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Are You Getting This

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The Problem

By Sierra Stephenson

I believe that a child's needs for continuity of care by autonomous parents requires acknowledging that parent's should generally be entitled to raise their children as they think best, free of state interference. This conviction finds expression for minimum state intervention and prompts restraint in defining justifications for coercively intruding on family relationships. I also believe that the child's well being not the parent's, the families, or the child care agencies must determine once justification for state intervention has been established. Weather the protective shell of the family has been already broken before the state intrudes, or breaks as a result of it. The goal of intervention must be to create or recreate a family for the child as quickly as possible. This conviction is expressed in preference for making a child's interests paramount once his/her care has become a legitimate matter for the state to decide. Now as a child is a member of a functioning family, his/her interest lies in the preservation of his/her family. These opportunities merit protection from state intrusion, because it is only thought the continuous nurturing of the child within the privacy of the family and at that stage, primary psychological ties have been established. This should meet all requirements for their

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The Framework

By Sierra Stephenson

We must recognize and work to void the consequences of a fantasy too often shared by those who formulate and enact justifications and procedures for intrusions. The fantasy is that only the most competent, most skilled and most sensitive lawyers, judges, doctors, social workers, foster parents, family helpers and other personnel will impair the grounds for intrusion under the laws of child placements.

There will always be a substantial number in authority that will prevent this fantasy from becoming a realistic expectation. The reason it is important to place a heavy burden of proof upon those who are empowered to intrude. It is equally important to establish procedures for intrusion which make highly visible the function, nature, degree of intrusion that is justified at each point of the decision making process.

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"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

The Framework

By Sierra Stephenson

This meaning that family law court should be gender blind in making child support and custody decisions and aim for 50-50 decisions being the ground rule. On the other hand there are those who argue men-women for a variety of reasons are differentially situated in terms of their economic and social standing. With this statement, father's rights groups need to work for certain preconditions that promote equality of outcomes for women in order to advance their own political agenda. Two areas need their fundamental attention;

1. The economic sphere.
2. The child care sphere.

Economically father's rights groups should join forces with national women's groups to improve the economic fortunes so that equal pay for equal work is the norm rather than the exception. In the Child care sphere father's rights groups must encourage men to become fully equal caretakers of their children, both when their relationships with their partners are solid and when they are less stable.

How do they affect this type of change? They can lobby employers to provide flexible schedules, which would allow men to share jobs, work from home and more generally be available to their children as needed. Noted that fathers on average take less than one week off when they have a new child. Clearly fathers should do much more child care sharing with mothers in the early stages of their "babies" lives which would then serve as the foundation for equal care giving down the road. Ironically the time is there; up to three month unpaid leave from the Family Leave act, which is public policy and we as father's need to take when it is offered. Father's rights groups represent the only channel for many men to obtain interpersonal assistance after all those men unable to afford the services of an attorney. The group setting might be the only

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eminence and continuation of nurturing of the family free of state intrusions. There is further justification in promoting each child's entitlement to a permanent place in a family of his/her own. With that, the law does not have the capacity to supervise fragile and complex interpersonal bonds between child and parents. So the "parent practice" the states have is too crude an instrument to become an adequate substitute for parents and extended family already established.

The legal system has neither the resources nor the sensitivity to respond to a growing child's ever changing needs and demands. It also does not have the capacity to deal with the individual basis with the consequences of its decisions or acts with deliberate speed that is required by a child's sense of time. A policy or minimum coercive intervention by the state does not accord the firm believe as citizen's in individual freedom and human dignity. Identifying with families in jeopardy requires more than the vague and subjective language of change of conditions of custody and denial of proper care in neglect and abuse statues that give administrative agencies and courts unguarded discretion to supervise and even terminate parent -child relationships.

"Grief can take care of itself, but to get the full value of a joy you must have somebody to divide it with."



Critical Questions

By Sierra Stephenson

1. Detail the reasons why legislation should be passed to protect parental rights under the law.
2. Detail the pros and cons of current laws that are on the books, use federal and local/state laws for referencing.
3. What reforms do fathers' want in terms of child support and child custody?
4. What constitutes a "good father" into the stress of the current legal infrastructure that prevents them from doing that?
5. What types of similar information specifically to men in need to crating programs that are not bound to any other competing constituencies (i.e. women)?
6. What as parents can we do to stop the system from using rules that stem back to the Victorian era? In other words, they are over two hundred years out of date and our laws reflect the morals, senses and circumstances that often do not apply to this time and culture.

There must be equilibrium in the system, state as well as federal, to protect the parent and children.



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The constitution is articulated in the following way:

The US constitution allows every parent the right to Parent [His or Her] child. The judges, legislators and other groups have decided to go against the constitution. Now there are trails about who's fit and unfit [as a parent]. No one has the right to take your father away from you and I mean "no one." I am very passionate about this as everyone should be!!!

The bottom line is that I believe it's a constitutional right for one to pursue life, liberty and happiness. When this is not being followed and adhered to, then our own constitutional rights are being trampled upon with extreme malice.

"Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more."

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opportunity that they have to acquire the information about the judicial process and for those that do not have the luxury of visiting a counselor or more formal resources of emotional help in relation to their children.

Father's rights groups might be their only resource for obtaining the practical tools necessary for their eventual emotional wellness and recovery. These groups need enhanced professionalization of services offered. Even groups that have a strong emphasis on the provisions of both legal and interpersonal information, the resources tend to be dispensed quite informally. The introduction of consistent, professionally run sessions, would help to fill in the blanks on a new issues faced by the people facing an ever changing legal and social environment.

Without question, these are ambitious goals for fathers across the board. Why should men after their political agenda, help secure equality for women? The long-term gains of course are clear and benefit all involved with the "family."

Hopefully with sufficient introspection these modifications need not be perceived as sacrifices for long, after all fathers are not autonomous individuals operation in isolation from the world around them. Instead they are deeply enmeshed with the fate of women everywhere, mother's sisters, nieces, aunts, and grandmothers.

Most importantly as fathers we need to recognize that we have daughters and if they see their work as benefiting their own girls and boys as they grow, then we as parents are giving them greater opportunities to be and have the opportunity be the egalitarian parents in a better society. They will have the capacity to mobilize around a new set of empowering policies, goals and relationships in practice.

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