



WisconsinFathers.org

The best parent is both parents

Wisconsin
Fathers for
Children
and Families



Men's Briefs! In this issue - two really important issues!

Annual Meeting – January 10th, 2011 7:00pm Madison – Election of WFCF Board Members
Coliseum Bar and Banquet – A discussion on Equal Placement (Check website for details).

An absolute must to attend if you want Equal Parenting

To nominate for a Board position, please email Peter Kerr at 5050Dad@gmail.com

Volunteers – Equal Placement Legislation Initiatives - We need your help to step up and put some weight and volume behind our initiatives to push Equal Placement across the line.

Certainly we appreciate all of our members whose dues and contributions help support the organization. Even this new initiative of Men's Briefs costs money each month. Not only do we send Men's Briefs out to everyone on our email list and post it on our website for the whole world to read, but we color laser print and hand deliver it to every Senator and Assembly member every month. This costs us about \$260 every month, but we believe the exposure is worth the cost and effort.

The people who will be voting on this legislation – our elected representatives – have a finite amount of time in their calendar. They pay great attention to their radar screen to know which direction to go. If the issue doesn't seem important, it doesn't make it onto their radar screen. If a few constituents contact them to discuss the issue, it makes it to the edges of their radar screen. The magic number is 6 constituents phoning, visiting, emailing or writing to their representatives. This moves the issue to the center of their radar screen.

Balance the pain of a denied access and the loss of your children's inheritance to lawyers, with the time and effort to find five relatives of your children who have all been affected by the unfair, disrespectful and unequal

treatment of your children and their relationship with you and your family. You and these five relatives make the 6 constituents needed to focus the radar screen.

I know you all love your kids; I'm asking you to translate that into phoning, visiting, emailing and writing to your Senator and Assembly person and tell them how badly you and your children have been hurt by the absence of equal placement legislation. If you are nervous and unsure of how to do this, I am more than willing to accompany you on an in-person visit with your representatives.

(Although I have spoken to many in Madison, only constituents can be guaranteed an appointment time on their representative's calendars. Typically they spend Mondays and Fridays in their local district and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Capital building in Madison).

Please email me at 5050Dad@gmail.com if you would like a copy of the proposed equal placement legislation and want to work together to speak with your Senator and Assembly member.

■ President's Perspective – the Annual Meeting

If you do only one thing this year for WFCF – It's Turn Up!

THE BEST PARENT IS BOTH PARENTS

This year we've approached all the senior members of the ruling party. Being Australian, it's easy for me to be non-partisan as the issue of equal parenting should be as well. I remain that way today. When I look at my radar screen full of subsidiary issues, the single issue that is glowing bright, smack bang in the middle, is the relationship I have with my child.

It is about whether the State of Wisconsin treats my child's relationship with her Father with the same importance as her relationship with her Mother.

In 2007, this equal placement bill made it through the Assembly controlled by the same party that is about to control the Senate and the Governor's office as well.

We have asked the leaders of both the Senate and the Assembly to speak at our Annual Meeting. Some have responded in the positive already, we are still waiting on others. As soon as we have the final list, we will certainly let you know.

But in the meantime, we need you to pencil into your calendar 7:00pm 10th January 2011 in Madison. I can guarantee, we will not be on the radar screen of these movers and shakers of Wisconsin Laws if only 10 WFCF members turn-up! The greater the volume of WFCF members, the closer to the center of the radar screen we become!

Although the board works tirelessly for this organization and at the end of the day, it's up to you – our members - to make the changes so desperately needed.



Volunteers – by Tom Pfeiffer

The strength of our organization and ultimately the success of our organization are directly dependent on our member's participation. We are a volunteer organization and typical of that, we have 10% of people doing 90% of the work.

I've been associated with WFCF for 12 years and never before have we had a better chance of having both parents treated the same in the eyes of our children and the court. Volume and horsepower is what will get us across the finish line.

At a recent summit the board held, we identified a number of projects that all push towards the success of the equal parenting legislation. And we're looking for your help to achieve that. We've appointed Mike May as the [volunteer coordinator](#). I know a number of you have offered to help before and now that we have a legislative plan, and a project list to match, we can now apply your energy and skills to achieve that.

For example, we need a Freedom of Information (FOI) volunteer. Someone who is willing to find the right places and people to ask the right questions and submit the correct paperwork to get the Wisconsin based answers that we can use in testimony. An obvious one would be to request from the Child Support Agency, the number of Male payers and the number of Female payers. This would give a ratio that would parallel the placement orders given by the courts (parents who work out their placement schedule without a court order,

probably work out their financial schedule without a court order as well).

We need county coordinators, to check that our job loss brochures are on display and inform us if there are days and times that free Pro Se help is available by the county.

We need calling tree coordinators. As bills move through the system, they move through committees. The calling tree coordinator can call fellow district members when the bill is sitting in their representatives committee.

We really need more counselors. Parents who have come out the other side of the system and can help with follow-up phone calls to people who come through our helpline.

We need people to start up Father's Nights Out in their local area. We can help you use the current formula in Milwaukee, Madison and the Fox Valley to start your own meeting place to exchange ideas and experiences.

Plus there are many more projects to support our goals.

If you can volunteer in any small way, I am positive that turning up the horsepower and increasing the volume will bring about the changes needed to put Wisconsin Fathers back into our children's lives and back into Families!

**Equal Parenting will happen, the only variable is when!
THE BEST PARENT IS BOTH PARENTS**