

Family Matters: Navigating Child Custody Is No Easy Matter

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FAMILY MATTERS: Navigating Child Custody Is No Easy Matter

By Jake Horstein, Our Children Have Rights.org (OCHR)



Establishing child custody can be one of the most challenging and emotional experiences a parent may face. Here are three steps to follow when you are negotiating a child custody agreement.

Don't speak poorly about the co-parent directly to the child or while they are present. Children are curious and listen to adult conversations. When a child hears one parent speaking poorly about the other, they may feel pressured to take sides. As children grow older, they look at the behaviors of their parents. If they perceive a parent tried to undermine their relationship with the other, they'll likely hold it against them, especially into adulthood. Courts DO NOT like this. Judges are aware of the impact that this has. Avoid making this mistake and you can avoid an unfavorable outcome in court.

Continue communicating with the co-parent instead of ignoring them. It's in the best interest of the child's development to see their parents communicating, and that communication is for their well-being. Not communicating with the co-parent can be extremely detrimental to aspects of a child's life. Not communicating can affect important aspects including medical care, education, and personal/social growth.

The court will take a negative view against a parent if it becomes clear that the parent is intentionally choosing NOT to communicate with the co-parent. If the court sees that a shared co-parenting relationship won't work due to intentional noncommunication, the other parent may become the primary caregiver, and may even be given sole responsibility for major decisions that shape a child's life.

Do not deny access to the child. Unless it's essential for a parent to protect a child from the other parent, denying access to the child is one of the worst things a parent can do. Courts expect parents to demonstrate they are willing to be a constructive co-parent, and even promote a relationship between the child and the co-parent. Withholding a child from the other parent without a justifiable reason could lead to losing primary care of the child. It's best to display a willingness that encourages a child's relationship with the co-parent.

Our Children Have Rights can help you navigate child custody preparations and other issues during divorce.

To learn more, email Jake at Jake@oreastling@OurChildrenHaveRights.org or visit OCHR.org. To donate, visit www.ourchildrenhaverights.org/donate. Support of our mission is vital, and we kindly ask our community to consider a small financial contribution to our program. As our organization grows, we will provide more services to parents with a minor child, but we can only accomplish that with the generous support of donors like you.

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CO-PARENTING - CUSTODY - PARENTING RESOURCES



OCHR.ORG MISSION

Protect the rights of children to have access to parents by providing education, resources, and support services for successful co-parenting strategies.

OCHR.org Provides:



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OCHR is a Pro-life-based nonprofit that helps parents more seamlessly navigate their child custody and co-parenting journeys, at no cost to the family. We were recently recognized with the AMPLIFY Clearwater "Community Spirit Award." If you, or someone you know, needs our assistance, we're here for you. We're on a mission... A mission to protect the rights of children to have access to both responsible parents by providing education, resources, and support services for successful co-parenting.

Why? Because Our Children Have Rights.

Contact Jake at Jake@oreastling@OurChildrenHaveRights.org or visit www.OCHR.org for information or to make a donation.



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Family Matters: Understanding Child Support

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FAMILY MATTERS: *Understanding Child Support*

By Jake Hornstein, Our Children Have Rights (OCHR)



For parents splitting up, it's important to understand child support payments, usually decided during the divorce process. This is an ongoing payment by a co-parent to assist with the financial support of their child(ren) and it applies both to married and unmarried co-parents with a minor child. The only requirement for requesting child support is the establishment of paternity or maternity.

Child support is grounded in the thought that both parents are legally and financially responsible for the child. It provides financial support to a child when both married parents are divorced or unmarried parents are no longer together.

When child support is paid regularly, children and custodial parents are less likely to rely on public benefits like welfare, food assistance and Medicaid. This decreases public spending on these programs and helps increase a family's self-sufficiency. Fathers who pay child support are more likely to be more involved in the lives of their children. Child support ensures the child continues to be provided with an acceptable standard of living and is meant to cover expenses including food, clothing, childcare, education, toys, housing, utilities, and even activities (ex. summer camp).

If a parent has trouble paying child support, they should seek help from a reputable resource, such as OCHR. Part of our program is to help a qualified parent find the right Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program (NCEP). These programs help ensure the financial well-being of the child and maintain a healthy co-parenting relationship (a fundamental part of our mission).

At OCHR, we're proud to partner with Cornerstone Connections and Gulf Coast JFCS. Cornerstone Connections serves parents in the counties throughout Central Florida. Gulf Coast JFCS serves parents in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco-Hernando & Manatee. Both programs assist unemployed or under employed non-custodial parents with skills and tools needed to establish a pattern of regular child-support payments. This includes career search, job retention, interview/training resume writing, guidance on child support issues, and more.

Helping parents access these programs provides a greater benefit to our society by keeping individuals with barriers to employment out of the criminal justice system, saving our state money.

To learn more, email Jake at jake@ourchildrenhave.org or visit www.ourchildrenhave.org. To donate, visit www.ourchildrenhave.org/donate. Support of our mission is vital, and we kindly ask our community to consider a small financial contribution to our program. As our organization grows, we will provide more services to parents with a minor child, but we can only accomplish that with the generous support of donors like you.

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Our Children Have Rights (Org) is a 501(c)(3) organization. EIN: 27-8228222

Above all, it further ensures a child's access to both accountable parents. Our Children Have Rights is here to help. We are a Pinellas based nonprofit that helps parents more seamlessly navigate their child custody and co-parenting journeys, at no cost to the family. We were recently recognized with the AMPLIFY Clearwater "Community Spirit Award." Support of our mission is vital, and we kindly ask our community to consider a financial contribution to our mission.

Most importantly, if you, or someone you know, needs our assistance, we're here for you. We're on a mission to protect the rights of children to have access to both responsible parents by providing education, resources, and support services for successful co-parenting. Why? Because Our Children Have Rights. Email Jake at jake@ourchildrenhave.org or visit www.OCHR.org.



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