



Today's Dads

NEWSLETTER OF WISCONSIN FATHERS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
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"All Dad's Take One Step To The Left"

By Peter Kerr

I was prompted yesterday by a Father who had just left court attempting to get a restraining order against a man who was the new boyfriend of his not yet divorced wife.

While at his children's school, the father was approached by the new boyfriend and given the death threat / throat-slash gesture, along with some unkind words. Sitting in the witness chair and in fear that he may have been video tapped, the new boyfriend flipped-flopped his story that was given to the police and now admitted under oath to everything, including the gesture's meaning... in his own words *"It means, you're a dead man"*. Even though restraining orders are handed out to women like candy on Halloween, the father came away empty handed.

His bamboozlement was *"How could the court let this admittedly violent man, spend more time with my children than I can?"*.

It's a good question and prodded me to write this article I've been meaning to explore for a number of years.

A few years ago, my girlfriend - let's call her "Wendy" - was at work and I was pushing her 3 year old daughter - let's call her "Emilie" - in a shopping cart at the supermarket - let's call it "Piggly Wiggly" in Slinger Washington County - when she threw one of those "two-year old tantrum's".

It wasn't the tantrum that struck me as unusual, it was that, at that particular time, I was the

primary care giver of this child and it wasn't my child. I'd just come off a number of sessions with the Guardian ad Litem and court-ordered social worker, who all prodded and poked me to great depth about my suitability to parent my own child, yet here I was with unfettered access and total responsibility for the care and safety of someone else's child without investigation by GAL or social worker.

I was (temporarily) court ordered into the cookie-cutter "Every Second Weekend and One Night Through the Week" minority parent placement schedule, and having failed mediation 3 times, because the primary parent had no reason to mediate. (She was not going to give up her child support rewards so her child could have a relationship with its other parent as meaningful as hers).

The current unequal placement order was satisfying her desires of greed and revenge - why change that?

But back to the story, my ex-wife's new boyfriend - and let's call him "Rob" - was spending - in effect parenting - my child more than I was. I don't know if he has kids, but if he did, some man upstream from him was parenting his child more than he was.

I was parenting Emilie more than her Father was - let's call him "William". William's partner - and let's call her "Amy" - had two kids and William was parenting them more than Maddie and Max's Father was - oops, let's call them "Maddie" and "Max". Maddie and Max's Father lived in the Caribbean and was parenting someone else's kids. (*cont'd p. 2*)

When this Father left court yesterday he asked me why this violent man who hadn't been prodded and poked by GAL's and social workers, could spend more time with his kids and do doughnuts in the local parking lot with his kids in the car. I had no answer for him.

So I need to ask someone "Why have Father's taken one step to the left?" Why are we all parenting someone else's children, but not allowed or deemed capable to parent our own?

I should ask Cody Reetz but I can't. He's dead. He was murdered by his step-father. Cody Reetz's Father who lives in Washington County applied for temporary primary placement on 10th September 2007 but was denied by Family Court Commission Bomrad (Washington County 1997FA000501). Mom and boyfriend along with Cody and siblings moved to Grafton in Ozaukee County and attended John Long Middle School, the same school my daughter now goes to. You can contribute to the Cody Reetz Memorial Skate Park here:

<http://www.todaystmj4.com/features/specialassignment/87073467.html>

I wonder if Family Court Commissioner Bomrad has contributed?

- ◆ **17.4 percent** of [custodial parents](#) are fathers, thus 82.6 percent of custodial parents are mothers.
- ◆ Men represent **97 percent** of [alimony](#) payers.
- ◆ Men represent **87.1 percent** of [child support](#) payers.
- ◆ **24 million** children in America - one out of three - live in biological father-absent homes.

Attorney v. Pro Se

By Peter Kerr

It's a question asked many times through our outreach program, and I've heard judges say "If you had a sore tooth, you'd get a dentist, so get an attorney".

At our last general meeting, we had one of our new members, Walter Zimmerman, speak on why he chose pro se as his path to follow. He is a patent lawyer but had never been near a divorce court. He had two attorneys but realized the best advocate for his children was himself. His talk was the catalyst to relive my own experience and "arm-chair" quarterback my own journey - of course "in the best interests of the child".

This is my opinion - Pro Se - representing yourself.

Now there is no question the jargon that is used in court is sometimes daunting and full of pomp and ceremony that is outside of the realm of normal people. Walter decided that the judiciary is there to serve the people, not serve itself. It's funded by the tax payer, and being a taxpayer he should be allowed to speak in court in normal tax payer language.

But let's take a reality check. The judge is law school educated. You've got the attorney of the other parent of your children, who has a 4 year \$100,000 law school education. You've got a Guardian ad Litem - another attorney with law school education - determined that you'll be an "Every Second Weekend and One Night through the Week" parent. You've got a 4 year university educated social worker, who probably hasn't paid off her college loan, recommending with no evidence, that you get the 5 of a 9/5 split, and you've got all these people, who see each other every day, in their protected workplace environment.

On your side, you've got yourself and.....well,

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actually, all you've got is yourself and a law degree? No - sorry, you don't have one of these either.

So what you're asking is, for the judge to rule in favor of the amateur who will only ever see this judge once, against all the arguments of the professionals. Plus, like you go to work every day and have camaraderie with all your work colleagues, you're asking the judge to rule against all the people who all congregate around the same coffee machine as he does today and tomorrow, and the day after.....! In fact, last year, before he became a judge, your judge may have been a Guardian ad Litem working with the same social worker you have now, who is recommending your minority placement in the 9/5 split.

Contested divorces are just plain ugly. No judge wants to hear them - and I don't blame them. Of course the parents should be deciding on what is best for their children - not a judge who has never even met the children. It's why a week before the scheduled date for the contested divorce, the judge will pull both attorney's into his chambers (if you are not pro se) and very firmly advise - with workplace relationship penalties - both attorney's need get this case settled and not have it appear in front of him.

That's when your attorney, who you've paid tens of thousands of dollars to, will choose his workplace relationship over your children's best interests and recommend that you should take the "Every Second Weekend and One Night Through the Week" deal. He will explain that you'll spend another \$10,000 at trial only to end up with the same result, since the GAL and Social Worker are already recommending that. In other words, unlike other legitimate courts, with Family Court, your case has been decided before you get your day in court to present your evidence.

Your attorney has chosen his workplace

relationship over the promises he made to you and the oath he took to uphold the law, to do what is in "the best interests of the children".

He won't tell you that custody studies come under the "Rule of Law" and should have been available to you 10 days before trial. He won't tell you that the social worker can be on your witness list and that he can "tear her report apart" and prove that all her recommendations are just subjective opinions with no basis of fact. He won't tell you that he's also a GAL on another case and is working with the very same social worker on that case. That would be upsetting his workplace relationship.

That's when you call Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families, and find out there is such a thing as a De Novo. You're attorney had never told you about that. It's when you could have challenged that within the 10 days of the initial ruling, but now it's too late. It makes sense now why the primary parent has been spending the last 18 months throwing mud, trying to get you thrown in jail for contempt, has made accusations of violence and has been purposefully creating a high conflict situation. Your attorney knows a judge never gives equal placement to high conflict cases and the longer it takes to get to trial, the more chance there is of the judge saying "I don't want to create more turmoil in these children's lives by changing the schedule from something they seem to be settled into. After all, their grades at school are not failing".

That's when you realize it has nothing to do with the "best interests of your children" and your attorney is paying his college loans off by stealing your children's college fund and really, *all they have been doing is managing your acceptance of "Every Second weekend and One Night through the Week"*.

There are a lot of people making money from the divorce industry. (*cont'd p. 4*)

(and to hell with your children).

That's when you realize, the only way for this industry to prosper and perpetuate and for these people to have a job, is for them to make sure unequal placement is the starting point.

Now you realize why a discriminatory Family Court is the starting point of all this evil and why your attorney is complicit in the damage being done to your children because he didn't mention that you could have de novoed the Family Court Commissioner's decision to a real judge.

So your choices? You can be an Amateur vs. a group of Professionals, or you can have an attorney take you and your children to the edge of his comfort zone, then abandon your children so he can make his next college loan payment from his next client.

It's simple, court ordering primary placement to a vindictive parent is child abuse. The vindictive parent will extract revenge by damaging, if not severing, the child's relationship with the minor parent.

While unequal placement exists, no matter which way you look at it, there is no "family" in Family Court.

To close out on Walter's situation, he started the GAL process in an arrangement where both parents were raising of their children equally.

His first CCAP court entry was 04-06-2009. A Guardian ad Litem was appointed, expensive psychological reports were performed, custody studies were paid for, mediation fees deposited.

On 02-21-2012 nearly three years after the initial court entry and the day before trial, both parents stipulated an agreement that both parents would share the raising of their children equally - the same arrangement that they had at the start.

But Guardian ad Litem fees were in excess of \$24,000!

Despite the bullying and intimidation Walter was subjected to, Dad has equal placement with his **two daughters**. Gutsy move by Dad!

May time heal the trauma this process subjected your children to.

How many daughter's college degrees are sitting GALs pockets?

Is that's in the best interests of that children!

- ◆ **84.7 percent** pay at least some form of child support at a median amount of \$4,250 per year, contradicting the popular "deadbeat dad" image. The vast majority of non-support paying fathers are usually the most poorly educated men with very low or no incomes proving once again that most dads who cannot pay child support are not unwilling to pay, they are simply unable to pay.

Daughter of Equal Parents: 'I wouldn't have had it any other way'

October 13th, 2011 by Robert Franklin, Esq.

Fathers and Families advocates for reform of our family courts. Among other things, that means increasing fathers' parental time after divorce or separation. Ideally, it means equal parenting, where that can work.

As with anything that seeks to increase the power of fathers in family courts, any effort toward equalizing parenting time is routinely met with kneejerk resistance. The usual claim is that fathers are abusive and therefore any effort to increase fathers' parenting time inevitably results in greater child abuse. The anti-father crowd relies on that claim despite the fact that mothers commit twice the child abuse and neglect that fathers do, according to the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

But those opposed to children spending time with their dads make other claims too. Their big gun is the claim of child abuse, but they've got other weapons, one of which is that equal parenting isn't workable and leads to instability for the children who inevitably suffer.

Now, there is a great deal of social science that contradicts all of those claims. In fact, joint parenting tends to ameliorate conflict in the parental relationship and produces better outcomes for children. It's also overwhelmingly preferred by the children themselves who don't want to lose their relationship with their father, the anti-dad crowd's anguish notwithstanding.

Still, studies are only studies; they lack the "real world" immediacy of the personal stories of those who've experienced whatever is being studied, in this case, joint parenting. So it's nice to read a personal story like [this one](#) (*The Good Men Project*, 10/12/11).

Entitled "Why I'm Grateful for Joint Custody," it tells the story of its author, Emily Heist Moss. She and her brother were children of parents who split up when they were young. They lived in Massachusetts, so her mother could easily have gotten the usual parenting order of 12 days with Mom and two with Dad. But Mom and Dad agreed on their own schedule, splitting each week equally - 3 1/2 days with one parent, 3 1/2 days with the other.

Now to me, that sounds far too hectic. Why not a week with one and a week with the other? I can't guess, and Moss makes it clear that it wasn't easy.

[M]y younger brother and I migrated like clockwork between their homes every three and a half days. It was logistically exhausting— which house are my cleats at? Where's my science textbook?

...The arrangement my parents made was not perfect. It was hard on everyone. My brother and I carried the burden of frequent travel, constantly carting duffle bags of crap back and forth, but my parents didn't have it easy either. I don't know what professional sacrifices they made to stay close to each other for our benefit, or the gerrymandering they did to make the most of their schedules.

But the technical difficulties of equal parenting were more than made up for by its benefits.

I wouldn't have had it any other way. This essay is a thank you note to my parents, an attempt to express my gratitude that they made that unusual decision fifteen years ago. The arrangement they created established stability, maintained our routine, and most importantly,

(cont'd p. 6)

preserved our relationships with both parents.

Moss makes the point so many people seem to ignore – kids are adaptable. Give them a schedule and they'll adapt to it. Moss and her brother had a taxing schedule from the time she was nine and he was five. But because it was regular, they adapted and it worked out just fine. That's mainly because it preserved their relationships with both parents. Neither child lost dad.

With the benefit of her experience, Moss says a lot that I've tried to say countless times. Most importantly, about half her friends were kids of divorced parents, and essentially all of them had the typical parenting arrangement – 12 days with Mom, two weekend days with Dad. Moss saw the results.

Although we were one of the first families I knew to go through a divorce, we weren't the last. By middle school, about a third of my friends' families had followed suit. By the time I left for college, any group of peers was inevitably half and half. Most of those kids ended up following the every-other-weekend model, living with mom and visiting dad twice a month. The kids stayed with their moms twelve days out of every fourteen, and on the last two they disappeared for 48 hours into the twilight zone of "dad time". Mom's house was "real life," and dad's house was that condo where they went to hang out every once in a while.

I can't speak to the reasoning behind those specific custody arrangements. I can only say how grateful I am that my parents took a different approach. The every-other-weekend model means that dads miss out on the bread and butter of parenting. They miss the opportunity to quiz

their kids on the periodic table, to pack lunches, to argue about wardrobe choices. By the time the kids show up for their weekend, so much time has elapsed that when dad says, "What's new?" kids say "Nothing," when the real answer is, "Everything". They feel light years past the tough midterm they took the week before, and the fresh pain of a missed field goal is old news.

The every-other-weekend model makes dad's house a vacation destination. Since time is so limited, dad wants to make it special with trips to the zoo, extra desserts, and extended curfews. It's understandable, but treating that weekend as separate and different from daily life only serves to push "dad's weekend" further away from the ins and outs of everyday parenting. There's so much pressure on that weekend that kids have to curb their social lives to accommodate time with dad. Nothing fuels adolescent resentment faster than telling them they can't do that thing that everybody else is doing. They're not going to invite friends over either, since that would infringe on sacred together time, so dad never gets to meet the friends.

It's all there, plus some. Under the typical court-ordered arrangement, Mom becomes the "real" parent while Dad becomes a placeholder, time with him becomes the "twilight zone." Because he doesn't see his kids for two weeks, and then only for a short time, he wants to make the time special, so he becomes what sociologist Susan Stewart calls a "Disneyland Dad," more of an entertainer than a parent. The important parenting decisions are for Mom. She gets the important confidences.

Then Moss adds something I'd never thought of; the obligation to be with Dad interferes with

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the child's social life, breeding "adolescent resentment." If the kids were with Mom, they could go to the movie, the party or just hang out with their friends. But no, it's Dad's weekend, and he understandably wants the kids to himself. After all, he only sees them 14% of the time. So being with Dad gets equated in the kids' minds with missing out. That's hardly a ringing endorsement of the usual custody order.

Moss understands that her situation isn't always feasible. Her parents made special efforts to make it happen. They lived close to each other and perhaps made professional sacrifices so neither of them was lost to their kids. Plus, inevitably, they worked as a team to make sure their kids were put first. Needless to say, not all parents do that.

But Moss' essay puts the exclamation point on all the social science on shared parenting. Where it can work, it's best for kids, and the kids - if not the courts - know it.

- ◆ **63% of men** who live with their children say they helped their child with homework at least several times a week, and **54%** say they took their child to or from activities several times a week or more. Only **10%** of fathers who live apart from their children are able to help with homework and only **11%** took a child to or from activities.
- ◆ **93 percent and 91 percent** of moms and dads, respectively, agree that a father absence crisis exists.

Daddy, fight for me! A Daughter's Story of Growing up without Dad

I am a child of divorce. My parents divorce became finalized in 1969 when I was six years old. My mother was granted custody and my father never fought it.

I am here today because I wish to see change. Change in a system that helped to alter my relationship with my father for the duration of our lives. Our lives when he being 600 miles away at 54 years old seems all too short.

We started out fairly normal. I remember watching a football game with him, the smell of my mother's pot roast in the air. Being carried around on his shoulder, waiting for him to come home from work. A father-daughter relationship firmly rooted for growth.

As months went by the climate of our house became more tense. I felt impending doom. Finally erupting, and then, a deathly lull settled as a tiny 6 year old followed her father around the house as he packed his suitcases, taking the personal belongings my mother would let him have, which did not include me. So I begged him to stay, he held me for along time, finally he pulled me away as he left our house.

And so began my father's weekend visits, who in his absence became a stranger, a curiosity to me. No more leisurely afternoons in front of the T.V. We now embarked on the most exciting trips appropriate for our age we could think of.

Bowling alleys, movies, malls and toy stores. I never came home empty handed. Then back to his Holiday Inn motel room, his new living quarters, to sit and spend time with him until he dropped us off at home, never sure I would see him next weekend.

- ◆ **35 percent** of children whose parents are no longer living together have no contact with their non-custodial parent, usually the father.
- ◆ **Two-thirds** of mothers think dads are replaceable either by mom or other men.
- ◆ There were approximately **158,000 stay-at-home dads** in 2009.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, National Fatherhood Initiative, National Center for Health Statistics, Pew Research Center, Dr. Linda Nielsen

A new set of rules imposed on our house. My mother took a job and went to school. My sister became my mother, cooking, cleaning and disciplining me. My brother, the eldest, became the man of the house, who also disciplined me but offered no affection. My father was spoke of very little, I only heard his name as he was being chastised for not visiting or blamed for a check that never arrived or came late.

Several times I would burst into tears, overwhelmed by his absence and feeling a great sense of loss. Each time I was scolded, told to be strong, to wise up and quit feeling sorry for myself. I was certainly not to shed tears in front of my father. How ironic that I was not to display my grief while I was also told by my mother what a lousy father I had.

At this point our relationship had changed considerably. The man who came to pick me up on weekends was no longer the strong, stable father I had known. I now sensed panic, helplessness and guilt emanating from my father. I feared him now, being the object of his panic, resented him for leaving, promising to return on various days and never showing. Pitying him for his guilt and helplessness, loving and idolizing him intensely, my daddy who would come home and defend himself to my mother and siblings and be strong again. All these perceptions from a 6 year old.

For the next four years my father and I were unable to spend any quality time together. The brief times I did see him were very damaging to me.

I remember writing a letter to my father in care of the Macomb County Jail. I would seal them up and include messages to the sheriff, because I was told they would open and censor my letters, in one letter I wrote to my father, telling him how I missed him and forgave him for not paying our child support.

Until I was 16 I believed the manufacturers stamps on my Dad's shirtails were shirts he had worn in jail.

He lost a few jobs during that time. He was constantly served and arrested at work because he was unable to meet the payments. His visits became much more sporadic, he was avoiding us so as not to let my mother know where he was, maybe he could hold down a job that way.

I had taken to reading the obituaries every night, looking for his name. I did not know if he dead or alive. We spent a couple of Christmas's without him. One Christmas he did show up, at 5:00 in the morning. Oh, to hug my father again, the smell of his aftershave and cigarettes long lost to my senses, he

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looked so sad. And then he was gone, he had timed his visit carefully while my mother was still asleep to avoid her.

My sister caught me lying to a playmate and scolded me. The playmate had asked me where my father was, not knowing myself I said he was always on business trips.

My dad eventually moved to Indiana. Michigan held too many bad memories for him. He remarried and we began to spend summers with him. This helped but by now there was so much damage to our relationship that we shared only shreds of normalcy.

From 8 to 18 I was a very cynical, negative and aggressive individual. Having been a normal, vulnerable child, only to be laid open and cut a few times, true to my family's constant messages to me, I did wise up! I learned to mother the child within me who still missed and grieved for her father, calming my own fears. Wiping tears I did not dare shed in front of my family.

Yes, the feeling of alienation and abandonment brought on by the lengthy absence of my father and my family's lack of communication, to explain it ended my sweet, normal childhood. Darwin's survival of the fittest should only be learned in a science class, yet I practiced it at 8.

Between 16 and 17 I underwent a year of therapy prompted by my sudden bouts of depression, an unending feeling of loneliness. It was here I learned that my boyfriend provided me with needs normally supplied by one's father, as I supplied the needs he sought from his deceased mother. We were a pair of 17 year old walking neurotics, both heavy substance abusers that also helped fill the great void within me.

My father and I have lost so much time.

Ordinarily routine moments that will never occur again. Moments a father and a child both share a right to, things a father should be able to see and share with his offspring.

Today when I see my father we follow a pattern of behavior dictated by those lost moments. We feel awkward with one another, groveling for words and giving clumsy hugs. We then try to get close again, claim some of our time that we can both demand now.

I will travel by plane for an hour to see him. Each time I visit with Dad it occurs to me that we have much catching up to do. He will tell stories of my antics as a baby, his face aglow with fatherly pride as he laughs and grins. And then a far-a-way look, an emptiness will envelop him as he falls silent and gazes out the window. I will ask him what is wrong, he will smile, be strong and say nothing. But I know what he is thinking, the silence speaks a thousand words. I have heard these stories over and over. Yet he refers to them because those are the few memories he has shared with me. Then he will ask me about my job, my husband, and offer me fatherly advice about my present life.

How did we get from my baby stories to my job and husband? This is more than the flow of conversation. It is a significant fact that we both find painful to acknowledge. As I get older and prepare myself to start a career and family, it is increasingly harder for me to see him. He remains geographically distant and our relationship will remain a shell.

I can always tell who is a child of divorce. They are sharp kids who exhibit aggressive, manipulative attitudes, a hardness. Yet if you press hard enough they are hiding a deep well of pain that eats at them, that makes them survivors, very much aware of the moves and rules of a chess game that was once their family unit.

I am a shrewd chess player, ready to knock any family opponents pieces off the board and move in for the kill, if I have to. At 21 I am still the grieving child of 6 who aches for her father. I am the mother who emotionally nurtured that child to a functioning adult. An adult that bears the scars and festering wounds of divorce and separation.

I am a survivor who feels that the only permanent thing in my life is myself. I grew up in a dark, frigid hell. You will never understand unless you've been there. It has aged me beyond my years and robbed me of time with my father necessary to a normal childhood.

Although I have healed myself there are some that never will.

I do not offer specific problems and solutions for you today. I am only articulating what children caught in today's divorce process are experiencing and cannot voice themselves.

To the fathers who are present here today, this is not chess, I am not your pawn. I AM YOUR CHILD WHO LOVES YOU AND NEEDS YOU! FIGHT FOR ME!

And to the legal system, I stand before you today, a product of what you believed is a system that benefits me. Children begin life unaware of sexism. Why teach it to them like this!

Thank You
Maria Conigliari

'Torn' Dayton vetoes child-custody bill

Article by: [JENNIFER BROOKS](#) , Star Tribune

A "torn" Gov. Mark Dayton has vetoed a bill that would have increased the minimum amount of custody awarded to some Minnesota parents by more than a month.

In one of its last acts before adjourning for the year, the Legislature passed a bill that would have rewritten the formula the state uses to award custody. It would have increased the presumed minimum amount of custody for either parent from 25 percent of the year to 35 percent, or an increase of about 37 days of parenting time.

The legislation was cheered by some parents -- particularly fathers -- who said the current formula makes it very difficult for them to build relationships with children they see only every other weekend, plus a few weeks over the summer.

"It's a terrible irony. You work so hard to be part of their lives when you have such limited time," said Brian Ulrich of St. Cloud, one of half a dozen fathers who held up protest signs outside the governor's office this week, urging him to sign the bill. "And they call you a Disney parent, because all you do is have fun. Well, that's because you [don't have a larger custody share]. You don't go to the school [conferences], you don't do the disciplining, because you aren't there."

But family court advocates say changing the custody formula isn't necessary and isn't a good idea.

"It focuses on parents' wishes, not children's needs," said family law attorney Michael Dittberner, an outspoken opponent of the bill. Most parents, he said, use the 25 percent formula as a baseline and work from there, but locking in a 35 percent minimum doesn't allow for special circumstances, such as custody

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of infants or special-needs children, or parents and children who live far apart or who have troubled relationships.

That's the argument that swayed the governor, who on Thursday allowed the bill to expire on his desk, unsigned.

"People and parties on both sides of the legislation share the same good-faith intentions, rooted in their shared desire to prescribe what will be best for every parent and, especially, every child ensnared in the painful dissolution of a marriage," Dayton wrote in a letter to the Legislature, explaining his decision.

The letter continued: "Torn between the persuasive arguments of both proponents and opponents of the legislation, I am particularly influenced by the strong opposition of so many organizations (although not all of their members), who work every day with the most challenging divorces and their effects on the well-being, and even the safety, of parents and children."

The governor called on the Legislature to take the issue up again next year, to try to work out a compromise that would serve the best interests of both parents and children.

The governor's offer did not satisfy the group of fathers-rights protesters who had been keeping vigil outside his office this week, hoping that Dayton -- a divorced father himself -- might be more sympathetic to their cause.

"I'm a dad who has seen my desire to be involved in my daughter's life thwarted by the family court," said David Weiss of St. Paul, holding up a sign decorated with pictures of his now-16-year-old daughter. Weiss said he has been battling for more time with her for the past 10 years. "It's reached a point where the best I can hope for is to have a relationship with my daughter after she turns 18. I'm here for the other dads now."

This is the 55th veto the governor has issued in the first two years of his term.

General Meeting

**Monday 15th October 2012 7:00pm
at**

Dave & Buster's Bar and Restaurant
2201 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53226 ph:
414-454-4100

Milwaukee County Circuit Court

Judge Michael Dwyer

Judge Dwyer has been working in the Milwaukee County Circuit Court system for over 15 years. He has held the position of Presiding Judge of the Family Division. He is now assigned to the Juvenile Branch.

Judge Dwyer has been a strong advocate for the process of Mediation and has spent countless hours of his own personal time evolving the Milwaukee County mediation process.

He has often spoken in public about the state of family law in Wisconsin, discussing issues such as social media. Judge Dwyer has contributed to Marquette University Law School on the Future of Family Law. He's been a Kids First Fund Director, a director of the Milwaukee County Guardianship Task Force, was a participant in last year's Milwaukee Fatherhood Summit and is currently highly involved in the development of Wisconsin chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliatory Courts.

You can find more details website
www.wisconsinfathers.org or contact Peter Kerr at
5050Dad@gmail.com or 877-5050Dad (877-505-0323).

Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families



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Don't forget to attend the WFCF
general meeting in Wauwatosa

Monday 15th October
2012 7:00pm at

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WI 53226
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With Guest Speaker
Milwaukee County
Circuit Court
Judge Michael Dwyer

Fathers Night Out Support and Social Dinner Meeting

Milwaukee: Milwaukee area meetings are held
the first Monday of the month at 7:00
PM at **The Chancery Restaurant** 7615
W. State St. - Wauwatosa, WI (*between
corner of Harwood and 75th*)

Madison: Madison area meetings are held the
third Monday of the month at 6:15
PM at the **Yes Buffet** 3038 Fish
Hatchery Rd. - Madison, WI
(*approximately half a mile south of the
Beltline*)

Call 608-ALL-DADS or visit
www.wisconsinfathers.org
for more information