Florida's Good Dad Act

This summer Florida passed the *Good Dad Act.* This law means that fathers become natural guardians upon the establishment of paternity, regardless of marital status. In legal terms, a natural guardian is empowered to make a range of decisions for a child, and are required ensure that child receives adequate food, clothing, and shelter.

The Good Dad Act means Florida law is different from Wisconsin law. In Wisconsin legal paternity allows a father to have his rights *considered* before child is taken away for adoption and he may *ask* for legal custody and placement. There is a difference between a right and a right to ask. For many children that difference is a father.

This is surprising to many young men. There is a misconception that their rights as an American include the rights of a parent. In Wisconsin these rights are reserved for the state. In practice, Wisconsin has an outstanding record for shared parenting – when compared with other states. But far too many children still grow up without the involvement of their fathers and the deleterious effects to those children and to society are often ignored.

The Good Dad Act is just one of Florida's pro-family laws. Unsurprisingly, Florida leads the nation in net migration; Wisconsin sits squarely in the list of states that people are leaving. Wisconsin state leaders might look at this bill when they try to understand why so many citizens are voting with their feet.

Would you like to see Wisconsin pass laws like the Good Dad Act? Consider joining us. https://www.wisconsinfathers.org/become-member

https://familyreunionusa.org/new-florida-law-puts-national-focus-on-unwed-dads
https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cs/paternity/home

We'd like to hear from you:
- Do you think Wisconsin schools should teach young men about their rights and responsibilities as fathers?
- Were you surprised by the treatment that you or a family member received in the Wisconsin family courts?
- Would you like to see more content on family law across the USA?