



*This is my wish for you: Comfort on difficult days, smiles when sadness intrudes, rainbows to follow the clouds, laughter to kiss your lips, sunsets to warm your heart, hugs when spirits sag, beauty for your eyes to see, friendships to brighten your being, faith so that you can believe, confidence for when you doubt, courage to know yourself, patience to accept the truth, Love to complete your life.*

## Ambiguity and Ambivalence

Continued.....

The potentially conflicting legalities inherent in such dual roles tend to prevent both assignments from being faithfully discharged. The operative presumption for legislature, agency and courts ought to be against the assignment of dual professional roles. The presumption for professional participants ought to be against accepting or assuming such roles when one considers the fundamental importance of this issue of custody for both the family and the community. I do not think that the court, nor should it direct the child's counsel to take a strict adversarial role and act as a mouthpiece blindly advocating a view, preference of instructions which confound or shock his professional opinion of what is in the best interest of the child. It makes sense to have counsel take an active, real and positive role in the social context of the court and is an office of the court assume the obligation to adduce all relevant and material evidence on the issue of what is in the best interest of the child. This needs to be confronted and avoid this dual assignment reflecting one of the differences between the role of the professional person and that of the ordinary devoted parent.

*You can shed tears that she is gone,  
or you can smile because she has lived.  
You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back,  
or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.  
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her,  
or you can be full of the love you shared.  
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,  
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.  
You can remember her only that she is gone,  
or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.  
You can cry and close your mind,  
be empty and turn your back.  
Or you can do what she'd want:  
smile, open your eyes love and go on.*

## Ambiguity and Ambivalence

In situations in which a professional person might not have recognized that they were assigned or were assuming roles in the child's placement process that they were not specially qualified to perform. Focus shifts situations in which professionals are assigned or assume to potentially have the incompatible roles in which it relates to the same child or family.

- Example: 1. Can a social worker use home visits for supportive work with a family and at the same time use those visits to investigate allegations of fraud or child abuse for a state welfare agency.
2. Can a mental health therapist who is treating an abusive parent evaluate from the child's point of view, the desirability of returning the child to the parent.
3. Can a lawyer effectively advocate and not just communicate a child's point of view as to which custodial parents that the child should be with and at the same time advocate what he/she themselves believes informed by expert advice and guided by case and statutory law to be in the child's best interest?



## INTERNATIONAL FATHERS RIGHTS FOUNDATION

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## Morals and Respect

Closely associated with parental duty of nurture health and education is that parent's responsibility is to teach his/her child respect for authority and other people and to provide he/she with a moral environment in which it may develop sound character. It also requires a parent to teach his/her child to conduct themselves in a manner that will emulate that parent. And furthermore although this duty is rarely articulated, the parent is expected to instill in his/her child respect for those in authorities in society.

The moral conduct necessary to fulfill parental responsibilities usually encompasses notions of "common decency," cleanliness of mind and body, honesty, truthfulness, and proper respect for established ideals and institutions. But despite the latitude given by many courts in this area, child neglect laws of some states have been utilized in certain instances by public prosecutors, welfare officials, and others to punish parental nonconformity (that is deviant behavior and attitudes as defined by community officials) under the theory of parental failure to install the values of respect and morality in the child.

Allocation to parents to power and control over their children has its roots in our society's culture and may be based on social, psychological and even financial considerations. Still the questions of unequal treatment are alive and well in the child custody field.



*Fight for every moment of  
togetherness with your  
family, for far more  
circumstances deny you the  
privilege than every make it  
feasible.*

## Morals and Respect Continued.....

The possibility of disparity in race, gender, or some other field is likely to be magnified in cases, where legislative enactments differ vastly because of localized trends, political priorities and cultural differences. For the custody litigator, this presents an opportunity as well as an obligation to consider whether the controlling laws as they are developed and revised are inherently unequal in the treatment of mothers and fathers, African-Americans, whites, Hispanics and other ethnic and racial groups.

What we must understand as parents is that most of the laws that cover child custody and other family law that the powers be are also under compliance (i.e. morals, ethics, professionalism, code of conduct). Knowing this we would want to hold them accountable when it comes to the letter of the law.

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# Are You Getting This.....?

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VOLUME # 1

All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances;  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,  
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms;  
Then the whining school-boy, with his satchel  
And shining morning face, creeping like snail  
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,  
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad  
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,  
Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,  
Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,  
Seeking the bubble reputation  
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,  
In fair round belly with good capon lin'd,  
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,  
Full of wise saws and modern instances;  
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts  
Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon,  
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;  
His youthful hose, well sav'd, a world too wide  
For his shrunk shank; and his big manly voice,  
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes  
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,  
That ends this strange eventful history,  
Is second childishness and mere oblivion;  
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury; and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable; and wealthy, not rich; to study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly; to listen to stars and birds, to babes and sages, with open heart; to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasion, hurry never; in a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious grow up through the common. This is to be my symphony.

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.

**Cherokee Proverb**

**William Shakespeare**

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Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.  
Life is beauty, admire it.  
Life is bliss, taste it.  
Life is a dream, realize it.  
Life is a challenge, meet it.  
Life is a duty, complete it.  
Life is a game, play it.  
Life is a promise, fulfill it.  
Life is sorrow, overcome it.  
Life is a song, sing it.  
Life is a struggle, accept it.  
Life is a tragedy, confront it.  
Life is an adventure, dare it.  
Life is luck, make it.  
Life is too precious, do not destroy it.  
Life is life, fight for it.  
**Mother Teresa**



*"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother."*