



PACE

Parents And Children for Equality

Newsletter



Columbus, Ohio Chapter

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Volume 21, No. 9

The "Best Parent" is *Both* Parents

September 2002

EQUAL PARENTS' WEEK

September 23, 2002 - September 29, 2002



Equal Parents' Week is a movement which sends the message that parental rights and responsibilities must be shared equally by both parents. The purple ribbon is the symbol which sends this message. People are urged to send this message by wearing purple ribbons and tying them everywhere they can be seen.

Equal Parents' Week is a civil rights movement. More than that, it is a human rights movement. Equal Parents' Week advocates that equality is not just a legal concept. The right of both parents to function as a parent, the right of children to be raised and nurtured by both parents, and the right of families to exist and function as a family, are rights inherent and inalienable to all families. The Equal Parents' Week mandate for equal parent status is a mandate for the time it takes to love, nurture, and teach our children our values the only way we can...a mandate for the ability to be a parent...and a mandate for justice.

The Children's Rights Council encourages everyone to support National Parents Day in recognition of its important mission to strengthen the role parents play in children's lives and advocating family values, objectives shared by the focus of Equal Parents' Week.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Speaker: *Judianne Cochran*

Question and Answer Forum

Location and Time:

September 16, 2002, 7:00 p.m.

Worthington Presbyterian Church

(Northwest corner of High St. and SR 161)

We all need to care about what happens to parents and children when they walk into court. We as a society all share the responsibility for creating a system which makes the principle "the best parent is both parents"

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School's Back in Session

Director's Corner

Those of us with school-age children know that school is back in session. The very funny commercials from Staples Office Supply about parents celebrating the beginning of school might lead one to think that this is the beginning of a vacation for parents. Not so, of course—as we parents all know. While school does occupy children's time and attention, it does not reduce parental chores; it only changes them. During the school year, we may be less involved in scheduling activities, overseeing where our children are and what they are doing and shuttling them to and from friends houses. But we need to be paying attention to our children's schoolwork and showing them that we are paying attention.

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Parents And Children for Equality, Columbus Chapter, P.O. Box 16066, Columbus, OH 43216

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Director's Corner continued

Involvement in your children's schools is the most important thing you can do to help to ensure your child's success in school. This is true whether you are a custodial parent or a noncustodial parent, whether your children live in your home a significant portion of the time or, unfortunately, do not. Your children need to know that school matters to you, that you expect them to do their best and that you will help them in all appropriate ways to succeed in school.

Through the efforts of PACE-Columbus board member Julie Carpenter-Hubin, PACE-

"Your job is not to become concerned about the Constitutional rights of the man that you're violating. Throw him out on the street, give him the clothes on his back, and tell him, 'see ya around'. We don't have to worry about their rights"

—NJ Municipal Court Judge Richard Russell to his colleagues during a training seminar in 1994.

Columbus was successful in getting a grant from The William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation to help to promote the involvement of nonresidential parents in their children's schools. Part of what they grant funded was the production of brochures to promote such involvement. The brochures, written by Julie with the creative assistance of Danelle Fowler, have lots of useful tips for parents. We have reproduced some of the contents of this brochure in this month's newsletter (see pages 6-7).

Closing Thought

Most of us couldn't raise and educate our children properly without schools. They serve a valuable socializing function as well as their primary function of educating children. But they are no substitute for parents.

As George Herbert said, "One father is worth more than a hundred schoolmasters." And, of course, the same is true of mothers. But just as schoolmasters don't replace parents, mothers don't replace fathers. Our children need the active involvement of both parents in their schools.

—Don Hubin

Organization Information:

See page footer for PACE Columbus address, phone and Web page

E-mail List: paceohio@yahoo.com

(Sign up at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/paceohio>)

For open (unmoderated) discussion board: pace-forum@yahoo.com

(Sign up at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pace-forum>)

Newsletter Editor: lovingparent@hotmail.com

Other PACE Chapters:

Cincinnati, P.O. Box 8805, Cincinnati, OH 45208, 513-624-7223

Dayton, P.O. Box 340126, Dayton, OH 45434, 937-285-0275

Cleveland, P.O. Box 32609, Cleveland, OH 44132, 1-877-581-6502,

<http://www.pace-cleveland.org>

Northern Kentucky, P.O. Box 74126, Dayton, KY 41074, 606-647-2235

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(continued from cover story, page 1)

a reality by embracing the civil rights that protect unmarried parents and their children individually, as well as their right to exist and function as a family. It is long overdue that we recognize that “the best interests of children” cannot be met unless we maximize the ability of both parents to raise and nurture their children and afford children the maximum parenting effort and involvement each parent is willing and able to contribute in raising their children.

Equality imputes values: civil rights, conscience, and responsibility. We all have a responsibility to keep families together by promoting a system that values and protects both parents. Families will be in crisis until the unconditional love and sacrifice, the need for both parents and for families to continue to function as families, individual self-respect and respect among all family members, are lived by each of us, and promoted and protected by our laws and by every component of our local and national governments and justice systems.

Issues Behind the Message of Equal Parents’ Week

The world of custodial and noncustodial is the forum for parental rights and responsibilities of parents who are divorced or never married. Although joint legal custody is intended to provide for sharing of parental rights and responsibilities, it has evolved to create a “one parent”, “one household” syndrome which devalues the parent who becomes the noncustodial parent.

In most cases, custodial parents are granted the majority of custodial time, and noncustodial parents are granted “every other weekend” orders. Once they become a noncustodial parent, most noncustodial parents cannot obtain more time than this, and have little or no recourse if they are denied custody of their children, since many judges are unwilling to enforce custody orders.

Child support laws in many states have changed in two major respects: (1) levels of support now exceed what many middle and lower income parents can afford; and (2) affordability to the paying parent is not a factor in calculating child support (basic living expenses of the paying parent such as rent, food and car payments are often disregarded in calculating the amount of support).

Consequently, many middle and lower income noncustodial parents fall behind through no fault of their own. They become unable to meet their own basic living expenses, and child support arrearages accrue monthly. The financial pressure becomes a never-ending cycle and permanent hardship...one they face every day...in extreme cases, it becomes unbearable. Some states impose punitive consequences such as loss of vocational and driver’s licenses—without regard to the reason for the arrearages. When parents are denied return of their vocational or driver’s licenses—or are incarcerated—because they are unable to pay off support arrearages, they can lose their jobs, as well as the ability to regain employment. They then become unable to pay any child support, and ultimately, their livelihood is destroyed. While millions of dollars of child support arrearages are deemed owed by “deadbeat” parents, rarely do statistics distinguish between those parents who willfully evade paying child support, and those arrearages which result from inability to afford the amount of child support ordered—which, in reality, accounts for the majority of arrearages.

Lack of attention to and resolution of these problems faced by noncustodial parents with respect to custody and support, as well as other problems such as false abuse allegations, parental alienation, and unfounded and bad faith moveaways, originate from a misperception which prevails through society and our justice system: unmarried parents are not given equal status as parents.

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Found this here: http://64.227.10.201/high_profile_deadbeat.htm
 Tuesday, September 10, 2002

High-Profile 'Deadbeat Dad' Raids Won't Fix Child Support System Badly in Need of Reform

By Glenn Sacks and Dianna Thompson



Dianna Thompson



Glenn Sacks

In highly publicized raids, federal agents have hauled in 69 "deadbeat dads" from 29 states over the past few weeks, and are still hunting for 33 more. The Bush administration boasts that it is sending a message to deadbeats. However, the high-living deadbeat dad who stiffs his kids is largely a mythical creature.

Arizona State University researcher Sanford Braver, who over an eight year period conducted the largest federally funded study of divorced dads ever done, found that unemployment was the largest factor behind nonpayment of child support, and noted that his findings were "consistent with virtually all past studies on the topic."

According to a US Government Accounting Office survey of custodial mothers who were not receiving the support they were owed, two-thirds of the mothers themselves admitted that their children's fathers do not pay their child support because they are financially unable to do so.

Most "deadbeat dads" are actually "dead broke," either because they have low-wage jobs, are unemployed, or are deep in arrears on unrealistic and crushing child support obligations. According to Bruce Walker, the Oklahoma District Attorney who ran the state's child-support enforcement program for three years and jailed hundreds of fathers for nonpayment, these men are "seldom

the mythical monsters described by politicians."

"Many times I prosecuted impoverished men," he notes. "I prosecuted one deadbeat dad who had been hospitalized for malnutrition and another who lived in the bed of a pickup truck."

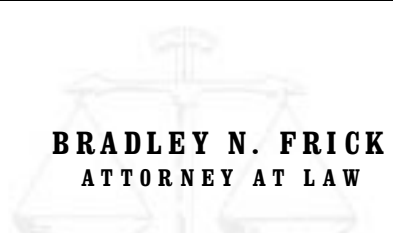
Other "deadbeat dads" are victims of child support enforcement agency errors, which studies have shown account for as much as a third of all alleged arrearages in some states and counties. These errors occur in part because the federal government funds the states' enforcement efforts based on how much money in child support they collect, thus strongly encouraging states to grab and hold every dollar they can, even if it is collected in error.

Another problem is that, according to Elaine Sorensen of the Urban Institute, less than 5% of fathers who lose their jobs or become disabled are able to get downward modifications in their child support. In such cases arrearages mount quickly, as well as interest (10% or more in many states) and penalties. However, judges cannot remedy these injustices because the federal Bradley amendment bars them from retroactively forgiving child support arrearages.

Other men become "deadbeats" because they have been cut off from their children. Studies show that access and visitation denial has reached epidemic levels, and many fathers fail to pay their child support in part because they are spending thousands of dollars in legal fees just trying to remain a part of their children's lives. Braver's research and US Census data clearly indicate that the more access fathers have to their children, the better their payment record.

In addition, some men are not aware of their children's whereabouts or even that they have

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Tidbits

Thanks to Pete at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sharedparenting> for the following “oath” that judges effectively make to the most adversarial (often the mother) of children’s two parents:

“I promise if you hire an attorney, file for divorce and petition for custody of your children, I will not only promise you will get custody of your children. I will see to it that he’s only allowed to bother you for visitation a couple times a month. And I will reward you by: giving you the home you live in and any other property he owns, half or more of the money he’s got in savings and retirement accounts. I will make him pay your lawyer’s fees, pay you alimony and make him pay you child support. And, if for any reason you have problems with guilt as a result, I will make him pay for your therapy until you feel better about yourself, so help me god.”

In its 1993 Candlelight Vigil at the Lincoln Memorial, the National Children’s Rights Council released statistics of the number of children whose access with their noncustodial parent is interfered with by custodial parents. In its “Roll Call”, the CRC issued a tally of the number of children denied access per state. Leading the nation is California, with a staggering number of 700,000 (over 2/3 of a million) children who are denied access with their parents. Holding second and third places are New York with 518,000 and Texas with 419,000.

Can you guess which state came in fourth?

Ohio, with 316,000 children!

The total for the United States was 6,650,000 children whose relationship with one parent was interfered with by the “custodial” parent (and, by the domestic courts)!

Then there’s Christy Layne of Canton, Ohio, who accepted \$1,100 from Zuhaier Ben Mohammed Rouissi to marry him in August 2000 after his tourist visa lapsed. Rouissi is a Tunisian national with ties to top terrorist suspects. Layne told federal investigators she met Rouissi in a bar and married him to “get back” at her boyfriend, with whom she had fought.

—From “Protect America: stop marrying terrorists!,” by Michelle Malkin

And finally a letter to the Editor of The Columbus Dispatch

Judges near six figures for unorganized system

Tuesday, August 27, 2002

Let me make sure I understand this correctly. The Franklin County judges justify being paid more than \$97,000 annually working part-time hours based upon their results? You guys are going to have to do better than that.

Anyone who has ever had any interaction with the courts in this town knows better. Just spend a few hours in the halls and waiting areas. You will find the most chaotic, disorganized and inefficient system you are likely to encounter.

SUE MILLER

Columbus

PARENTS PARTNERING FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS*

Why is it important for both parents to be involved in their child's academic experiences?

A recent study by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) provides clear evidence that nonresident parental involvement in schools is critical to the educational success of their children, leading to:



- fewer suspensions and expulsions;
- greater involvement in extracurricular activities; and,
- more "A" grades

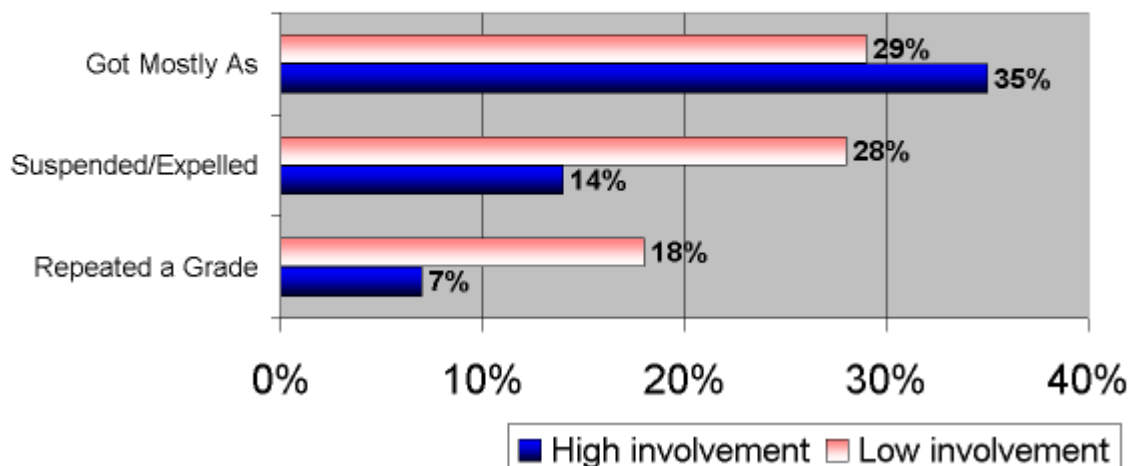
regardless of the level of involvement by the resident parent. Because nonresident parents are more likely to be fathers, the NCES study focused in particular on involvement by fathers. This study concluded that "children do better in school when their fathers are involved in their schools, regardless of whether their father lives with them" (Nord, Brimhall, and West, 1997:77).

Both resident and nonresident parents have the right to access their child's school records.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) sets out requirements designed to protect the privacy of parents and students. In part, the law requires a school district to provide a parent access to their child's educational records. Section 99.4 makes clear that this applies to both resident and nonresident parents in most cases:

An educational agency or institution shall give full rights under the Act to either parent unless the agency or institution has been provided with evidence that there is a court order, state Statute, or legally binding document relating to such matters as divorce, separation, or custody, that specifically revokes these rights. (emphasis added)

Importance of Nonresident Fathers' Involvement to Student Success in School



* From a brochure produced by PACE-Columbus with generous financial assistance from The William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation.

'School records' include:

- report cards
- enrollment forms
- achievement tests
- progress reports
- field trip forms
- incident reports
- disciplinary reports
- medical records
- emergency notification cards
- any other officially generated reports, including email

**How can a nonresident parent be involved in his or her child's school?**

1. Make sure that your child's school has your home address so that you can receive all school mailings. You can't participate in events if you don't know they're happening.
2. Attend parent-teacher conferences. If it is not comfortable for both parents to meet with teachers at the same time, make separate appointments.
3. Attend general school meetings.
4. Join the school's parent-teacher organization.
5. Attend school or class events.
6. Volunteer in the school. Many schools have volunteer opportunities for parents who work during the day.
7. Talk to your child about what is going on in his or her class(es). Check the school's web site for the latest news so that you can ask specific questions. Questions such as "How's school?" invariably get the same response – "Fine."

How can a resident parent encourage involvement by the nonresident parent?

1. Make sure the school has the home address of your child's other parent so that he or she can receive all school mailings. It's much easier than trying to remember to make copies of everything yourself!
2. Share information about your child's performance with the nonresident parent. Resident parents are likely to see more graded work than are nonresident parents. Talk to your child's other parent about how well – or how poorly – your child is doing.
3. Encourage your child to talk to the nonresident parent about school. Remind your child of special moments to share with the other parent.

PACE Columbus is indebted to:
**Kathy and Jack Eshelman, of
 Grade A Notes, for their generous
 contribution of time and materials to
 reproduce the PACE Newsletter.**



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PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. 2403 (b), THE COURT HEREBY GIVES YOU NOTICE THAT PLAINTIFF HAS FILED THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED ACTION TO CHALLENGE THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF OHIO REVISED CODE 3109.04 (*final allocation of parental rights*) AND OHIO R. CIV.P. 75(N) (*temporary order procedural rule*) WITH RESPECT TO THE ASSERTED EFFECT OF THIS RULE AND STATUTUE TO PERMIT AN OHIO DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT TO DEPRIVE A BIOLOGICAL PARENT, IN A DIVORCE SITUATION, OF EQUAL CUSTODIAL PARENT STATUS WITHOUT A FINDING BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THE PARENT SO DEPRIVED IS AN UNFIT PARENT. (Italics added)

The Dayton Federal Court has also given the Attorney General 30 days to file her response for intervention, for under the 11th amendment a state has immunity from federal suit unless the state voluntarily chooses to intervene, at which time the state voluntarily waives its right to immunity from suit.

This is the first time that a federal court has issued a certified question to rule on the merits of a presumption of equal custody in a divorce situation. This is the only case that has ever happened in a federal court that specifically addresses the federal rights of divorced parents, fitness, the evidence standard required by federal law to prove unfitness (clear & convincing—which is already part of the juvenile code in Ohio, but not the domestic code) and equal custody.

Galluzzo asserts that his right to custody of his children was terminated without the benefits of due process or a finding of unfitness and that sections of the Ohio Revised Code are unconstitutional and need to be changed. Earlier this year, Galluzzo ran for state representative on a platform of protecting constitutional rights but was defeated in the primary.

CHUCK EVANS has provided the letter to the Ohio Attorney General and the information that follows through the PACE Internet discussion forum.

CERTIFICATE OF CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION

TO: BETTY MONTGOMERY
Attorney General of the State of Ohio
30 East Broad street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Pursuant to 28 USC 2403(b), the Court hereby gives notice that Plaintiff has filed the above-captioned action to challenge the constitutionality of Ohio Revised Code 3109.04 and Ohio R.Civ.P. 75(N) with respect to the asserted effect of this rule and statute to permit an Ohio domestic relations court to deprive a biological parent, in a divorce situation, of equal custodial parent status without a finding by clear and convincing evidence that the parent so deprive is an unfit parent.

Upon your request, the State of Ohio will be permitted to intervene with all the rights of a party and the liabilities of a party as to court costs to the extent necessary for a proper presentation of the facts and law relating to the question of constitutionality.

August 12, 2002.
Michael R. Merz
United States Magistrate Judge

(continued on next page)

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I (Chuck) underlined and highlighted the relevant language.

Point 1: The Dayton federal court has certified a question to the Ohio Attorney General to defend the constitutionality of Revised Code 3109.04 and Civil Rule of Procedure 75(N) where the domestic relations courts of Ohio deny biological parents custody of their children in a divorce situation without a finding that a parent is unfit.

Point 2: The state must make a finding of parental unfitness by clear and convincing evidence before the state can deny the federally-protected right to custody of a biological parent in a divorce situation. The state cannot intervene in the determination of custody without a finding by clear and convincing evidence of a biological parent being an unfit parent. In other words, the state has no compelling interest to intervene in a divorce situation in the determination of custody without a finding of parental unfitness by clear and convincing evidence. There is the implied presumption that the “best interests of children” are protected by fit parents.

Point 3: A fit parent is entitled to equal parental status with regards to legal and physical custody of their children. In other words, both parents walk in the courtroom with a presumption that each retains legal custody, *the decision-making right*, and equal physical custody, *the companionship time right*.

Ramifications:

Point 4: The best interests of children would ***truly be served***-children would have the opportunity to have a significant relationship with both parents.

Point 5: One parent would not be relegated to visitor status unless they chose to waive the presumption.

Point 6: The divorce industry would not bleed all of the money from parents. Each could put the money to better use than paying for the attorney’s 2-week vacation to Italy (this actually occurred in my case).

Point 7: A total simplification of domestic issues and a significant reduction of litigation and time and money wasted on such. The legal strategy to leverage child custody would come to an abrupt halt (other than charges of fitness, false accusations). Each parent would know exactly where they stood with regards to their children and support before they filed for divorce. It would then be the parents choice to waive custody and/or modify their time and child support obligations based on time. Further, the court would deal with issues of property division, school placement and extraordinary situations, *i.e.*, special needs, etc.

Point 8: Move-away issues would require the parent moving to waive their physical custodial right by modifying their companionship time. Since both parents would retain legal custody, the one disrupting the situation would have to accept the consequences of their decision.

Point 9: Both parents would equally support their children, the only transfer of funds would occur, *i.e.*, by an offset of disproportionate incomes. If one parents chooses to waive time or custody, then the support would be determined accordingly.

Point 10: Noncustodial parents would no longer be subject to the coercive enforcement and tactics of the Gestappo Child Support agencies. Compliance would increase substantially and less money would be at issue since only the offset amounts would be at issue.

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Equal treatment of parents mandates that they share their rights and responsibilities equally. Equality, however, is not just a legal concept. Issues of equity and equality of unmarried parents address a genuine focus on the needs and rights of children by virtue of this fundamental truth: issues that adversely affect a parent's ability to raise and nurture their children adversely affect children.

Parenting is a way of life. It is the spirit of unconditional love and sacrifice embraced by parents in the day-to-day commitment of making their children their first priority. Financial hardship or devastation of a parent's livelihood adversely impacts the financial and emotional resources of parents. The child support and custody problems faced by noncustodial parents are not only unjust, they take a toll on their ability to meet their children's needs and function as parents.

"Every other weekend" orders—which allow parents to spend an average of four days a month with their children—along with lack of involvement in day-to-day co-parenting, force many parents and children to undergo an inevitable and destructive adjustment: detachment. When noncustodial parents are reduced to visitors, their children do not fully perceive them, emotionally and psychologically, as true parents. Known only too well by parents—but often disregarded by judges and psychologists—once this happens, their bond with their children deteriorates, or becomes destroyed. Lack of contact with siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents disintegrates the bonds among family members and destroys the ability of families to function as a family. For those parents, children, and family members who struggle

Douglas B. Dougherty

*Attorney and Certified
Family Relations Law Specialist*

Over 20 years experience
Practice limited to family law

(614) 798-1933 Northwest suburban office

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to maintain their family bonds, the choice to love is a choice to live with the pain of not having in their lives and being in the lives of the people they love...a pain that never goes away.

Noncustodial parents want to have the time and opportunity to give their children as much love as they have for them. They want their children to know how much love they have to give them. Most of all, they want their children to benefit from the love they are able to give, not from the love they are limited to giving.

Our values are our choices, and our choices are our values. It is through day-to-day living experiences that we set an example of right and wrong, what we believe and how we should live. It is through our everyday choices we set an example of the values that govern our decisions and our lives.

Children are not taught values by schools, government, businesses...or elsewhere. Children learn the meaning of right and wrong from their parents. Values children do not live with they often do not learn. Clearly, an absence of values contributes to increases in juvenile crime, drug use, teen pregnancies, and decrease in social morality.

When we are friendly to people who do not behave in kind...when we choose to compromise and it is a choice to live with hardship...when we choose to sacrifice because the welfare of another outweighs the burden it places on us...when we choose to resolve conflict with reasonableness and patience, not ego and aggression...children learn that these are the right things to do. When children see us make the choice to listen and understand others, and know they can turn to us and we are no less willing to be there for them, we have done more than teach them one of the most important lessons in life...we have taught them the meaning of love.

In doing all these things, the most important thing you have done is to be a parent.

Equal Parents' Week is a call to awareness of a simple truth parents have known all along: the most important role that parents can play, and must play, is to parent through contact and time spent with their children.

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PACE Mission Statement

The mission of Parents And Children for Equality is to provide education, advocacy and support to parents and children experiencing loss of traditional parent-child relationship due to separation or divorce and to promote for children equitable access to both parents, and for parents reasonable sharing of rights and responsibilities.

PACE Columbus Meetings

Normally Meetings: 3rd MONDAY of the month, 7:00 p.m.
at the Worthington Presbyterian Church, 773 N High St.
(NW Corner of State Route 161 and N. High Street)
Phone: (614) 885-5355

Our meetings typically consist of:

- Tips for newcomers
- Legislative updates
- Guest speaker such as attorney, legislator or psychologist
- Attorney to answer legal questions at **no charge**.

Membership in P.A.C.E.-Columbus is open to men and women: single, married or divorced.

Dues are **\$20 per year**, the cost of a 5-min phone call to an attorney.

PACE-PAC: PACE's Political Action Committee

Help PACE influence the political process to promote our children's interests. We know that children need two parents. So do some judicial and legislative candidates. Help us help them get elected. In politics, money talks. Let's continue to make sure our politicians hear us.

Contribute to PACE-PAC, PACE's political action committee. Make your check payable to:
"Parents And Children for Equality—PAC" and send it to:

Parents And Children for Equality - PAC
Peggy Houston-Nienaber, Treasurer
8190 Beechmont Ave #163
Cincinnati, OH 45255-6117

www.PACE-PAC.org
for more information

Please be sure your check includes your telephone number.

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children until they are hit with child support orders. These men find themselves instantly tens of thousands of dollars in arrears—to pay for children to whom they were never allowed to be fathers.

High profile raids will not solve the child support problem. What is needed are reforms which will make the system more rational and workable, and which will benefit both the children owed support and the fathers who owe it.

For one, states need to make it easier for fathers who lose their jobs or become disabled to get downward modifications. In addition, the Bradley amendment needs to be modified or repealed.

Also, the federal government needs to switch from funding states' child support efforts based on collections to funding them by block grants. These block grants should be tied to timely compliance evaluations which include stiff penalties for false collections and billing errors.

Most importantly, family courts need to take access and visitation interference as seriously as they take failure to pay child support, and allow men to be a meaningful part of the lives of the children they are expected to make sacrifices to support.

There are fathers who stiff their children. Yet sweeping conclusions about divorced dads should not be based on the arrest of 69 alleged deadbeats in a country where five million noncustodial fathers have child support obligations. Most divorced fathers do right by their children, often in the face of laws, policies, and courts which are stacked against them. Using noncustodial dads as political punching bags will not help their children. Fixing a broken child support enforcement system will.

This column first appeared in the *Newark Star-Ledger* (9/6/02).

Glenn Sacks writes about gender issues from the male perspective. He can be reached at Glenn@GlennSacks.com. Dianna Thompson is the founder and executive director of the American Coalition for Fathers and Children (www.acfc.org). She can be contacted by e-mail at DThompson2232@aol.com.

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Federal Court Certifies Constitutional Question

Dayton Federal Court Files Certificate Of Constitutional Question To The Attorney General Of Ohio

(Michael A. Galluzzo vs. Champaign County Court of Common Pleas, et al., Case No. C-3-01-174)

On August 12, 2002, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Western Division at Dayton, Magistrate Judge Michael Merz withdrew his report and recommendations to dismiss a federal question action filed in October 2001 pursuant to Plaintiff Michael Galluzzo's argument that defeated the Rooker-Feldman doctrine. The Rooker-Feldman doctrine is used in a majority of federal cases to dismiss underlying state actions by asserting 'impermissible appeals to the federal court'.

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Dedicated to the idea that the "rebuttable presumption of equal shared parenting" is a basic human right for all parents, and should be passed into law everywhere.

PACE

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