

Wisconsin for Children



Fathers and Families

608/ALL-DADS (255-3237) , P.O. Box 1742, Madison, WI, 53701-1742 , www.wisconsinfathers.org

PRESS RELEASE:

(For immediate release)

April 30, 2004

Wisconsin Supreme Court refuses to hear equal parental rights case, fathers plan rally.

On April 20, 2004 the Wisconsin Supreme Court declined the petition of a Milwaukee area father, David Arnold, to review the January 4, 2004 decision of the Court of Appeals (Case# 03-1547). This appellate decision found that Wisconsin's divorced parents do not have a statutory or constitutional right to care for their children on an equal basis. "This ruling will deprive many children of a full relationship with one of their parents, will continue to force parents into adversarial relationships, and will continue to financially and emotionally devastate many children and their parents." claims Jan Raz, the president of Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families.

A key issue in this case is a provision in Wisconsin Statue 767.24(4)(b) added by 1999 Wisconsin Act 9 which requires courts to "set a placement schedule . . . that maximizes the amount of time the child may spend with each parent". "I can't believe Wisconsin appellate courts are refusing to recognize and enforce this recent Wisconsin's statutory requirement" said David Arnold, a member of Raz's group.

"Whether courts agree with a law or not they should enforce it," David added. "These decisions are an attempt by the appellate courts to veto a statutory requirement passed by the Wisconsin legislature and signed into law by the Governor. The decisions show disrespect for the Wisconsin legislature and governor, rulings on parental rights by United States Supreme Court and the common sense and constitutionally protected principles of equality. I am surprised and disappointed that the Wisconsin Supreme Court refused to hear this case."

"These decisions support the continuation of great judicial discretion as to what is in the best interest of the child rather than supporting the equal role of both parents to raise their children without the need of unnecessary governmental interference," David continued. "This will allow Wisconsin lawyers and mental health professionals to keep generating large fees from the many families that must secure their services to resolve child placement conflicts. These decisions are in the best interest of the divorce industry, not Wisconsin children or their parents."

In light of the Courts' failure, in cases such as this, to support the equal role of both parents, Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families is planning a June 12th rally at the State Capitol in Madison to raise public awareness of these issues. More information about this case and rally is available at <http://www.wisconsinfathers.org/arnold> and <http://www.wisconsinfathers.org/rally>.

For more information Contact

Mr. Jan Raz - President

Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families

<http://www.wisconsinfathers.org>

Home:

10120 W Forest Home Ave.

Hales Corners, WI 53130

414 425-4866 fax 414 425-8405