



### Men's Briefs! Some exciting news in this issue.

Our new website has gone live!

If you were wondering about the *Men's Briefs* header which you've seen for the last few months, it's actually taken from our new website as it has been developed. Check us out at [www.wisconsinfathers.org](http://www.wisconsinfathers.org)

**Annual Meeting – January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 7:00pm  
Madison – Coliseum Bar and Banquet  
Check website for more details! **An absolute must to attend if you want Equal Parenting****

*Men's Briefs* is supposed to be an interactive communication, a two-way street. Don't forget your feedback or to submit your own articles, because my perspective is not the only perspective and there are a lot smarter and more experienced people than me around. Get your point of view into [editor@Wisconsinfathers.org](mailto:editor@Wisconsinfathers.org).

In this edition we have:

**The President's Perspective  
Monthly Feature article – New Website  
Family Law Reform – A New Organization!  
An Update on Lucky Pete and Honest John  
Members Feedback**



### President's Perspective – The Chat Spat!

One of the most important educational functions of Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization is to provide understanding for parents caught in the abyss of Family Court.

It's called educational outreach. One of our most important tools had been WFCFChat on Yahoo groups. Though there are many tools available for educational outreach, such as our Web site, newsletters, general membership meetings, Father's Night's Out, (608) ALL-DADS phone helpline and our [private email helpline](#), Yahoo WFCFChat provided an anonymous text-based message exchange where anyone, WFCF members, potentially new WFCF members or anyone from the public domain, could ask questions about their predicament and get answers from experienced contributors who have been through it before and have come out the other side.

Earlier this year, control of the Yahoo WFCFChat site was entrusted to a newly elected Board member who had previously performed valuable services for WFCF, most notably on its web site. This individual resigned from the Board after several months, has refused to

relinquish control of the chat site to the WFCF Board, and has refused to operate this chat site in conformance with longstanding WFCF policies. Our efforts to persuade him to return control of this chat site to the Board have been unsuccessful, and Yahoo has denied our request to return control over it to us. The Yahoo site continues to be called WFCFChat despite the fact that it no longer has any connection to WFCF. Consequently, the Board has created a new WFCF Chat site.

Signing up for the new WFCF Chat site is easy! Simply go to the [Chat page!](#) If you have not registered, then click on [register](#) and enter the username you want to be known by on the chat site, enter a valid email address then hit the "Create new account" button. That's it!

Your password and further instructions will be sent to your email address. Either use the Username and temporary password supplied in the email or click on the link in the email and you will be logged in with the opportunity to reset the temporary password to one that you choose.

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Now you can [log in](#) any time you want from the [chat page](#) to view messages or add your own message.

By definition of being an educational outreach function performed by a 501(c)(3), WFCFChat needs to be on topic, not used for solicitation of funds, and not used to perform the functions of a 501(c)(4) lobbying organization. Violation of this could jeopardize our 501(c)(3) status and affect our ability to perform this vital function for parents who are hurting and in need of our assistance.

Like all technological tools, they evolve. Myspace, FaceBook and Twitter have become rampant in our personal lives, and at WFCF we too have evolved in our tools for outreach. (The first piece of advice your attorney should give you is to get off Facebook and Twitter – it is a public forum where any venting or bold statements you make can be picked up by your soon-to-be ex and used against you!)

With the upgrade of our website, we have integrated a [new and official WFCFChat](#) which enables a better integration across our counselors that support and answer the questions put forward by our chat site participants. Our [new WFCFChat](#) site will enable anonymous inquiries about specific and sensitive issues and be answered by real WFCF members who have all been through it before. All our counselors monitor our new website chat forum.

Our counselors and Board members will no longer monitor the old WFCFChat site on Yahoo groups as this

site has been compromised from its original intended purpose. The Yahoo Chat site is now being censored based on the opinion of a single person, its moderator, whereas only one person was ever censored (for repeated denigration of entire groups of people) for all the years it was under control of the Board.

Though our new chat site is an educational outreach tool to help those in need, one of our other core functions is to support changes to Wisconsin law so the child/parent relationship for both parents will be treated fairly, respectfully and equally. Becoming a member of our chat site will automatically make you an affiliate of our organization (don't panic – this won't cost you anything), and when the time is right for you, you may choose to be a member and benefit from all associated with that, such as attorney referral and discount attorney rates. Membership also supports all of our critical functions including the educational outreach initiatives, web site costs, postage, general meeting and other events that have helped so many parents.

With our new chat site, Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families looks forward to a new chapter in helping parents in difficult situations. We also look forward to your participation in this new chapter of **your** organization.

This new chat site is the intellectual property of Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families and as such is under ownership of and moderation by the Board of WFCF.

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## New Website – by James Wendt

Out with the old and in with the new! Though the old website served us faithfully for the past decade and had an amazing amount of interesting and necessary information on it, the 2010 Board of Directors could see that we needed more from our web site.

We needed a more impressive presence and a website that gave us more functionality – quicker and better to market – as they say in the world of commerce.

For you techies, our new website has been developed using the drupal template. This enables us to update content faster and easier as well as maintain history, effectively giving us a better communication tool to our existing members and to our future members.

The new website also has a much better growth and development path to enable transparency to our members. Soon you will be able to view our By-Laws on

the website as well as names and brief descriptions of your Board members.

With the advent of our [email helpline](#), and our new [WFCFChat group](#), we are starting to build a knowledge base. This will enable us to provide a Frequency Asked Questions (FAQ's) area as a future enhancement to serve parents in crisis.

We will also have a faster ability to marshal our troops when it comes time to steer our legislators in the right direction. Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families has members in most Senate and Assembly districts. This is a powerful tool that no other parenting and family law reform organization in Wisconsin has, to push for changes in legislation, so both parents can have their relationship with their children treated fairly, respectfully and equally.

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## Family Law Reform – A New Organization – by Peter Kerr

It's no secret that there is a new kid on the block. It's been nearly a year since the resignation of Steve Blake from the Board of Directors of Wisconsin Fathers for Children and Families.

It is also no secret that there was disagreement between the directions the Board wanted to go in and the direction our former President wanted to go. (And of course it's me who stepped into the role as new President).

Although Steve Blake would have served as Immediate Past President had he chosen to run for reelection to the Board (he undoubtedly would have been reelected) and would have been free to continue to lead the WFCF legislative outreach efforts, Steve decided to splinter with WFCF and over the last year has started his own organization – Dads of Wisconsin.

WFCF is a 501(c)(3) organization and as such, any contributions, membership or donations are tax deductible. DoW is a 501(c)(4) organization, and while it too is a not-for-profit organization, any membership fees or donations are not tax deductible.

WFCF has two primary functions. Our 501(c)(3) tax-deductible, educational status enables us to not only educate the public in general, but legislators as well. Our educational outreach function is to help those parents who are struggling through the abyss known as family court and to help them understand that when a court – on purpose – orders a vindictive parent to be the primary parent, then their relationship with their children is in serious jeopardy of damage if not being completely severed.

Our educational legislative function is to inform our Senators and Assembly members about how parents in the real world are being treated by the Wisconsin laws they oversee. We also help them understand why changes in the laws are required, so the state of Wisconsin can guarantee that both parents' relationships with their children will be treated fairly, with respect and equally...a situation that sadly, in this modern and supposedly enlightened 21<sup>st</sup> Century, does not exist today. Fortunately, one educational reason feeds the other educational reason. The more parents we have come through the "not-much-family-in" family court process, then the more members we have and the more constituents in legislators' districts we have.

Of course WFCF as a 501(c)(3) has limited capability to spend money in the area of lobbying, but there is nothing stopping our members as private citizens lobbying their Representatives and Senators, and as usual, you'll see WFCF testifying at all hearings on bills relevant to our purpose.

Dads of Wisconsin, by their classification of 501(c)(4), is explicitly a lobby group and therefore need to conform to those guidelines. Contributions to DoW would not be tax deductible and presumably go to efforts to explain to the legislators, why the bills DoW supports are good for parents. DoW also has a Political Action Committee, through which they make campaign contributions to candidates for elective office

At WFCF we support any efforts that positively reform Wisconsin Family Law. We look forward to establishing a mutually supportive relationship with DoW, when our purposes and goals coincide.

We wish DoW all the best in their endeavors.

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## Lucky Pete and Honest John

Lucky Pete has had another day in court and gender bias struck another blow to the integrity of the Wisconsin Court System. In this "he said/she said" spat, the only real evidence given, by one of our finest, the boys in blue, clearly stated that in the domestic dispute between them, both parents exhibited violent behavior and that both were arrested.

Lucky Pete's case was about how a restraining order was issued upon him by request from his soon-to-be-ex-wife (S2BX), yet one was not placed on her when requested by Lucky Pete. The judge ruled that Lucky Pete had not met the burden of proof; even though the policeman testified that Lucky Pete had marks on him, but his S2BX had none. (The DA is continuing to press

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charges without Lucky Pete being given a chance to state his side of the story).

To enlighten those who may not think this is significant. In Wisconsin State Law, there is the rebuttable presumption of joint legal custody, which can be rebutted by evidence of domestic violence. Lucky Pete is now in the position where sole legal custody could be awarded to his S2BX and as discussed in last month's Men's Briefs, sole legal custody can mean that a vindictive primary parent can take his kids anywhere in the world without even having to notify the other parent.

Due to the rampant gender bias in the Wisconsin Court system in the way that Fathers' relationships with their children are treated so disrespectfully, another judge has begun enabling more Fatherless boys. It is no coincidence that allegations by women of domestic violence go hand-in-hand with divorce.

As for Honest John, he is still paying all the bills on his new accommodation as well as the mortgage and bills from the marital house and even though the hearing date has been set for two months, his S2BX's attorney informed the court of a conflict in her calendar and has requested a postponement of 2 months - which was ordered.

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## Member's Feedback

Thank you for all those who have responded in the positive. The Board appreciates that, as it's encouraging to know the efforts we make are worthwhile to our members.

One issue that was pointed out to me – in the negative – was my inference that the Petitioner was the cause of a child flip-flopping between two houses. "It is the Petitioner's choice to have the child shuffled between two homes. It's time they started accepting the responsibilities of their choices and the effect it has on their children.

Let me also clarify, violent relationships or loveless relationships full of infidelity are also not good examples for children to learn from. I firmly believe that parents are the best people to make decisions for their children and only a parent knows if a violent or loveless relationship is a worse place for their children to be in, rather than having two houses to live in.

Devastatingly, the exposure that Wisconsin Law enables, is that if one parent is capable of violence and infidelity, you can be sure they are capable of alienation if they are enabled by being awarded/rewarded the primary parent position in the standard cookie cutter placement schedule of "every second weekend and one night through the week" for Dad. Wisconsin Law can enable the damaging if not severing of the minor parent/child relationship by a vindictive primary parent. It's the reason we exist – to make Equal Parenting the starting point of parental separation, so Wisconsin Law can guarantee that each parent's relationship with their children is fair, respectful and equal if both are fit and healthy parents.

I do encourage all to write in with your thoughts, your experiences and your advice at [editor@wisconsinfathers.org](mailto:editor@wisconsinfathers.org) and to continue to dig deep into our website [www.wisconsinfather.org](http://www.wisconsinfather.org). There is a wealth of information from many Fathers who have been through it all before.

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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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