their decision how these eight factors effected their decision.

This bill also provides a restriction against the custodial parent relocating the child when joint physical custody is not ordered, and specifies nine factors to be considered. Currently, in 35 percent of cases, the custodial parent relocates with the children out of the state within two years following divorce. This bill would prevent many of these separations of children and noncustodial parents.

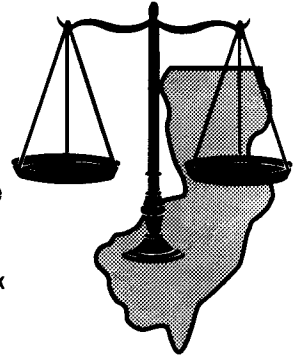
S-1349, sponsored by Senators Louis Bassano and James F. Cafiero, provides for an automatic triennial review of parenting time (visitation) orders. This would prevent noncustodial parents and their children from getting stuck with a parenting time order that was established for an infant, would make it easier to revise parenting time as a child matures and his needs change, and is similar to the present automatic triennial review of child support orders.

Both of these bills are now in the Senate Women's Issues, Children and Family Services Committee. Their future is controlled by committee chairman Senator James F. Cafiero and Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco.

If you would like to testify concerning either of these bills, phone Senate Women's Issues, Children and Family Services Committee aid Michele Leblanc at 609-292-1646. Tell her you want to testify, and ask to be notified when the committee will be taking testimony on these bills.

To read the full text of these, or any other bills, go to the New Jersey Legislature website at www.njleg.state.nj.us. To expedite these bills through the legislative process, contact Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco at 908-322-5500, Senate Women's Issues, Children and Family Services

Committee chairman Cafiero at 609-522-0462, and your own state senator. If you are in favor of these bills, also call your state assembly person and ask him or her to sponsor a corresponding bill in the Assembly.



Michael Edward Fox
FACE Founding President 1990 - 1999

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Amy's Law

New Jersey has a tradition of quickly passing laws in response to social problems, and then spending years trying to figure out how to implement them. The best example that comes to mind is "Megan's Law," named after Megan Kanka, who was raped and murdered by repeat offender Jesse Temendequas. Under Megan's Law, neighbors are supposed to be notified of child molesters in their neighborhoods, but the law has never been fully implemented for fear of violating the molesters' rights.

Bill A-6, the "New Jersey Safe Haven Protection Act," is the latest example. It was introduced on May 22, 2000 by Assembly Speaker Jack Collins and Assemblywoman Charlotte Vandervalk. There were also three Senate versions of the bill. Altogether, there were 38 co-sponsors in both houses of the legislature. Jack Collins, in his role as Acting Governor while Christine Whitman was on vacation, signed it into law on July 7th.

A-6 should be called "Amy's Law," after Amy Grossberg, the young New Jersey girl who, with the help of her boyfriend Brian Peterson, threw her newborn baby boy in a motel trash dumpster in Delaware. Grossberg and Peterson received jail terms, but results were different for some of the other recent high-profile baby killers. Seventeen year old Helen Sim of Cherry Hill, for example, received no punishment for murdering her baby from Camden County Judge Page, who instead called her "a daughter to be proud of."

The Safe Havens Protection Act is supposed to give these girls an alternative to killing their babies. Under this law, a parent can anonymously deliver, or arrange the delivery of, a baby that appears to be no more than 30 days old, without expressing an intent to return, to a police station or the emergency department of a hospital no questions asked. That's it. The parent just drops the baby off, walks away, and

is no longer a parent.

Why is this law interesting to fathers? Because it gives them a way out of eighteen plus years of child support for an unwanted child. New Jersey's laws are gender-neutral. Rights under the Safe Havens Protection Act are equally granted to either parent, not just the mother. The father could also drop off a child he doesn't want.

How does it work? If a woman is pregnant with your unwanted child and refuses to terminate the pregnancy, do not use this as a reason to terminate your relationship with her. Be supportive throughout the pregnancy. If possible, be present when the baby is born.

Hospital personnel now attempt to get men who are with unmarried new mothers to sign an acknowledgment of paternity. We usually recommend that unmarried fathers never acknowledging paternity without DNA paternity testing, but in this case sign the acknowledgment.

As soon after the birth as possible, you alone take the baby to a police station or hospital emergency department, and drop it off. Identify yourself when you do this, and also tell them who the mother is and where they can find her. Also notify the mother of where you dropped off the baby. Once this is done, legally you are no longer the father.

The police or the hospital is required to notify the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) and turn the baby over to them. Since only the father dropped off the child without the mother's consent or approval, the mother should easily get the child back from DYFS.

After doing this, if you want to, you can resume your relationship with the mother and child.

If, in the future, as so often happens, the relationship sours and you break up, you will not have a child support obligation because legally you are not the father. Keep in mind, too, that since you are not the father, you will also not have any parenting time (visitation) rights.

Is FACE Being Effective Yet?



FACE vice president Jeff Golden surrounded by 4th graders from Perth Amboy, NJ while speaking at FACE's Fatherless Day Rally at the State House, Trenton, NJ, June 16, 2000.

On July 19th to 22nd, FACE participated in the Burlington County Farm Fair. This was our first time at the fair, and we made many new contacts. The fair was so successful that we will be looking into participating in other county fairs in future years.

FACE's second quarter, 2000 newsletter featured an article on our Worst Family Court Judge in New Jersey survey, and listed the ten worst judges. It was mailed in late June. The Gloucester County Times' headline on July 26, 2000 read "Judges Shuffled to New Assignments." Three Vicinage Number 15 (which includes Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland counties) judges were on our top ten list. One of them was transferred out of Family Court. When the Times asked Assignment Judge George H. Stanger if FACE's survey had any effect on his judge-shuffling, he said he was unaware of FACE, our newsletter, or any of our complaints. This seems unlikely since Judge Stanger is on our mailing list.

On July 31st, Supreme Court Chief Justice Deborah Poritz announced her judicial assignments in both the New Jersey Law Journal and

remembers, and we will remind our members.

On Tuesday, August 8th, FACE participated in the American Coalition of Fathers and Children's national child support protest. The protest took place simultaneously at over 150 locations nationwide. FACE, the New Jersey coordinator, held its protest at lunchtime in front of the Camden County Hall of Justice. FACE members and other supporters burned their child support orders, and spoke of Family Court's injustices and anti-male bias, and errors made by child support enforcement agencies and how hard they are to correct.

FACE thanks The



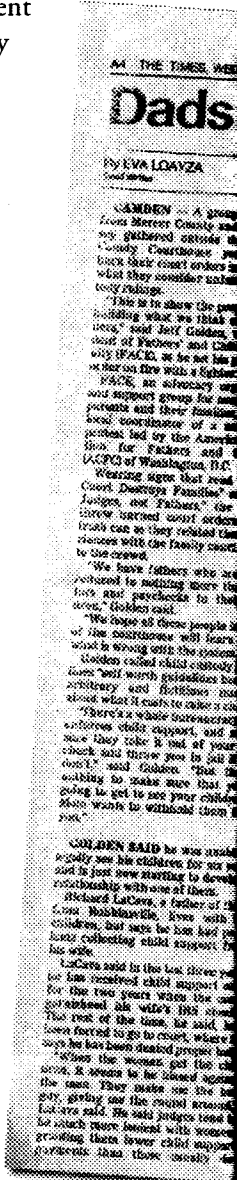
Treasurer Drew Reilly and president Dave Cantera at FACE's booth at the Burlington County Farm Fair, July 20, 2000.

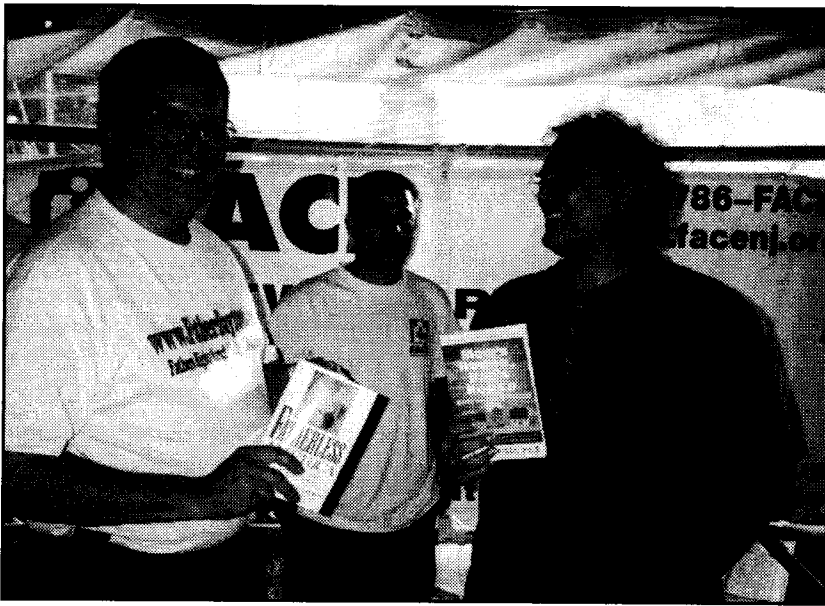
New Jersey Lawyer. Three more of the ten worst were transferred out of Family Court in other counties. Chief Justice Poritz also gets our newsletter.

Coincidence? Maybe, but 40% of our worst judges are gone.

Or are judges being transferred out of Family Court toward the end of their initial terms in hope that their victims will forget about them by the time they have to go through the reappointment process? FACE

Times of Trenton and the Courier Post (of Camden/Cherry Hill) for print coverage, and WPVI (channel 6 in Philadelphia) and CN-8 (Comcast cable) for broadcast coverage of this event. Audience response was very positive.





FACE vice president Jeff Golden, membership chairman Ron Svitak, and president Dave Cantera discussing books on parenting issues at the Burlington County Farm Fair.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2000

Protest 'bias' of family courts



...biased from fathers.
 Debra Traylor, a father from Lawrenceville, Georgia, is speaking about the ongoing battle to gain custody of his 7-year-old son.
 "Most of us are here because of how we are being treated in the court system and the lack of equity when we stand before judges," Traylor said.
 "I provide for my child in every way I can. Yet, I'm denied custody," said Traylor. "I go before the judge, he says no. And I'm looking for a divorce."
 ...LACAYA, Golden blames old custody laws, saying many judges are middle-class women who were trained to be child-rearers in women. Such traditional ways of thinking handicap many fathers, she Traylor, who wants to be active in their children's lives, but are denied that right by a biased system, he said.
 ...children. Golden emphasized the importance of a father figure in the social development of children.
 "I want to make sure my son never has to go through what I went through in family court. I want to make sure he's always be able to be father to his children," Golden said.
 Golden hopes that instead of making children "orphan" one of their parents, the court will figure out a way whereby children will still have a loving father in their lives and be able to develop a meaningful rela-

"Vision for FACE", continued from page 2

Children need their college funds intact, not paid to lawyers, psychologists, therapists, and the like. They need their college tuition! Parents may divorce each other, but the children do not divorce their parents.

What children do need is two loving parents working together during difficult times, showing the children how, even when life throws you a curve ball as serious as divorce or death, you can overcome the odds and build a new family life with two loving homes. Children live what they learn. For the children to learn how to operate in our society, parents need to show love and the ability to work through tough issues.

This is the new era which FACE must operate in. FACE is quickly moving from a parent-oriented organization to a family-centric organization, while not losing focus on the idea that the parent molds the child. The parent must be whole to positively effect the child's view of life. FACE will no longer focus solely on the parent's needs. FACE will not even be shortsighted and focus on only the children's needs. FACE will focus on the broader horizon of the

family's needs. It is this vision which I hope to bring to FACE, guiding FACE into the next era where the idea of fatherhood and fathering is to mentor the generation of men and women who were raised in single parent homes and only had a half view of life.

For FACE this means turning our efforts to education. The newly appointed Executive Director is charged with locating a facility which will be able to reach out to families currently involved in high conflict litigation so that we can offer a parenting center separate and apart from the courthouse. A center for drop off and pick up, a center for supervised parenting. The Executive Director will also be directing others to obtain course materials and instructors which bring parenting courses, conflict resolution courses, and other family values back to the forefront of our community. As fathers, we must show by example. Our children will learn from our example.

I look forward to bringing FACE into this new era and ask that any assistance you might be able to provide be done with total abandon. Our children need our help. If you think that it cannot happen to your child, that you are not involved in divorce or you will never get divorced, then think again. Family court, the antics of N.O.W. and the false picture that society has of men as abusers have put millions of children in the high-risk category. Have you looked into the background of your teenager's friends or potential lovers? Did the girl your son is dating have a father figure? Is she capable of having a relationship with a male? Is she susceptible to teen pregnancy? Is her mother capable of having a relationship with a man? Did the boy your daughter is dating have a father figure? These are all questions we don't want to ask, but they are becoming more important than the issue of drugs, and our children don't know the right questions to ask when it comes to relationships and personalities. The most important questions are not realized until after your children are married with two kids and the word divorce comes up. Then its "Too late folks!", as Michael Fox would say.

Society is changing. Our parents were not prepared for what happened. Will you be able to prepare your children? Support FACE and learn about what your children will have to look for in a partner and a mate. To be sure, divorce is every bit as devastating to children as drugs, alcohol, HIV, and school violence. If you cannot support FACE actively with your time, then please support FACE with your generous tax deductible donations. Help us uncover the tools to help you educate yourself and your children on the new generation of issues society will have to deal with. Only you can save your child from the devastation of divorce ... Support FACE; be a PARENT!

David J. Cantera, Jr.
 President

"Family Court Dracula", continued from page 1

That is a major cause of the intrusive scrutiny at the visitation centers. Are these contract centers concerned with the children or the funding? Money and power have an odd affect on many people.

The demeaning of the "visiting" parent is readily visible from the minute that a person enters the "secured facility" with armed guards, officious case workers with their clipboards and with arrogant, domineering managers with business backgrounds not child development, psychology, or even social work training. The child's impression is that all of these authority figures see Daddy as a serious and dangerous threat. The only time a child sees this type of security is on TV showing prisons filled with bad people. It leaves a child with an impression that their love for Daddy is dangerous and bad, and so is Daddy. And to take it a step further into reality, the natural progression of a child's self worth is that "if Daddy is bad and I love Daddy, then I am bad". And they wonder why children of "throw away" dads are so prone to so many destructive behaviors.

The centers' management sets rules to 'train' parents in proper parenting time at the visitation center. This forced, but very unofficial parent training, is based on a business manager's personal experience and idealism, not on the recommendations of any professional knowledgeable in parent/child needs or interactions. The intrusion cuts into the spontaneity and naturalness of a parent/child interaction.

An even greater stressor on the parent/child interaction is the knowledge

that a poor review by a case worker, who has no formal training, essentially puts the case worker in the position of complainant, witness, prosecutor, judge, jury, and executioner of the ability of a parent and child to see each other. Caseworkers, often young, childless, and generally with little or no formal education, correct parents and children alike, openly, for all to hear with their corrections based on personal bias, unresolved issues and idealism. Caseworkers who dislike a parent will let everyone in the facility know by broadcasting through glares, tone, stance, and attitude. Children are very attuned to these things especially from authority figures. Many times the case workers disapproval is rooted in other than professional reasons, appearance and social skills seems to be a major factor.

Intense note taking by the case workers are going to develop negative issues, no matter whether the issues are grounded in reality. These notes are cumulative. So is the effect.

Judges use visitation centers to avoid responsibility. Judges and attorney's use visitation centers to ameliorate their guilt at taking a child's daddy away from the child. Judges, attorney's and Child Welfare use visitation centers to validate their personal agendas more often than the centers are used for the best interest of a child. The child is the last factor of the equation.

How long can a parent or child withstand this steady, relational bloodletting to maintain any kind of healthy relationship. Brad Ingram has written of a concern of children losing interest under such pressure and wandering off with a childhood of rubber stamp visits instead of a childhood of meaningful

memories and experiences with Dad. How long do we have to wait for our children to be allowed to be children with two parents, not just one parent and a "visitor" with no anchoring relationship? Is it any wonder that America has more police per capita than any other country in the world. Is it any wonder that America has a per capita prison population comparable to the former Soviet Union and it's infamous Gulag Archipelago? Stephen Baskerville regularly puts forth the concept that indirectly, and sometime directly, Fatherhood is a crime in America. If you are a father, you are already a criminal. You just may not have begun your punishment, yet.

The parent/child pair mentioned above in this letter were a mother and her daughter. Did parent/child gender change your view or feelings of that picture? Why? Did gender make it more or less shameful or justifiable? Should any child or parent, male or female, be subject to this kind of cruel and unusual punishment without any conviction of wrong doing? Is motherhood next to be criminalized?

Stan Rains is a father from Victoria, Texas. He may be reached at stan@textoner.com.

Fathers' and Children's Equality, Inc.

Mission Statement

Fathers' and Children's Equality is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) children's advocacy organization, and a self-help, educational and support group for non-custodial parents and their families.

Our Mission is to:

minimize the emotional upheaval experienced by children during and after parental separation,
promote every child's Civil Right to equal access to both parents and extended families
regardless of the parent's marital status, and
end the adversarial process in divorce and custody matters.

Our Goals are to:

promote equal parental responsibility for children's nurturing,
promote equal parental responsibility for children's financial needs,
encourage alternatives to divorce,
promote the position that children are not property,
end parental alienation,
eliminate profit motivation in custody disputes,
provide positive parenting role models for separating families,
prevent the use of false child abuse and/or spousal abuse allegations as leverage in
custody disputes,
establish mandatory penalties for false allegations of child abuse and/or spousal abuse,
promote equal treatment of Family Court litigants,
enforce existing laws providing for gender equality in Family Court, and
establish a shelter for displaced fathers and children.

Adopted September 27, 1993 by the Board of Directors

Revised January 18, 1996 and January 9, 2000

Why No One is Married

by Ed Truncellito, J.D.

Marriage today is no more than "registered cohabitation" because no-fault divorce was misinterpreted as "no cause and no proof" divorce. If you can divorce without true cause--then you were not truly married in the first place. You were merely cohabiting, as in ages past, regardless what name it's called.

You could always walk away from a disagreeable cohabitation, but marriage was defined in its protection by law. You couldn't get out of a marriage just because you wanted out. You had to have true cause: abuse, adultery, abandonment, or the like. And not only cause, but genuine proof of it.

When the well-meaning no-faulters tried to take adversarialism out of the divorce process, to make it friendly, it failed. The door swung wide open to "no cause and no proof" divorce. Meanwhile, adversarialism went right back into the property and custody battles.

The old "fault" laws needed overhaul to bring spousal equality, and to make the system friendlier, but no-fault's "no cause and no proof" divorce, administered by warring lawyers, was the wrong implementation. The law should have required that spouses be taught how, and helped, to settle differences as co-equals, to deliberate justly and fairly, with self-control, while honoring their partner and the vows they made for a permanent union.

Beforehand, almost any man could rule his wife and settle disputes by physical force. But spousal equality demands at least a little education, a working knowledge of civilized diplomacy and reasoned compromise -- for both genders.

The no-fault laws did not train the partners to solve any problems. The laws simply -- and grievously -- empowered the courts to settle all their disputes for them, in one grand sweep, by divorce, no matter how whimsical or trivial the disagreement. No-fault did not elevate the status of wives as co-equal family managers. It lowered the status of both spouses, while it elevated the courts as the new, and not-so-charitable, family managers.

The no-fault divorce system, as implemented, funded divorce. It channeled money from troubled families to divorce lawyers, now at hourly rates in three digits, in exchange for dividing children and property. The court's officers were hired and paid to terminate marriages, not to save them.

The no-fault legal system, as envisioned, was to be a family hospital, to comfort the hurting spouses and bandage the wounded marriages. Instead, it became a family morgue. It promised to give relief from the former hostilities of the "fault" legal system, but it became more hostile than ever. Reconciliation dollars, facilities, and assistance were promised, but they never materialized. A generation and a half later, we know that the experiment did not work as planned.

In truth, our no-fault laws, as implemented, abolished true marriage. After many years of no-fault, we no longer even respect the solemn covenants that partners make between themselves and God. Instead, we respect the solemn covenants that lawyers make between themselves and a judge.

Although cohabitation is handicapped in many ways, it unfortunately has one important advantage: ordinary cohabitation keeps government out of the home. In contrast, the registered cohabitation that we still call marriage invokes the jurisdiction of government officers. They receive authority to manage the lives of both spouses and their children with legal force.

No wonder people cohabit. No wonder we have so many broken homes. Partners can walk away from the slightest inconvenience, at any time, with court

assistance. They don't ever have to conciliate, or swallow their pride and say they are sorry, or try to please anyone but themselves.

When divorce was made into a guaranteed certainty, it became an easy way out of hard times. Partners knew they would no longer be pressed by embarrassing questions about covenants and faithfulness, as they moved on to their next cohabitation. Nor could they be stopped.

The fundamental attribute, the unique defining characteristic, the earmark, that always distinguished true marriage from cohabitation, is legal security -- protection by law -- protection by divorce law.

Today, that protection is gone. Genuine proof of true cause was always required for divorce, and anything else -- but that -- should have changed in an overhaul of divorce law.

It is one thing to let spouses decide, without intrusion, for their own private reasons, whether to live together, or to live apart indefinitely. But it is another thing altogether, for government not to question the cause, when government has already intervened, when government is asked to destroy a marriage, totally and permanently.

The legal security of true marriage cannot be a chain. But neither can it be a thread. It must be a sturdy fabric, a flexible but tough canvas, to weather the gales of life.

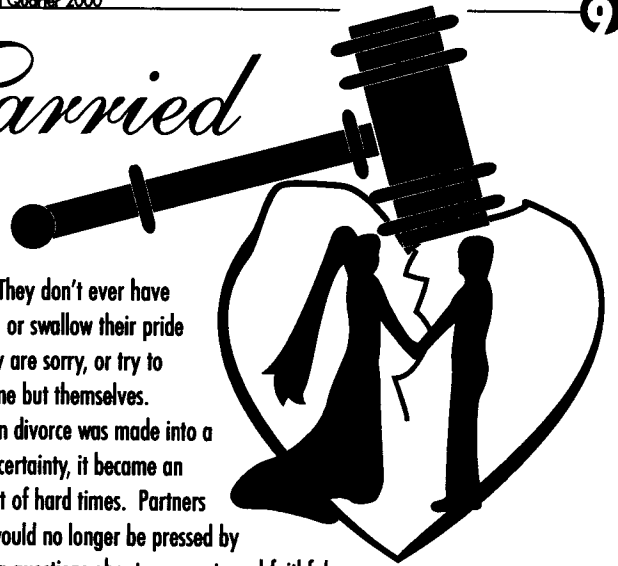
That's why true marriage is so secure and stable for mates. When spouses cannot easily shake off their yoke, they soften it by mutual accommodation. In other words: spouses don't stay together because they get along; they get along because they stay together.

And that's why true marriage is so secure and stable for children. True marriage is underwritten by law. Children can rest assured that no passing storm will carry either of their parents away. They know that the whole force of government stands as a benevolent guard to protect their homes and both of their providers.

We are not in the midst of a divorce crisis. It is a marriage crisis.

No one is married, and no one can marry. The right to marry was taken away. The happy voices of the bride and the bridegroom are gone from our land.

Attorney Ed Truncellito spent over 1,500 hours researching the legislation that created "no-fault" divorce in Texas in 1969. He found that the law was meant only to apply to uncontested divorces. He has filed a \$7.5 billion RICO suit against the State Bar of Texas, alleging that they, like the tobacco industry, covered up what they knew to be a destructive product, and that the State Bar knew all along that the no-fault law was being misapplied but covered it up for financial gain. See Mr. Truncellito's website at www.no-one-is-married.com. His email address is no_one_is_married@juno.com (use underscores).



FACE MEETINGS



Second Tuesday of each month
except April and August:

FACE GENERAL MEETING

7:00-9:00PM

(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

Cherry Hill Free Public Library
Meeting Room A
1100 Kings Highway North
Cherry Hill, NJ
(856) 667-0300

This is FACE's monthly "business meeting," and is open to the public. We usually have a guest speaker, or present some other kind of program. Membership information is available, and this meeting is a good place to become familiar with FACE. We request that you *do not* discuss your own personal case at this meeting.

Second Tuesday of each month,
"MEETING AFTER THE MEETING"

9:00 PM* TO 11:00 PM,

Diamond Diner
Eastbound Route 70 at Haddonfield Road,
Cherry Hill, NJ,
(856) 665-0990

The library asks that we vacate the meeting room promptly at 9:00 PM so, immediately following the monthly General Meeting, please join us at the diner for coffee and informal conversation.

*In months in which we do not meet at the library, this meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

SPECIAL PURPOSE MEETINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM.
FACE members are welcome to attend and observe.
Location may vary. For location, phone the FACE hotline in advance at 856-786-FACE.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committees appointed by the FACE Board of Directors may meet informally, or may have formal meetings. Meetings will be scheduled by the committee chairman. Contact the committee chairman for more information.

Fourth Wednesday of each month,
except November and December, and the first Wednesday in December

FAMILY LAW REFORM POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE, 7:00PM

Prestige Diner, Route 33 (one mile east of NJ Turnpike, Exit 8),
Heightstown, NJ (609) 443-1211

FLR-PAC is not a part of FACE. It is a separate, independent organization. FLR-PAC's membership is open to all persons concerned with family law reform. Although some of FACE's members, acting as individuals, or as members of FLR-PAC, may engage in lobbying or other political activities, FACE does not. FLR-PAC's meeting schedule is listed here only as convenience for individuals who may wish to become politically active.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	Mercer County Work Group			Burlington County Work Group		
		FACE General Meeting				
	Camden County Work Group			Board of Directors		
		Gloucester/Salem Work Group	Family Law Reform Political Action Committee			

WORK GROUP MEETINGS

FACE has four workgroup meetings each month where we help members strategize how to handle their own cases. These meetings are held at FACE members' private residences. Please be courteous to the hosts by phoning in advance to let them know you plan to attend and get directions. Workgroup meetings may be canceled if no calls have been received 24 hours prior to the meeting. Non-members are usually welcome to observe at workgroup meetings, but some of our work with members may be confidential.

First Monday of each month, 7PM:

Mercer County
Hamilton Township, NJ
Contact: Charles Forberg
forbergc@aol.com
(609) 584-1887

Third Monday of each month, 7PM:

Camden County
Collingswood, NJ
Contact: Ron Neely
(856) 854-5567

First Thursday of each month, 7:00PM:

Burlington County
Mt. Laurel, NJ
Contact: Dave Cantera
(856) 778-0811

Fourth Tuesday of each month:

Gloucester/Salem County
Mullica Hill, NJ
Contact: Cliff Wenrick
(856) 223-0434

FACE CLASSES

FACE is planning a series of classes on topics of interest to noncustodial parents and family court litigants. Topics currently under consideration include:

- Parental Alienation Syndrome,
- Pro Se Workshop — Nuts and Bolts of How to Represent Yourself

To learn more about attending these classes, or to suggest other class topics, contact Dave Cantera at (856) 778-0811.

FACE MEETING RULES:

1. No alcoholic beverages or other controlled substances are allowed at any FACE activities. If you have consumed or are under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substances, please do not attend.
2. Workgroup meetings are usually held at FACE members' private residences. Please extend to the hosts the courtesy of phoning in advance to let them know you plan to attend and get directions. Workgroup meetings may be canceled if no calls have been received 24 hours prior to the meeting.
3. Every effort will be made to accommodate children at FACE meetings, but be aware that issues discussed may be inappropriate for children.



A • C • T • I • V • I • S • M



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 31, 2000, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
FACE Annual Halloween Demonstration at the home of a Family Court Judge

Family Court judges continue to trivialize the importance of the father-child relationship. Halloween is a minor holiday, but it is one of children's favorites. Yet judges routinely deny noncustodial parents the right to be with their children on this day. If judges' ability to interact with their children was interfered with, maybe they would become more sensitive to the importance of our children to us.

FACE members and supporters will publicly demonstrate at the home of a family court judge, preventing him and his children from Trick-or-Treating on this fun day for children. We will give out treats to neighborhood children, inform the judge's neighbors of his offenses against children, and educate the public and the news media about the harm done to children by family courts.

Meet at 3:30 PM at Olga's Diner, Marlton Circle (intersection of Routes 70 and 73), Marlton, NJ. Costumes are welcome, but no masks, please. Bring your own sign (only without stick) for an issue important to you, or use one of ours. Maps will be distributed, and we will convoy to the judge's house at 4:00 PM. If you will be available to participate, call the FACE hotline at 856-786-FACE or email info@facenj.org by October 24, 2000.

Sunday, November 5 through Saturday, November 11, 2000:
New Jersey State Bar Association Mid-Year Meeting

Monte Carlo, Monaco

Ever wonder where your money has gone? Now you can find out. Follow your lawyer to Monte Carlo and tell him to "Show me the money!"

Ah, Monte Carlo. Famous for jewel thieves, gigolos ... and now New Jersey lawyers! We know it's the low season, but Monte Carlo!?

If the child support people haven't picked up your passport yet, pack your tux, jet over to Monaco and see which of those categories your lawyer fits into.

Contributions to FACE

Fathers' and Children's Equality is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contributions to FACE should be tax deductible for you. Check with your tax professional to be sure.

Regular membership is \$75.00 per year. Since we are a grassroots organization, we ask those who are able to consider Patron membership for \$250.00 or more per year. Patrons will receive special recognition for their support of FACE. Life membership is granted to those who contribute \$750.00 or more in one calendar year.

All FACE memberships expire on December 31st of each year. The only exception is for initial memberships that commence in the last three months of the year. These will expire on December 31st of the following year.

If your employer has a charitable giving program, we encourage you to contribute to FACE through that plan. Your employer's matching funds will then also go to FACE and help support our activities. Please specify on your donor pledge that you want your contribution to go to Fathers' and Children's Equality, and give our address.

You might be able to require your ex-spouse to contribute to FACE. If you file an enforcement of litigant's rights in court, and you ask for sanctions against your opponent, ask that the sanction be a substantial contribution to your favorite charity. If you win, specify that the charity to be contributed to is FACE.

Have you been court-ordered to obtain life insurance coverage, but the smallest policy you can get is for more than the court requires? Consider naming FACE as the beneficiary for the excess amount.

FACE will credit all funds received on your behalf from all sources toward your membership.



FACE membership APPLICATION

Regular Membership \$75.00 per year
 Patron Membership \$250.00 or more.

- New Membership
- Renewal
- Contribution

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (Please make check payable to FACE)

Credit Card # _____

Exp. date month _____ year _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Residence County _____ Date of Birth _____

Phones: Home (_____)
 Work (_____)
 Other (_____)

e-mail address _____

Are you registered to vote? Yes No

If not, are you eligible? Yes No I don't know

FACE may use my name as a supporter for legislative purposes

How many children do you have? _____

Date of birth of youngest _____

How many overnights per month do your children spend with you? _____

Jurisdiction of your case County _____ State _____

Judge(s) _____

Mental health professional(s) involved in your case:
 Name _____
 City _____ State _____

Mail application and payment to: **FACE**
 P.O. Box 2471
 Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

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FACEHOTLINE
8 5 6 - 7 8 6 - F A C E
Philadelphia 215-335-4054
Delaware Valley 610-668-4748
Bucks County 215-FACE-4664

It is not the function of the government to keep the citizen from falling into error; it is the function of the citizen to keep the government from falling into error.

— U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Parker,
Chief Prosecutor for the United States of America at the Nurnberg Trials