



# NEWSLETTER

## Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

An international association of judges, counselors, court evaluators, mediators, and lawyers

Volume 6, Number 3  
Summer, 1987

Co-editors: Stanley N. Cohen  
Ann Milne

### AFCC PAMPHLET TOPS 400,000

AFCC first distributed the pamphlet **Parents Are Forever (PAF)** in 1973 as a joint effort with Parents Without Partners. Developed by Meyer Elkin when he was Director of the Los Angeles Conciliation Court, with the help of a grant from the Los Angeles Bar Association, more than 400,000 copies have been purchased. It stands as one of the most widely distributed pamphlets for divorcing families. PAF provides practical information about how to help children better adjust to a divorce and how to establish harmonious post-divorce relationships.

Other AFCC pamphlets include:

- **Twenty Questions Divorcing Parents Ask About Their Children Joint Custody**
- **Is Mediation for Us?**
- **Guidelines for Stepparents**

**Twenty Questions** addresses such questions as "What kinds of parenting plans are there?", "What special needs do children have at different ages?", and "What if a child does not want to see one parent?" **Joint Custody**, first published in 1984, has now become AFCC's second most

popular pamphlet. This pamphlet identifies 12 important items parents should consider when drafting a joint custody agreement and provides helpful information for making joint custody work.

**Is Mediation for Us?** can be used by both public and private practitioners to explain mediation and to answer questions about the process and its benefits. The pamphlet also is suitable for public relations and marketing to referral sources.

**Guide for Stepparents** seems to say it all. "Just being a parent in this day and age is hard enough. But to step in and help rear someone else's children also is difficult." This pamphlet provides helpful suggestions for how to avoid competition with a spouse's "ex," how to handle discipline and other issues which add to the complexity of stepparent life.

The practical value of PAF and other AFCC brochures is readily acknowledged by court connected service staff, public agency personnel, attorneys and mental health professionals in private practice. The staff of the Clackamas County Family Court Service in Oregon, for example, routinely distributes all the brochures to their

client families. According to F. Nolan Jones, Director of this agency, the brochures provide an educational service to clients and assist them in focussing on issues in counseling and mediation sessions. Similar responses are reported by Russ Schoeneman, Hugh McIsaac and Ellen Rudd, the respective Directors of court-connected services in Phoenix, Arizona; Los Angeles County, California and Indianapolis, Indiana. Mr. Stephen Shirley, an attorney in Pomona, California, finds AFCC pamphlets invaluable in his family law practice. He particularly feels that PAF directly addresses the problems of children whose parents are divorcing. Similarly, Thomas Kilroy, a social worker in private practice in Park Ridge, Illinois, reports AFCC brochures, "very useful in my work..."

Several additional pamphlets are being developed including: *A Blueprint for a Successful Marriage and Child Support*..

The pamphlets are economically priced at 20¢ each and 15¢ each for orders of 1,000. An order form appears in the newsletter on page 6.



#### Hugh McIsaac

*Incoming President  
Hugh McIsaac, Director  
of the Los Angeles  
Family Court Services  
Conciliation Court, en-*

*courages AFCC members to extend our international and interdisciplinary scope "to make things better."*

In the interdisciplinary tradition of our Association, I follow attorney Donald Moir and precede Judge Larry Kaplan as President of AFCC. This interdisciplinary nature of our organization is one of our greatest strengths.

More than 400 persons attended the conference in Hawaii in May, including 25 from New Zealand. Others came from Australia, Canada and the United States. This illustrates the international scope of our Asso-

ciation. England, Scandinavia, and other countries are looking to our Association for consultation, training and assistance.

Goals for this year are to continue to develop our committees to advance the work of the Association. The Family Violence Committee has made excellent progress in developing guidelines and training ideas in this critically important area. The Public Policy Committee will be restructured and will be asked to develop model legislation to be available to all jurisdictions and will serve as a clearing house for legislative ideas and programs. The Child Custody Evaluation Committee will continue to develop standards and guidelines for performance of this important process. More than 180 copies of the **Guidelines for Court Connected Child Custody Evaluations** have been requested in the first six months of publication. Progress has been

made by many other committees, as well.

We also seek to increase our membership and impact with Family Courts by developing a Technical Assistance Institute to help the courts develop a modern family court system.

In May of next year, we will celebrate our 25th anniversary in Los Angeles. Rather than focus only on the past, the program will also focus on the future. Our membership includes many who have made profound and significant changes in the communities in which they live, and our Association must take pride in what we have accomplished in such a short period of time. In 25 years we have become a dynamic and effective organization of judges, attorneys, and mental health professionals who share a common concern and goal: "To Make Things Better."

## Membership Notes

**Clarence Cramer**, President of the Arizona Chapter of AFCC, announces that the 1987 Fall institute will be held September 11-12 at the Hacienda del Sol Ranch Resort in Tucson, AZ. The theme, "Building Bridges Between Legal and Behavioral Health Professionals," aptly describes the variety of workshops that will be presented. See Calendar of Events for registration information.

**Byrnece Gluckstern and Charlotte Michener**, AFCC members from Colorado, attended the annual meeting of the Commission on Marriage and Interpersonal Relations, Branch of the International Union of Family Organizations in Stockholm, Sweden. Sixteen countries were represented, largely European, including only five English speaking participants. Discussion groups were held in French and English. Professor Rita Liljestrom, sociologist at the University of Gottenburg, Sweden, presented the main discussion paper "Equality in the Family—What are the Consequences?" Byrnece reports that the conference was very lively and a post conference trip to Sweden following AFCC's Chicago 1989 meeting is very possible. The conciliation movement in Sweden is quite new but very strong. Keep your passports up to date!

**Linda Hahn** has been named Administrator of the Dallas County Family Court Services. Linda has been a counselor with the agency since 1976 and an AFCC Board member since 1986. Congratulations Linda!

**Nancy Kaplan**, Director of the Northwest Mediation Service, is offering a special discount to AFCC members (regular \$185.00 reduced to \$145.00) for purchase of the 28 minute video training tape "Mediation Techniques for Positive Solutions." The tape illustrates 12 basic mediation techniques through professional dramatizations of three disputes and mediated resolutions. Purchasers will also receive, free of charge, a 20 minute video tape of KCTS-TV's Seattle documentary "Divorce: A Better Means to an End." Contact: Northwest Mediation Service, 405 114th Ave S. E., Suite 300, Bellevue, WA 98004, (206) 455-3989.

**Sylvia Mandelbaum** writes that Israel Family Mediation holds a monthly meeting to discuss program ideas, techniques and publicity efforts. A recent breakthrough in the rule of law that parties must be represented by an attorney in civil court occurred when two psychotherapists helped a couple present a custody agreement.

## Charlotte Mayhew

The founder of the Child Custody Division of the Eighth Judicial District Court in Las Vegas, Nevada, and a member of AFCC for the past 10 years, passed away April 17, 1987. Mrs. Mayhew served for 15 years as the supervisor of the Child Custody Division before retiring two years ago. Charlotte was active with AFCC, served on the Board of Directors and was a chairperson of the AFCC Child Custody Evaluation Committee. She was active in community affairs in Las Vegas and, at one time, was a State Assembly candidate. Although not known to many people, Charlotte had been a diabetic since her teen years. The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation was a cause close to her heart. Charlotte will be missed by her colleagues not only in Las Vegas, but throughout AFCC. She is survived by her husband, Jule, and two sisters and a brother.

## Legislative News

**Arizona** - Senate Bill 1031 prescribes an automatic assignment of wages of a person ordered to pay child support and allows for wage assignments for spousal maintenance. The bill was signed into law by the Governor in May 1987.

**Colorado** - Recently added is a legislative option which provides that the court may award joint custody even if both parents do not agree to share custody.

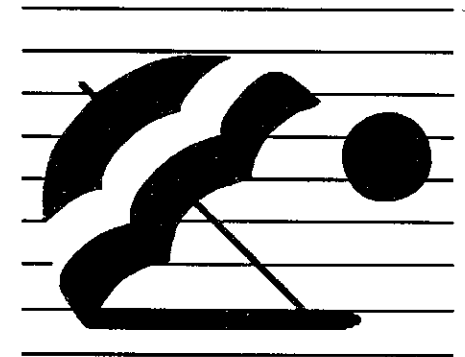
**Louisiana** - Parties may be required to mediate their custody and visitation differences upon the motion of the court or a motion by either party. The mediator shall be an attorney in good standing with the Bar or a person with a master's degree in counseling, social work, psychology, marriage and family therapy and is not a party or represents a party or is engaged in any therapeutic relationship with the parties.

**Mississippi** - Twenty years of lobbying has paid off as the local chapter of NASW saw Governor Allain sign a social work licensure bill into law. The law provides three levels of licensure based upon degree and experience and the passage of an examination at each level. Mississippi is the 41st state to license social workers.

**Pennsylvania** - Senate Bill 170 and 171 provide for the implementation of family mediation on a state-wide basis and for mandatory mediation in contested child custody matters. Opponents of the legislation include a variety of women's organizations and domestic abuse center staff. Concerns include the belief that women will be intimidated into accepting smaller financial settlements and that women need an advocate or an attorney to negotiate for them.

**Texas** - Senate Bill 1173 (the family mediation bill) was scrapped in favor of a more generic alternative dispute resolution bill SB1436. SB1436 was favorably reported out of the Senate Jurisprudence Committee with amendments.

**Wyoming** - Wyoming recently enacted a new omnibus law providing for the licensure of master's degree social workers, counselors, marriage and family therapists and chemical dependency specialists in private practice. Employees of public agencies may also be licensed if they meet the minimum qualifications. The law creates an omnibus board and contains provisions for continuing education and privileged communications.



## Gay Parents Not Excluded as Custodians

A New York trial court held in *M. A. B. v. R. B.* that a father's homosexuality does not automatically disqualify him from having custody of his children. "It is impermissible as a matter of law to decide the question of custody on the basis of a father's sexual orientation." Courts in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Jersey, Washington, and California have already ruled in favor of gay parents in some cases.

## Upcoming Events

August 24-28, 1987

**"Divorce Therapy and Mediation: A Family Systems Approach"**  
with Mel Roman & Sylvan Schaffer  
Contact: Cape Cod Institute  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
1312 Belfer Building  
Bronx, NY 10461  
(212) 430-2307

September 9-12, 1987

**National Association of Social Workers  
"Social Work '87—On the Leading Edge"**  
New Orleans  
Contact: NASW  
7981 Eastern Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(800) 638-8799

September 11-12, 1987

**Arizona Chapter AFCC Fall Institute**  
Hacienda del Sol Ranch Resort  
Tucson, AZ  
Contact: Joel Glassman  
7534 E. 2nd. St., Suite 103  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
Phone: Clarence Cramer  
(602) 868-5801 ext. 469

September 12-13, 1987

**AFCC Executive Committee Retreat**  
Green Lake, WI

September 17-20, 1987

**"Addictions and the Family"**  
Hyatt Regency at Crown Center  
Kansas City MO  
Contact: US Journal Training, Inc.  
1721 Blount Blvd., Suite #1  
Pompano Beach, FL 33069  
1-800-443-5102

September 19-22, 1987

**Divorce Mediation Training for Professionals**  
November 1-8 & 11-12  
Carl Schneider, Ph.D. &  
Zena Zumeta, J.D.  
Contact: Registrar, Illinois School of  
Professional Psychology  
220 S. State Street, Suite 509  
Chicago, IL 60604

September 26, 1987

**Texas Assoc. of Family Mediators  
Annual Conference with  
Dr. John Heister**  
Hobby Airport Hilton Hotel  
Houston, TX  
Contact: Linda Hahn  
Family Court Services

3rd Floor, Old Red Courthouse  
Dallas, TX 75202  
(214) 749-8674

September 26-27

**Training in Stepfamily Therapy**  
with Drs. Emily & John Visher  
Santa Clara Marriott Hotel, CA  
Contact: Dr. Cecile Dillon  
Stepfamily Assoc. of America  
20902 S. Brookhurst, Suite 201  
Huntington Beach, CA 92646  
(714) 964-3030

October 14-18, 1987

**Basic Mediation Training**  
with Florence Kaslow, Ph.D.  
& Jay Folberg, J.D.  
Dallas, TX  
Contact: Psychological Seminars,  
Inc.  
213 E. Davis Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33606  
(813) 253-3587

October 14-18, 1987

**Family Mediation Canada Conference**  
Banff Springs Hotel  
Banff, Alberta Canada  
Contact: Conference '87  
c/o 1900 Scotia Place  
10060 Jasper Ave.  
Edmonton, Alberta Canada T5J 3V4

October 23-25, 1987

**"Helping Children of Separation &  
Divorce:  
At Home, School & Workplace**  
National Council for Children's Rights  
Washington Marriott Hotel  
Contact: Ellen Dublin Levy  
NCCR  
2001 O Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 223-6227

October 29-Nov. 1

**AAMFT "Family Therapy Works"**  
Chicago Hilton  
Contact: AAMFT  
1717 K Street NW, 407  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 429-1825

November 6-7, 1987

**2nd Annual Arizona Conference on  
Dispute Resolution**  
with Dr. James Laue  
Holiday Inn - Broadway  
Tucson, AZ  
Contact: Jean Lippitt  
(602) 944-0156

December 3-5, 1987

**AFCC Midwinter Meeting**  
Desert Inn Hotel and Country Club  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Contact: Ruth Pearson-Urban  
Clark County Courthouse  
200 S. Third St., 4th Floor  
Las Vegas, NV 89155  
(702) 455-4185

December 9-11, 1987

**Advanced Family Mediation**  
Boulder, Colorado  
Contact: Center for Dispute  
Resolution  
1900 Wazee St., Suite 311  
Denver, CO 80202  
1-800-633-4283

May 26-28, 1988

**AFCC's 25th Anniversary Conference  
"The Best of AFCC"**  
Long Beach Hyatt Regency  
Contact: Hugh McIsaac  
Conciliation Court, Rm. 241  
111 N. Hill Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-5524

### FAMILY THERAPY WORKS

45th AAMFT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 29—November 1, 1987  
Chicago Hilton & Towers Hotel

**Effective Family Therapy with Difficult Populations**  
Adolescents—Jim Alexander  
Stepfamilies—Betty Carter  
AIDS—John Patten

**The Family Therapy Marketplace: Will You Have a Job in Five Years?**  
W. Robert Beavers  
Mark Ginsberg  
George Watkins

**Managing Madness**  
Carol Anderson  
Michael Goldstein

**Live Family Interviews With The Masters**  
Carol Anderson  
Luigi Boscolo  
Gianfranco Cecchin  
Jo-Ann Kresan  
Norman Paul  
Paul Warzawick

- Chicago's luxurious Hilton Hotel located on beautiful Lake Michigan near restaurants, shops, and museums
- Second City Comedy Repertory Company
- AIDS "Safe-Sex" Luncheon
- Presidential Dinner Dance with a Chicago blues band

- Hundreds of Workshops & Institutes
- Networking Luncheon
- Video Festival & Exhibits
- Meet-the-Author Receptions

## Member Profile

### Judge Anthony J. Ryan

AFCC members who attended the Hawaii conference had a chance to meet a number of our colleagues from New Zealand, including Judge Anthony "Tony" Ryan and his wife, Merrilynn. Tony and Merrilynn served as hosts of the 1985 AFCC's post conference trip to New Zealand and welcomed us to Whareroa Farm (Long House) in Hamilton, where the Ryans now live and Tony raises race horses in his spare time. Tony has served as a judge of the Family Court in New Zealand for the past nine years. Judges are appointed by the Governor and serve until a mandatory retirement at age 65. Judge Ryan travels a circuit of about 50 miles. He hears approximately 75% family cases and 25% criminal cases. Judicial mediation is an established practice in New Zealand. Similar to a settlement conference, the judge will meet with the parties and legal counsel and attempt to work out a settlement. There may be as many as a dozen participants when issues involve extended family members, such as occurred in a recent case involving the custody of a young Maori child. According to Judge Ryan, legal counsel for children are often helpful in reaching a settlement. In addition to his interest in race horses, Tony is an avid golfer and enjoys fishing for Rainbow trout. The Ryans have been married for 25 years and have four children ranging in age from 17-23. The Family Courts and the Family Court Association of New Zealand are active supporters of services for divorcing families. It was a pleasure to welcome Judge Ryan, Merrilynn and the other New Zealanders to our recent conference.

## Las Vegas Court Seeks Custody Specialists

Clark County, Nevada, which includes Las Vegas and the surrounding metropolitan area, has an opening for a Child Specialist 1 to provide professional mediation, evaluation, crisis intervention, diversion and casework involving the custody and guardianship of children. Applicants must possess a Master's degree in a behavioral science and three or more years experience in a social welfare agency. Salary range annually \$25,282 to \$36,008 and a comprehensive fringe benefit package. Contact Ruth Pearson-Urban, c/o Child Custody Division, District Court, 200 South 3rd Street, Suite 407, Las Vegas, NV 89155, (702) 455-4185.

## AAMFT Supports Early Counseling to Prevent Divorce

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, in an effort to combat the rising divorce rate, recently released a report focusing on psycho education — combining people's ability to learn with the theories of marriage and family therapists. According to Dr. David Mace, professor at Wake Forest School of Medicine, the first year of marriage is the most crucial time for marital education—"The time and place to teach people to swim is when they get into the water." Prevention and early intervention have been long term goals of conciliators in many courts. It's good to hear that other organizations are joining AFCC in supporting these efforts.

## PWP 30 Years Old

Parents Without Partners, established in New York in 1957, celebrated its 30th birthday earlier this year. A new membership category now provides for affiliate membership for persons interested in single parent families. Further information can be obtained from PWP, 8807 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

## Mediators Hold 4th Annual Conference

The Academy of Family Mediators annual conference was held in New York, July 8-11, 1987. John Haynes, Philip Shaposnik, Linda Girdner and Maxine Baker-Jackson set the stage for the conference theme "Interdisciplinary Cooperation and Diversity" and focused on power, conflict and control. Conference participants had a choice of 30 workshops featuring such topics as "Custody Evaluation and Mediation: Competition or Cooperation," "Crisis Intervention Skills for Mediators," "The Role of the Child in Mediation," and "Mediating in the Shadow of Violence." Donald MacGillarry, Ph.D. from the Divorce Bureau in Groningen, Netherlands described an interdisciplinary program for early intervention with divorcing families.

## Are You Past Due?

Members who have not paid their 1987 dues will miss the next issue of the Newsletter, Conciliation Courts Review and notices of upcoming conferences. Send your membership in today, including state chapter dues if you reside in Arizona or California.

**Individual:** \$60/year,  
**Institution:** \$120/year,  
**Student:** \$20/year  
**Life:** \$600 (may be paid in two installments)  
**CA State Dues:** Individual: \$25/year,  
Institution: \$50/year,  
Student: \$5/year  
**AZ State Dues:** Individual: \$20/year,  
Institution: \$40/year

Send to:

Association of Family and Conciliation  
Courts  
c/o OHSU, Dept. of Psychiatry, Gaines  
Hall Rm. 149  
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd.  
Portland, OR 97201

## AFCC Newsletter Advertising Rates

Advertising copy must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Send your camera ready advertising copy and payment in US funds to:

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Portland, OR 97201

Full page . . . . . \$350  
Half page . . . . . \$250  
Third page . . . . . \$125  
Sixth page . . . . . \$ 75

The AFCC Newsletter is published four times a year in January, April, July and October. News items should be sent by the 15th of the month preceding publication to Newsletter Editor, Ann L. Milne, 314 E. Mifflin St., Madison, WI 53703 (608) 251-0604.



## Association of Family and Conciliation Courts • Publication Order Form

### FILMS/VIDEO TAPES

**Custody Resolution Counseling:** Designed for training counselors in mediation techniques for family disputes concerning custody and visitation. Color, 45 minutes. Rental-\$40/5 days; Purchase-\$130.

**A Family Affair:** Designed to inform judges and other professionals of the legal remedies and implications regarding child abuse. This film is a gold medal winner. New York International Film and Television Festival (1982), First Prize winner, American Film Festival (1982) in its category. Gold medal, National Council Family Relation (1983). Available in 16 mm or video cassette through VISUCOM Productions, Inc., 1255 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City, CA 94063. Rental-\$60/3 days; Purchase-\$450.

**You're Still Mom and Dad:** A sensitive portrayal of the issues of Joint Custody. Designed for parents, professionals, and others who wish to understand and implement this post-divorce parenting plan. Color, 38 minutes. Video Cassette: Rental-\$40/5 days; Purchase-\$100.

### PUBLICATIONS

**Guidelines for Court-Connected Child Custody Evaluation:** A procedural guide for custody evaluators. Developed by AFCC Committee on Custody Evaluation, this booklet provides a much needed practical format that can be read easily by evaluators charged with the responsibility of preparing custody evaluation reports for use by domestic relations courts. (\$4.50).

**Joint Custody and Shared Parenting:** Edited by Jay Folberg, Past President AFCC and Professor of Law at Lewis and Clark College, this book provides the reader with a compilation of writings that cut across the disciplines of law, social work, family therapy, and psychology. It presents a balanced debate on a sometimes volatile and difficult issue. The book's interdisciplinary approach enables judges, social workers and family therapists to benefit from its material. Royalty proceeds have been donated to AFCC by Jay Folberg. This book ordinarily is \$30.00. AFCC has a limited number available for purchase \$26.00 (includes postage and handling).

**Guidelines for Establishing a Court Connected Counseling Service:** A manual written for courts and individuals with helpful information regarding how to establish a court connected counseling service. \$3.50.

**My Mom and Dad Are Getting a Divorce:** Written by Florence Bienenfeld, an AFCC member and conciliation court counselor in Los Angeles, this colorfully illustrated book appeals to children whose parents are going through divorce and assists parents in understanding their children's feelings. Available for \$3.95 plus \$1.25 postage and handling from Changing Times Education Service, Division of EMC Publishing, 300 York Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55101.

**Divorce and Family Mediation: History, Review, Future Considerations:** A monograph, published in the December, 1982 issue **Conciliation Courts Review**. This 45 page article presents a well researched history of the development of mediation in the field of divorce. \$2.50 each.

**Divorce Mediation Final Report:** The findings of this AFCC sponsored project is now available in a bound volume. The project was under the direction of Dr. Jessica Pearson. The findings are presented in eleven extensive reports and is an important contribution to the field. Copies are available for \$25.00 by contacting Dr. Jessica Pearson, 1720 Emerson St. Denver, CO 80218. (303) 837-1555.

**PAMPHLETS**

**Parents Are Forever:** Internationally acclaimed pamphlet used by Conciliation Court staff, family courts, lawyers, counselors and mediators to assist families in the divorce process. Pamphlet addresses custody and visitation issues and assists parents in using the divorce experience as an opportunity for growth.

**Guide For Stepparents:** This pamphlet provides guidelines that will assist the blended family in working together.

**Joint Custody: A New Way of Being Related:** This brochure provides guidelines for parents considering joint custody of their children and suggestions for what to include in a joint custody agreement.

**Twenty Questions Divorcing Parents Ask About Their Children:** This brochure answers 20 of the most commonly asked questions about how to help children adjust to divorce, such as "How can parents prepare children for divorce?" and "What kinds of things are especially damaging to children?"

**Is Mediation for Us?** This brochure has been developed to provide basic information about the use of mediation in resolving family conflict. Presented in a clear and concise manner, this pamphlet describes the mediation process to the potential consumer.

**THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE DIRECTLY THROUGH AFCC**

	<u>Cost @</u>	<u>Total Number</u>	<u>Price</u>
<b>VIDEO TAPES</b>			
Custody Resolution Counseling: Rental – \$40/5 days; Purchase – \$130		_____	_____
You're Still Mom and Dad: Rental – \$40/5 days; Purchase – \$100		_____	_____
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>			
Guidelines for Court-Connected Child Custody Evaluations	\$ 4.50	_____	_____
Joint Custody and Shared Parenting / Folberg	26.00	_____	_____
Guidelines for Establishing Court-Connected Conciliation and Mediation Services	3.50	_____	_____
Divorce and Family Mediation: History, Review and Future / Brown	2.50	_____	_____
1984 AFCC Annual Conference Syllabus (Denver)	8.00	_____	_____
1984 AFCC Mid-winter Conference Syllabus (Scottsdale)	8.00	_____	_____
<b>PAMPHLETS (Pamphlet Orders over 1,000 — \$ .15 each)</b>			
"Parents are Forever"	.20	_____	_____
"Guide for Stepparents"	.20	_____	_____
"Twenty Questions Divorcing Parents Ask About Their Children"	.20	_____	_____
"Joint Custody: A New Way of Being Related"	.20	_____	_____
"Is Mediation for Us"	.20	_____	_____

**POSTAGE IS INCLUDED IF ORDERS ARE PREPAID**

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Checks payable in U.S. funds to:  
**ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND  
 CONCILIATION COURTS**  
 c/o OHSU, Dept. of Psychiatry  
 Gaines Hall, Room 149

3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road  
 Portland, OR 97201  
 (503) 220-5651

# Putting the Pieces Together—Support Systems for the Family

December 3-5, 1987  
Desert Inn Hotel  
Las Vegas, Nevada

- Should mediation remain confidential
- Court appointed special advocates
- Supervised visitation
- Grandparents rights
- Computerization of the courts

AFCC's midwinter conference promises to be a winner as participants enjoy the spacious facilities of the Desert Inn and Country Club located at the center of the Las Vegas strip. With any luck, AFCC members may be able to take some time away from the busy conference schedule to see Lake Mead, Hoover Dam and other nearby attractions.

The conference program will open with Professor William Donohue's entertaining analysis of the communication process in divorce mediation. Dr. Diane Skafte, author of **Child Custody Evaluations**, will speak on the expert witness (and/or hired gun) and Dr. Nancy Thoennes will present research findings from the Sexual Abuse Allegations Project. This winning combination will continue as conference participants roll the dice to choose from among the dozen dynamic workshops being offered. We don't want to give away all the hot tips, but odds are everyone will find this conference full of stimulating ideas and innovations, not to mention the opportunity to meet colleagues from around the world.

Register before 11/6/87 and save!

## United Airlines Discounts

United Airlines is offering special discounts for members of AFCC traveling to Las Vegas for the Mid Winter Meeting, December 3-5, 1987.

Receive 5% off any applicable fare from First Class to Ultra Saver (including excursion and Ultrasaver fares) - or 40% off full coach:

1. Call the Convention Desk at (800) 521-4041, 8AM-11PM EST.
2. Give the **AFCC Account Number 7285N**.
3. United specialists will make your reservation. Special discounts are available only on United flights in the United States.
4. United will mail your tickets, or you may purchase them from your local travel agent. **CONVENTION DISCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH THE CONVENTION DESK.**
5. Full **MILEAGE PLUS** credit is awarded on all discounted fares.

**IMPORTANT:** In order to receive the UAL Discounts you or your travel agent must make the reservation using the 800-521-4041 phone number and the AFCC account number 7285N.

UC receives credit for tickets for every reservation when this procedure is followed. As you can see both AFCC and you benefit using UAL when traveling to our conference in Las Vegas.

NORTON PROFESSIONAL BOOKS

## DIVORCED FAMILIES

A Multidisciplinary  
Developmental View

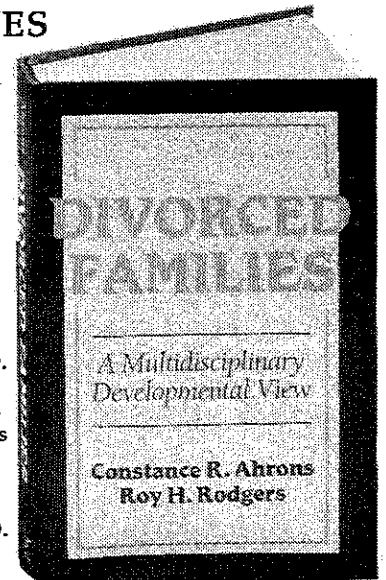
Constance R. Ahrons  
and Roy H. Rodgers

"The first book to approach divorce as a state of normal adult development, beautifully analyzed and explained."

—Paul Bohannon, Ph.D.

"This is a gem. In contrast to the hundreds of books about divorce, this is one which is based on a comprehensive study. It will certainly become a classic reference in family studies."

—Charles R. Figley, Ph.D.



After divorce a family does not cease to exist; the marital relationship may have ended, but the family relationships continue. Emphasizing that divorce is a normative developmental process, this book looks at how the nuclear family reorganizes itself as "binuclear" from both sociological and psychological perspectives.

Families at different life-cycle stages—those with young children, childless couples, mid-life and aging couples—are seen as facing different challenges as they move through the process of separation, divorce, and remarriage. The final chapter suggests ways that mental health professionals and policymakers, as well as society as a whole, can support and strengthen binuclear families.

272 pages

(\$24.95) Special Price \$19.96

YES! Please send me *Divorced Families/Ahrons & Rodgers* 70030-5

\$ enclosed. Please add \$2.00 shipping and postage for the first book, \$.75 for each additional book. NY and CA residents please add sales tax.

Or charge my  American Express  MasterCard  VISA

Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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W. W. Norton & Co., Inc.

500 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10110

Send to Dept. DMR

8716A

# Child Support Legislation Attempts to Break the Divorce/Poverty Cycle

## Did you know

- One out of every two couples married in 1987 will get divorced.
- After divorce, a woman's standard of living falls by 73% while a man's increases by 42%.
- 46% of divorced mothers are granted child support, only 1/2 receive the full amount.
- 14% of divorced mothers are forced to go on welfare within the first year after divorce. \*

Family policy experts and organizations recently gathered at a meeting sponsored by the Institute for American Values and the Children's Defense Fund. The conference, "Family Values and Public Policy," addressed the effects of current divorce laws on women and children. According to Dr. Sylvia Ann Hewlett, V.P. for economic studies at the United Nations Association and director of the UN Family

Policy Panel, women have lost the security of marriage without gaining the power in the labor market.

The US Child Support Enforcement program was created in response to rising welfare costs. Under IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1975, states were required to cooperate with each other in locating parents and collecting child support. The Child Support Enforcement Amendments of 1984 were established to put more teeth into interstate support cases. Since that time, 18 pilot projects involving 37 different states have been initiated. The overall goal of the office of Child Support Enforcement is to develop a national child support plan that coordinates state enforcement agencies with the federal Parent Locator - the Parent Locator System is a computerized network in which the Child Support Administration works with the IRS to locate parents and obtain child support from tax

return money.

Innovative child support enforcement systems were highlighted in a recent hearing on welfare reform held by Senator Daniel Moynihan, chair of the subcommittee on Social Security and Family Policy. Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis indicated that Massachusetts is attempting to establish uniform state-wide standards of income percentages per child for support payments and Wisconsin will do so as of July 1987. The Texas Supreme Court has also promulgated advisory child support guidelines based on a percentage of obligator's net resources and Arizona recently enacted automatic wage assignments.

Let us know what is happening in your area on this timely subject and we will report it in the Newsletter.

\* *American Family*, March 1987

## Local Interest in Family and Divorce Related Issues?

Have you been seeing an increasing interest in family and divorce related issues in your community or state?

Is mediation being promoted as an effective means of resolving contested custody and visitation disputes?

Have recent legislative efforts caused the media to focus on family issues?

**NO?** Then perhaps you may wish to

consider organizing a regional conference to mobilize interested individuals in your area. AFCC is eager to help with these regional efforts and can offer conference planning assistance and draw upon our membership for new and informative workshop ideas.

**YES?** Then why not share the enthusiasm and expertise with others by holding a regional conference. A number of AFCC members are unable to attend AFCC

national conferences and would appreciate an opportunity to attend a locally sponsored meeting.

If you would like to explore the idea of a regional conference contact:

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28 Grand Street  
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Oregon State System of Higher Education

The Oregon Health Sciences University  
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