

MISSION

To protect the needs and rights of children involved in high conflict divorce and custody cases, while educating and supporting those who have the greatest influence on children.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Seminar: Children of High Conflict Custody Cases

Joan Kelly
World Forestry Center
5/4/07 1-5 pm

Board of Directors:

Jody Stahancyk, President
Attorney at Law

Dr. Charlene Sabin
Behavioral Pediatrician

Peter Hamilton
Retired Portland Public School Principal

Geoff Walsh
Mortgage Broker

Dr. Catherine Bolstad
PHD

Personnel:

Leslie Abraham
*Executive Director/
Program Attorney*

Ben Sadler
*Assistant Director/
Legal Assistant*

CCS Monthly Newsletter:



FEBRUARY UPDATE

We have accomplished so much in the past four months here at CCS. We have a dedicated Board of Directors and the support of many wonderful volunteers. Due to the generous contribution of many donors, CCS has the funding to hire an additional full time attorney to represent children in domestic relations cases in Multnomah County. Please visit our website for further information on the application process. With the addition of an attorney, CCS will be able to increase the number of children we represent, giving our clients a voice in high conflict cases.

We are also busily planning for our fist seminar. Joan Kelly, a renowned author, will speak about the impact on children of high conflict custody cases. The date, time and location have been set, so mark your calendar.

Date: 5/4/07
Time: 1-5 pm (reception to follow)
Place: World Forestry Center

We are in the process of applying for professional credits and our registration packet will be available in March. I want to thank all of you who support our mission. If you are interested in becoming more involved with CCS, please visit our website at www.childcenteredsolutions.org.

Leslie Abraham
Executive Director
Program Attorney



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CHILDREN AT RISK: THE LEGACY OF GROWING UP WITHOUT DAD

By Tracy Vogeltanz, MS, NCC

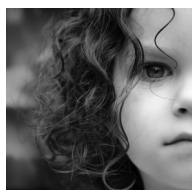
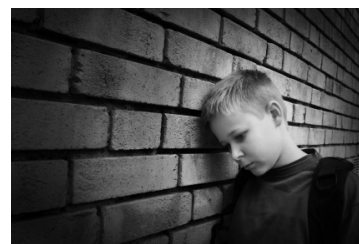
Every year thousands of children in Oregon join the ranks of those being parented from two homes as a result of divorce or separation. Unfortunately, for many children two homes and two parents will shrink to one home and one parent - the primary custodian. More often than not this is mom.

A January 30, 2006 Newsweek article, “The Trouble With Boys,” reported that an astounding 40% of boys are now being raised without their biological dads. When a parent drops out, or significantly reduces their contact, children can only assume they are the ones being left and that something about them personally is not lovable or good enough to keep the parent involved. Family counselor and author Kenneth Condrell, PhD offers in his book *Be a Great Divorced Dad*, “If dad is not integral in the child’s life, it’s as if one of the child’s limbs is missing and he is not whole.”

While I have personally witnessed an increasing number of fathers seeking sole or joint physical custody, the large majority of children will still primarily reside with mom. What is the impact of significantly reduced or no contact with dad? A plethora of research now exists that continues to highlight the detrimental fallout across several factors. Specifically, children without an involved father suffer:

- 1) Academically. Higher school drop-out rates, lower GPAs, lower levels of educational achievement, lower SAT, IQ and achievement test scores, increased likelihood of repeating a grade and lower incomes.
- 2) Emotionally. Girls specifically can doubt their ability to maintain long-term relationships and are at increased risk for sexual abuse and early teenage pregnancy. They also suffer lower self-esteem. Boys will be angrier, show more aggressive behaviors and are more likely to run away from home. Both sexes receive higher rates of referral for mental health services and overall adjustment to the divorce/separation is more difficult. Increased risk of suicide.
- 3) Socially. Higher rates of contact with juvenile justice (and later adult corrections) and increased use of alcohol and drugs. Increased likelihood of divorce.
- 4) Physically. More likely to suffer accidents, injury and illnesses including child abuse.
- 5) Financially. Fathers with little or no parenting time are less likely to meet their child support obligation.

As a parent educator who has worked with hundreds of fathers divorcing their wives, I have yet to hear one tell me they are also planning to divorce their children, and yet, the numbers tell a different story. So why do well-intentioned fathers drop out? In the next CCS newsletter I will discuss some of risk factors keeping fathers at a distance.



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