



**Men's Briefs!** Just when you thought it was obvious, it's become even more obvious. Of course it's all about the money. No one will ever convince me that the "not much family in" Family Court process is ever in the best interests of the children! Representative Pridemore's draft Equal Placement bill has been read into the Assembly and referred to the committee on Children and Families. It's known as [AB54](#), and I prefer to call it the "treating children's relationships with both parents as important as each other" bill. Lawyers think of it as the "there is not much money to be made when parents are treated fairly" bill. It's no surprise that

[Michele L. Perreault](#) and the Family Law Section have stated "We have formally voted to actively oppose this bill" After all it's how they pay their mortgages – ripping families apart and minimizing Father's roles in their children's lives. A public hearing on AB54 will be held in the Capital on April 6, 2011 at 10:00 AM.

In this edition we have:

**The President's Perspective**  
**Monthly Feature article – [More for KID\\$](#).**  
**An Update on Lucky Pete and Fearful Freddy**  
**Members Feedback – from a constituent**



## President's Perspective – It's all about Money

As I said last month "a child's relationship with its Father is just as important as the child's relationship with its Mother".

Let's stop pretending we don't know the truth – It's all about Money. The citizens of Wisconsin are not stupid.

Equal Placement will happen the only variable is when.

When equal placement occurs, parents will realize there is no point going to court to "win" their children. It will be a draw – a truce. Half the current custody disputes will not go to court, half the caseload of family courts will drop away, and half the Family Court Commissioners and their hangers-on will not be needed. Family Court commissioners have a vested interest in maintaining unequal parenting.

When equal placement occurs, parents will stipulate their own flexible, co-parenting respectful parenting plans around a truce. There will still be a need for mediators to help with parenting plans, but there will be no need for the GAL's that present their biased and subjective opinions of unequalness, no need for psychologists that support the GAL's position, so they

get the next job on offer from that GAL. There will be little need for social workers to give their biased and discriminatory reports to subjectively recommend unequal placement. Families Court "contractors" have a vested interest in maintaining unequal placement.

When equal placement occurs, there will be no fear that a parent will lose their children; there will be no reason to spend money on an attorney to defend your relationship with your children. Attorneys have a vested interest in maintaining unequal placement.

When equal placement occurs both parents will be financially responsible for the true needs of their children over equal time periods, child support orders would be smaller and will be based only on earning differentials. You would only need a third of the number of the child support staff across all the county offices. People who get their paycheck from the Child Support industry have a vested interest in maintaining unequal placement.

When equal placement occurs, the children we are charged with protecting and nurturing, will be able to go to college, because those with a vested interest in

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unequal placement won't have raided their parents bank accounts.

When equal placement occurs, our daughters will finally achieve the respect, equality and recognition they deserve in the workplace because we've taught them respect and equality in the homeplace.

Who are you?

When you look in the mirror in the morning and the evening as you clean your teeth – or lucky enough to be cleaning your children's teeth – Are you the type of person who is compassionate and forgiving, who values both parents time and emotional participation with their children, or are you the selfish greedy bully who just wants the money and to hell with the kids!



## Child Support and W-2 – It's the Law! – by Peter Kerr

There is a new initiative out called **More for KID\$**. And let me quote "The **More for Kid\$** project is a collaboration between the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Support for the project comes from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services".

It's the law! It is how the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families treats children and families when the primary parent is on welfare and the visitor parent is paying child support.

Let's be quite clear here, to maximize child support, you must minimize one parent's involvement. If both parents truly maximized their placement time in the way that any 7 year-old would interpret the current "maximize placement" laws, then the need for programs like "**More for Kid\$**" would be markedly diminished as both parents are taking equal time responsibility for the emotional, financial, spiritual and physical well-being of their flesh and blood children.

In the Wisconsin Supreme Court [Landwehr v. Landwehr](#) case in 2007, the motion was to modify placement time to maximize the Father's placement up to 50%, so both parents and their relationships with their children would be treated with the same respect, fairness and equality with each other. The Wisconsin Supreme Court stated "[s]uch a dramatic change in public policy should not have to be made by inference".

So a Father's desire for both parents and their relationships with their children to be treated equally in the Family Court arena is a dramatic change in public policy!

For the life of me, I keep reading this "Child Support and W-2 - **More for Kid\$** - Working together for Wisconsin Families". When was the Father excluded from the definition of Families? Do we consider ourselves a

success when every family is a single mother family – is that our end point, is that - as a society - the goal we are striving for? Because if you want more **More for Kid\$** in Child Support and W-2, then you need to make sure that the Father is not part of the family and merely a slave to his wallet.

[Marygold Melli is Professor of Law Emerita at University of Wisconsin Law School](#). Check her out – as an educated, experienced intelligent expert, it doesn't get any better!

Marygold S. Melli, *Child Custody in a Changing World: A Study of Postdivorce Arrangements in Wisconsin*

**The equal time arrangement families appeared to have sorted out this arrangement fairly amicably. The unequal time families were much more likely to have reached such a compromise after protracted legal conflict. This group also had the highest incidence of returns to court of any of the custody arrangements in the study.**

Shouldn't we want a "fairly amicable" situation for our children? Wouldn't that be in the best interests of the children?

In whose interest would it be to have "unequal time families" having "protracted legal conflict" and the "highest incidence of returns to court of any custody arrangements"? Certainly not the children's, but the more unequal the placement arrangements, the "**More for Kid\$**".

It is common knowledge in American History, that in order to control the slaves, you needed to separate and isolate the men from their families. You can control a man on his own and you can control a woman with children, but you cannot control a Father protecting his family. Tell me where it is different today in middle class America, "**More for Kid\$**" means less family for Dad!

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Example-Parent who gets child support.



Question: How many people have a job administering the minimizing of one parents participation [DCF/IRP/DHS/CSA/DOJ] in their children's lives so that we can maximize "More for Kid\$" It is certainly in their best interests to maintain their job, but is it in the Best Interests of the Children to have one parent missing in time, but their wallet available under the threat of incarceration if they don't comply?

What type of society do we have where money for kids is more important than a parent's time with their children? It's not the type of society that I want to neither live in nor raise my child in.

The laws have changed in this area on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, so for the past 5 months the following has been the way we treat Father's as "part of the Family".

Pat receives W-2 payments. Bill makes a child support payment of \$100 each month. Before October 2010, Pat would get \$40 from that monthly payment. [Editors Note: and the State would receive 60% of the child's payment that the Father made – not the \$100 that the Father gave to his child! The State took the Fathers money that he gave to his child!].

After October 2010, Pat will get \$75 from the monthly payment. [Editors Note: the State now takes 25% of the child's money that the Father made in good faith. When the Mother receives only 75% of the \$100 she expects - that the Father paid - what chance do you think this Father has of seeing his children when he turns up to the angry Mother's house for his placement time because she didn't get the full amount of what she expects from the Father?].

Make no mistake, it's always about money – it's never about the Best Interests of the Child. It was obvious to all members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Strengthening Wisconsin Families in 2007 when John Burgess – President/CEO at Family & Children's Center, La Crosse, stated "So that means we have a perverse incentive for unequal placement".

"More for Kid\$" NO! "More time for Dad's" YES!



## Lucky Pete and Fearful Freddy

With Honest John drifting off into the sunset, happily co-parenting his fortunate three daughters and cooperating with his now ex-wife because neither of them fear the other's ability to damage nor sever their relationship with their children, I was contacted by Fearful Freddy.

Fearful Freddy has flexible equal placement with his 2 daughters. It has been working well for two years. But all of a sudden, trouble has started. He has been served papers that are forcing him back to court. His fear is that he will lose equal placement and become an "Every Second Weekend" Dad. He thinks his ex-wife has met someone new (and wealthy) and who lives in another State. His fear is that she will cause trouble, be rewarded with primary placement then move herself and the kids to the State her new love lives in. There is nothing in the law to protect Fearful Freddy's relationship with his kids. There is nothing to stop "minimizing" his involvement with his kids and nothing to stop a move-away mom from severing his children

from him by distance. He doesn't know what crimes he has committed to be punished like this.

As was described to me by a friend of a political campaign manager – if you throw enough mud, your opponent is so busy scraping the mud off, they can't get their own point across. Lucky Pete has been scraping the mud of false allegations off him for the last few months. In February, he filed for review of the temporary placement order of "Every Second Weekend and One Night through the Week". He received an "earliest date possible" of April 28th. Surprisingly, the court commissioner now has a conflict and it has now been moved to June. His temporary order will now be in place for 9 months! Lucky Pete's natural wishes are for his kids to do well in school. His fear is that the continual bad behavior caused by his S2BX will be rewarded by a temporary order that lasts so long, and with the evidence of good report cards, the temporary order will become a permanent divorce order, and his revengeful

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## Member's Feedback – from a constituent of Representative Mary Williams

Back in the 2005-2006 legislative session, Assembly Bill AB897 was introduced by Representative Pridemore. It is the same bill as has just been released for co-sponsorship in the 2011-2012 legislative session – LRB-0611/1.

Representative Mary Williams voted YES to AB897.

Thank you Mary Williams for placing parental time ahead of money. Maybe it's because she has 3 children of her own (and 4 grandchildren!) Maybe because Mary was a school teacher and saw the value that involved Dad's bring to children in the classroom, or is involved with Big Brother/Big Sister where she sees the damage done to kids with absent Fathers, maybe it's because she is not a lawyer.

It doesn't really matter why, what matters is she is a person of integrity and can see the difference between right and greed. As is so often the case, parental separation has a ripple effect right through an extended family. We reprint a letter from the grandparents of one of Representative Williams's constituents.

*Dear Representative Williams:*

*It's been brought to our attention by our son that Representative Pridemore has introduced a bill that will ensure fairness among all parties involved in custody and placement issues, mother, father and children. We are in full support of this bill and as a resident of Wisconsin we ask that you would support it as well.*

*As we understand it, this bill would change the current way things are handled now in divorce and custody situations where mothers almost automatically get preferential placement of kids, and dads have to fight for their rights to continue parenting their children equally.*

*We have a son, xxxxx xxxxxx who currently lives in your district and fortunately is happily married and has x sons. We can only imagine how it would affect him if he would be in a situation where he had limited placement of his boys. Typically it seems that Judges are allowing fathers Wednesday evenings and every other weekend.*

*This issue has hit close to home with our other son, xxxx, learning firsthand that just because he's the dad,*

*he gets the lesser amount of time with his son that he has co-parented. He took the time to learn how to take care of his son by enrolling with the Fond du Lac Family Resource Center. Here he was awarded a certificate with their blessing in being able to care for his son. He is able to see his son on a weekly basis; however, it also cost him dearly in legal fees and continued custody – placement issues.*

*And still has not received equal placement. The lawyers and courts and whole system seem to be set up to be able to use the kids as weapons or pawns if the mom and her lawyer play that card.*

*Yes the emotions and tendency for retaliation of two people seeking placement are probably at all time highs to strike back and hurt each other. Time, forgiveness, grace and God's intervention can heal that. But on the practical immediate tangible side, Pridemore's bill seems also to be a very real way to take this area of the battle off the table.*

*If both parents are given automatic Equal Placement right from the start (allowing for exceptions of abuse, or possible endangering of kids lives, etc) then this is 1 less trauma for the true little ones most hurt in custody battles. They don't have a voice or power. They trust the adults to be as trustworthy as possible on their behalf.*

*Yes there are dads (and moms) out there who have no business being allowed the privilege of being a parent. But there are many more dads, including our son, who simply want to keep pouring themselves into their kids' lives in the best way they can.*

*Please consider supporting this bill which can help make that a much easier thing to do.*

*Thank you SO MUCH for taking the time to look into this and support it.*

*A Wisconsin State Resident and Voter,*

[Editor's Note: I dined on ice cream and pizza with Mary and her husband AI, in Medford back in 2006 on my Walk for Children and can personally vouch for their compassion and generosity. Wisconsin is indeed lucky to have such people as Mary and AI as parents, citizens, employers and residents of Wisconsin]

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[Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families](#) is a Statewide 501(c)(3) organization fulfilling the function of parental support in difficult times. Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families (WFCF) provides educational outreach programs to help guide parents through the challenging times of parental separation. We offer [email helpline](#) communication, our (608) ALL-DADS phone support, and our WFCF Chat site – a text based messaging system that enables the exchange of ideas and questions to be answered by our counselors.

WFCF also holds monthly Father's Night Out meetings across the state where parents can meet in a casual atmosphere for exchanging of experiences and help in future situations. These are extremely important events for anyone going through difficult times. They can "switch the light on" to what has been happening to you and therefore can help in guiding you on a better path to a stronger relationship with your children.

WFCF is committed to seeing that "Tomorrow's Parent" never has to go through what "Yesterday's Children" have suffered. We encourage the updating of Wisconsin Laws to guarantee that the child/parent bond can never be broken.

Our strength is in our members. "We the People" can make these changes, but we cannot do it without members. [Join up](#) and be in the driver's seat for the future of our children.

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