



**Divorce - Paternity
Trials & Appeals - Child Support
Visitation - Custody - Property Disputes**

JEFFERY M. LEVING
ATTORNEY AT LAW

- Co-Authored the Illinois Joint Custody Law
- Testified before U.S. Commission on Child & Family Welfare & Illinois Senate Committee on Divorce Law & Procedure
- RECIPIENT: Award of Merit from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
- Recognized as a Leading Family Law and Trial Attorney
- Helped Reunite Elian Gonzalez with his Father

For an Initial Consultation, please call

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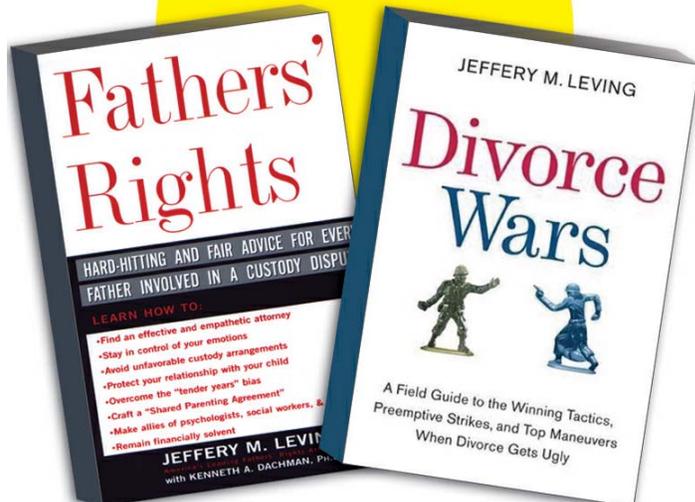
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FATHERS' RIGHTS

WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT
CHILDREN WITHOUT FATHERS

“DO I NEED AN ATTORNEY?”
WE ANSWER 7 QUESTIONS YOU’VE ASKED US

HOW TO CHOOSE THE BEST ATTORNEY FOR YOU:
IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK A CHILD CUSTODY
LAWYER BEFORE YOU HIRE ONE

A FATHER IS A CRUCIAL PART OF HIS CHILD’S LIFE

LAW OFFICES OF JEFFERY M. LEVING, LTD.

19 SOUTH LA SALLE, CHICAGO, IL 60603

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FROM THE DESK OF
JEFFERY M. LEVING, LTD.

In my more than 20 years as a marital and family law attorney, I have traveled all over the United States in service to a cause I fervently believe is essential to the preservation of the American Family - Fathers' Rights.

I first dedicated myself to this mission on Father's Day 1981 when I attended a meeting where dozens of men shared their experiences with the family court system. Although from different walks of life, each had been forced out of his children's lives, excluded from parental decisions and stripped of the respect and moral authority of a normal father-child relationship. Most of these men could not even see their children regularly.

The commitment I made that day has become my cause - to provide effective and realistic advocacy so fathers can stay in the lives of their children.

Few relationships fall apart instantaneously. The end is all too often the result of a long history of wrongs, disappointments, and unfulfilled expectations. As a result, the safe ending of many relationships can only be accomplished in court with the protection of effective and empathetic counsel.

While family court is an arena where negotiation is almost always preferable to warfare, both approaches require the same degree of strategy, preparation and motivation. Our legal system is geared toward winning and losing, which is not necessarily the fair resolution of an estranged couple's problems. Family court judges do not always make the correct decisions. Too often cases are determined by which side has the best presentation and/or the most credible experts.

Believe me when I tell you that, as a father, you do not want to become involved in prolonged adversarial custody litigation unless absolutely necessary. But if you do, be prepared. With careful planning, skillful negotiations, and a well-executed strategy, you may be able to protect yourself and your children from extended divorce or custody litigation.

I, along with my team of veteran attorneys, have fought and won numerous cases and reunited countless fathers with their children. Should you find yourself facing a custody battle, the information we offer may prove essential in protecting you and your children. If you must litigate for your kids, we'll show you how.

Every time a father is able to reconnect with his child(ren), it quickly becomes evident that the ultimate rewards of the father's quest far outweigh the heartaches and hardships endured along the way.

If you are in need of a consultation, a second opinion, and/or legal services, please contact my office immediately.

Sincerely,

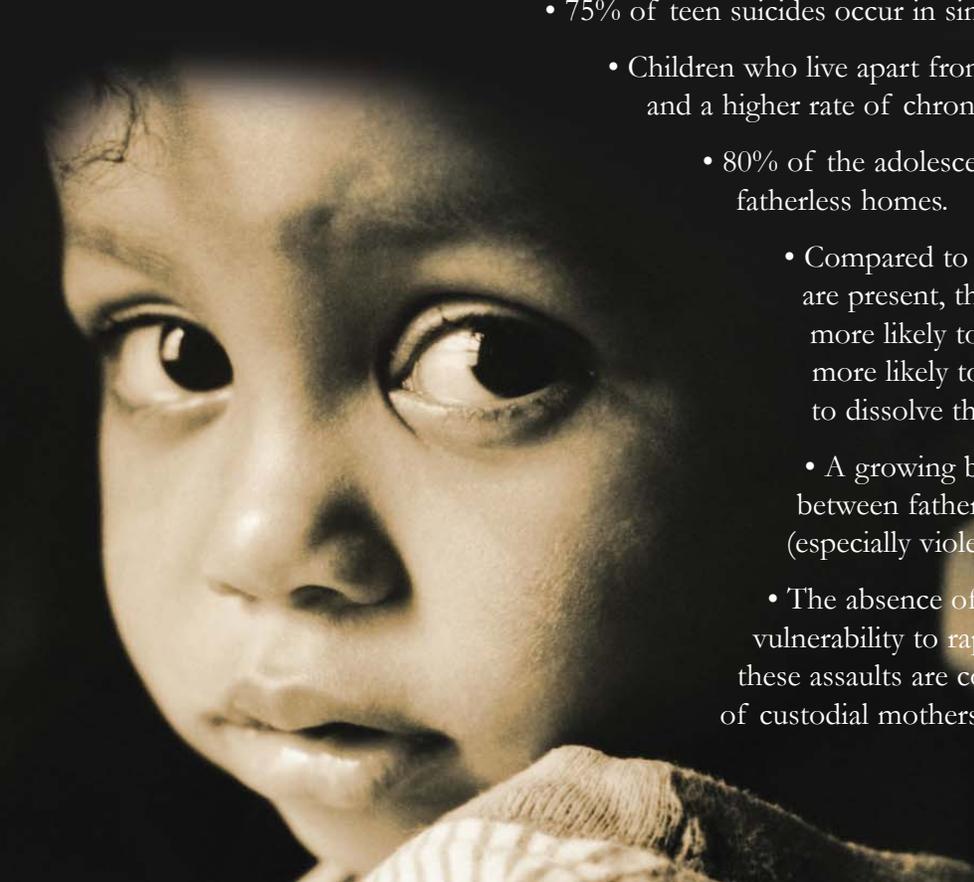


Jeffery M. Leving

WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHILDREN WITHOUT FATHERS

The presence of a father in a child's life is vitally important in the child's development. Children with fathers present in their lives have many advantages while they are growing up, and as adults. The same cannot be said of children without fathers. Here are some startling statistics about fatherless children. Is your child one of them?

- 72% of all teenaged murderers grew up without fathers. 60% of rapists were raised in fatherless homes.
- 70% of the kids now incarcerated in juvenile corrections facilities grew up in a single-parent environment.
- Fatherless children are twice as likely to drop out of school as their classmates who live with two parents.
- Fatherless children are eleven times more likely than are children from intact families to exhibit violent behavior.
- Children whose fathers are absent consistently score lower than the norm in reading and math tests.
- 75% of teen suicides occur in single-parent families.
- Children who live apart from their fathers experience more accidents and a higher rate of chronic asthma, headaches, and speech defects.
- 80% of the adolescents in psychiatric hospitals come from fatherless homes.
- Compared to girls raised in homes where both parents are present, the daughters of single parents are 164% more likely to become pregnant before marriage, 53% more likely to marry as teenagers, and 92% more likely to dissolve their own marriages.
- A growing body of evidence shows a high correlation between fatherlessness and violence among young men (especially violence against women).
- The absence of a biological father increases a daughter's vulnerability to rape and sexual abuse by 900%. (Often these assaults are committed by stepfathers or the boyfriends of custodial mothers).



WHAT FATHERS ARE SAYING

“Thank you for being the one to finally put an end to the painful beginning of my divorce.”

“I was very pleased with what Leving's firm has done for me. I have full custody of my 12 year old son from a previous relationship and joint custody of my other 4 year-old daughter. I've had a lot of people on my job asking me how I was able to do it and I tell them about Jeff Leving's firm. There are a lot of good fathers out there. We have to defend ourselves.”

“Your patience has been tested. Somehow we all survived. I appreciate you being there.”

“Many, many thanks to you. I can't say thank you enough. It just proves one thing, when you have a top of the line attorney, you get better than top of the line results. Thank you.”

“Days with my children are possible because of you. I sincerely thank you.”

“Thank you for all your help in the matter of my case. I admire your skill.”

“DO I NEED AN ATTORNEY?”

WE ANSWER 7 QUESTIONS YOU'VE ASKED US

1. HOW IS CHILD SUPPORT DETERMINED?

Specific child support levels are generally determined on a case-by-case basis. All states have established minimum statutory guidelines and the child support level is usually calculated in the state where the support case is pending. For example, in Illinois, when ordering a support award that deviates from established guidelines, the court is required to justify its departure from the statutory norm.

2. I WANT TO SEE MY CHILD, BUT I DO NOT HAVE A VISITATION ORDER AND MY CHILD'S MOTHER REFUSES TO LET ME VISIT. WHAT CAN I DO?

If you do not have court-ordered visitation, then you need to file a petition for a specified visitation schedule. Any resulting visitation arrangement should specify when visitation is to begin and end, and where it is to take place. This needs to be done so that the order will likely be enforceable. The more ambiguous the court-ordered visitation rights, the less likely they will be enforced.

3. I DO HAVE COURT ORDERED VISITATION RIGHTS, BUT MY CHILD'S MOTHER STILL REFUSES TO LET ME VISIT, WHAT CAN I DO?

In Illinois, you have two possible courses of action to enforce visitation rights. One is criminal in nature, and the other is civil. The strategic choice would be made on a case-by-case basis. Interference with visitation rights can be a crime under Illinois law, which is punishable by up to one year in jail upon the third conviction. You can alternatively pursue the matter civilly by filing a petition for rule to show cause (contempt) against the custodial parent.

4. WHAT IF I HAVE A COURT ORDERED VISITATION SCHEDULE, BUT MY JOB SCHEDULE CHANGES, AND THIS MAKES MY VISITATION SCHEDULE UNWORKABLE?

You need to file a petition to modify your visitation schedule based on the substantial change in circumstances. Oral agreements modifying visitation schedules are not legally enforceable court orders. Only judges can modify court orders.

5. MY LAWYER TOLD ME THAT ILLINOIS DOES NOT HAVE A JOINT CUSTODY LAW. IS THIS TRUE?

That is not true. Illinois does have a joint custody law, which Jeffery Leving co-authored. It can allow parents to remain involved in the lives of their children. There are three forms of joint custody. Joint custody may be joint legal custody (both parents share major decision-making powers), joint physical custody (where children spend significant time with each parent), or a combination of these two.

6. I AM PAYING CHILD SUPPORT, BUT I JUST LOST MY JOB. WHAT CAN I DO?

You need to file a petition to reduce or abate (suspend) support, immediately, based on this substantial change in circumstances. Just because your income drops does not mean that your support obligation will automatically be reduced without the benefit of a court order. Protect yourself and seek out a court order reducing or abating support.

7. MY WIFE DEGRADES ME IN FRONT OF OUR CHILDREN. THIS TRAUMATIZES THEM. WHAT CAN I DO?

You should consider filing a petition for an injunctive order, specifying that the mother be prohibited from discussing your conduct in the presence of the children, except in a positive manner. Her conduct can be harmful to the children and your relationship with them, and must be stopped immediately.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND HELP, PLEASE CALL 312-356-DADS.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE BEST ATTORNEY FOR YOU: IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK A CHILD CUSTODY LAWYER BEFORE YOU HIRE ONE

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What percentage of their practice is devoted to family law?
- How many years of family law experience do they have?
- Does he/she recommend the inclusion of a divorce counselor or family therapist in custody discussions?
- How does he/she feel about the parental capabilities of fathers?
- How does he/she feel about joint custody?
- How many options for resolution of custody disputes did he/she offer?
- Did he/she explain the advantages and disadvantages of mediation and arbitration?
- Does he/she offer twenty-four-hour availability for emergencies?
- Does he/she offer a case strategy?

INTERVIEW NOTES

- Did he/she give me his/her undivided attention?
- Did he/she rush me, or was I allowed to fully explain my situation, needs, and goals?
- Did he/she ask relevant questions and allow me to answer them completely?
- Did he/she paraphrase what I said accurately?
- Did he/she offer what seemed to be a realistic appraisal of my situation?
- Did he/she explain what had to be done and how?
- Did he/she say or do anything that indicated a lack of interest in my case?
- Were we frequently interrupted?
- Did his/her overall demeanor inspire confidence?

To speak to an attorney experienced in handling child custody cases who will answer your questions openly and honestly, call 312-356-DADS.



IN THE NEWS



Whether on radio, on television, or in print, Jeffery Leving continues to champion the rights of fathers everywhere.



Jeffery Leving's weekly radio talk show Dad's Talk on ESPN 1000



Nightline with Ted Koppel



FOX News



Larry King Live on CNN



Leeza



MSNBC Live



CNN Live

Chicago Sun-Times

Divorced dads don't deserve humiliation

By Jeffery M. Leving

According to a recent Chicago Sun-Times article, State Public Aid Director Edward T. Duffy tried public humiliation to shame the state's "10 most-wanted men" for the nonpayment of child support. The article seemed to portray certain fathers as deadbeats and fatherhood as possibly being just another word for irresponsibility.

However, the article did not describe the helpless feelings many fathers experience in attempting simply to visit their children. It did not relate the gut-

PERSONAL VIEW

wrenching feelings certain fathers experience in not even knowing where their children live or what schools they are attending.

The article did not touch on the fact that the state's attorney's office represents custodial parents "at no cost to them" to collect back child support, yet it cannot by law offer the same free services to indigent non-custodial parents who are not receiving their court-ordered visitation.

Legal representation by the state's attorney's office is limited to child support and does not extend to visitation, pursuant to the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act.

But is the collection of child support more important than the enforcement of court-ordered visitation rights? I hope not. Both rights should generally be of equal importance in protecting the "best interest of the child."

It appears that our public policy may be to place the collection of child support above the enforcement of visitation rights. If this is true, then who is protecting the children who can end up the ultimate victims in

this deadly game of alienation of affections and denial of visitation rights? Father loss and deep feelings of rejection may be the end result for innocent children.

Many immigrants come to this country with little or no money, but their children grew up to be leaders of our current society. The answer was family stability, not material wealth. Money is not an adequate substitute for healthy parent-child relationships.

The Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act states (concerning custody determinations) that "the court shall presume that the maximum involvement and cooperation of both parents regarding the physical, mental, moral and emotional well-being of their child is in the best interest of the child."

But can this legal presumption concerning the "best interest of the child" really be effectuated if the custodial parent is entitled to preferential treatment?

The preservation of our family unit also extends to preserving the father-child relationship—and preserving the emotional well-being of our society's children, not just collecting money in a vacuum.

If children are not protected, then the mental health profession may be the growth industry of the future. One of the damnable aspects of child support, visitation and custody litigation is that children can be treated as commodities. But children should never be sold, bought and traded in broken-up and scattered families.

This conduct, if allowed, can only give cruelty a deeper meaning.

Society should be deeply concerned about gender bias and children's right to the protection of the family unit. Our society's foundation, the family unit, depends on it.

Jeffery M. Leving is a Chicago matrimonial attorney.

LIST OF APPEARANCES

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF JEFF LEVING'S ACTIVITIES AND APPEARANCES ON BEHALF OF MEN AND FATHERS:

2005 DRAFTED SENATE BILL # 2094 / HOUSE BILL # 2598 (Illinois Legislature) establishing a program to temporarily modify child support payments to safeguard National Guardsmen and Reservists when they are mobilized.

2005 LEGAL EXPERT - MSNBC - THE ABRAMS REPORT - Mr. Leving defended fathers' rights in adoption and supported a controversial court decision that did not finalize an adoption because the biological father's consent had not been obtained.

2005 GUEST EXPERT - MSNBC - SCARBOROUGH COUNTRY - Mr. Leving debated the merits of a new reality TV show that helped reunite adults, adopted as children, with their biological fathers and defended the essential role of fathers in their children's lives.

2004 GUEST EXPERT - CNN - THE DOLANS UNSCRIPTED - Mr. Leving analyzed emerging and controversial divorce and fathers' rights issues.

2004 APPOINTED Chair of the Council on Responsible Fatherhood for the State of Illinois by Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich.

2004 GUEST EXPERT - FOX NEWS LIVE WITH ALAN COLMES - Mr. Leving debated Gloria Allred regarding the California Supreme Court ruling on child custody and removal.

2004 GUEST LEGAL EXPERT - CNN - Mr. Leving discussed and analyzed the Florida Safe Haven Adoption Law.

2004 GUEST EXPERT - NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO WITH TAVIS SMILEY - Mr. Leving appeared on NPR with Tavis Smiley to discuss military service and civil law.

2003 DRAFTED HOUSE BILL #2267 (Illinois House of Representatives) creating the criminal offense of paternity fraud.

2003 SPECIAL RECOGNITION/AWARD - Father's civil rights attorney, Jeffery M. Leving, was honored for his patriotism on President's Day. Major General **John Scully** (ret.) and Major General **David Harris**, Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, presented an award on behalf of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, recognizing Jeffery for his contributions to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in the National Guard and Reserve Force. General **Wesley Clark** (ret.), former Supreme Allied Commander Europe, was the keynote speaker.

2003 GUEST LEGAL EXPERT - MSNBC - HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS - Mr. Leving and former criminal prosecutor, Wendy Murphy, debated the issue "Should the identity of the complainant be disclosed in a sexual assault case?" (based upon the Kobe Bryant case).

2003 GUEST LEGAL EXPERT - MSNBC - THE ABRAMS REPORT - Mr. Leving and Gloria Allred debated the issue "Should the sexual history of the complainant be disclosed in a sexual assault case?" (based upon the Kobe Bryant case).

2002 CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY - THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SUB-COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DRUG POLICY, AND HUMAN RESOURCES - Mr. Leving presented data substantiating that the most reliable predictor of crime in America is father absence. He also recommended positive father involvement as a deterrent to crime as well as drug abuse.

2001 HOST - CHICAGO COUNTERPOINT (CAN-TV Ch. 21) - Mr. Leving hosted a weekly program which focused on controversial legal and social issues affecting fathers and their children.

2001 GUEST EXPERT - CNN TONIGHT - Mr. Leving appeared with **Dr. Joyce Brothers** to discuss the topic "Mothers in Prison."

2001 GUEST - FOX NEWS CHANNEL - HANNITY & COLMES - Mr. Leving discussed the Wisconsin Supreme Court's ruling in the **Oakley** Case.

2001 GUEST - FOX NEWS IN THE MORNING - Mr. Leving debated **Senator Chris Lauzen** regarding Senate Bill 950, the "Deadbeats on the Web Initiative" during the Fox News In the Morning show. Mr. Leving opposed Senate Bill 950.

2001 AMERICAN COALITION FOR FATHERS AND CHILDREN - Mr. Leving received a special award from ACFC for his work on the **Elian Gonzalez** case.

2001 GUEST - CNN - Mr. Leving debated in defense of New York City **Mayor Rudy Giuliani's** legal position in his divorce case.

2000 LECTURED - NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE'S THIRD NATIONAL SUMMIT ON FATHERHOOD, Washington, D.C. - Mr. Leving lectured on Fathers' Legal Issues at the conference with Vice President **Al Gore**; General **Colin Powell**; Penn. Governor **Tom Ridge** and U.S. Senators **Evan Bayh** and **Joseph Lieberman** were Honorary Co-Chairs.

2000 MR. LEVING filed an Amicus ("Friend of the Court") Brief in the **Elian Gonzalez CUSTODY AND ASYLUM CASE** with the INS prior to his representation of Manuel Gonzalez in Federal Court.

2000 GUEST EXPERT - CNN - LARRY KING LIVE - Appeared as the "famed custody lawyer" to discuss **Elian Gonzalez**.

2000 GUEST EXPERT - MSNBC - EQUAL TIME - Guest of **Oliver North** and **Paul Begala** - Appeared as a guest expert to discuss the **Elian Gonzalez** case.

2000 GUEST - COURT TV - PROS & CONS.

2000 GUEST - CNBC - THE GERALDO RIVERA SHOW - Discussed the custody of **Elian Gonzalez**.

1999 PRESENTER - ILLINOIS FATHERHOOD SUMMIT - hosted by Honorary Co-Chairmen **Mayor Daley**, **Governor Ryan** and U.S. Senator **Peter Fitzgerald**, Chicago, Illinois.

1999 CO-AUTHORED HOUSE BILL #2232 (ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES) seeking child support accountability - testified as a proponent of this bill before the Child Support Enforcement Committee.

1998 AWARD RECIPIENT - AWARD OF MERIT FROM THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN in recognition and appreciation for outstanding commitment to the protection of children and knowledge of **The Hague International Child Abduction** issues.

1997 AUTHORED the book "FATHERS' RIGHTS" (Basic Books) with **Dr. Kenneth Dachman**.

1997 DRAFTED HOUSE BILL #2213 (ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES) cited as the "Husband Notification of Abortion Act."

1995 GUEST - ABC - NIGHTLINE WITH TED KOPPEL.

1995 GUEST - ABC - 20/20.

1994 GUEST - THE MONTEL WILLIAMS SHOW - program entitled "Deadbeat Dads."

1994 GUEST - THE OPRAH SHOW

1993 KEYNOTE SPEAKER - 13TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS FOR MEN AND CHILDREN in Kansas City entitled "Fathers Fighting Back."

For recent and future appearances, log on to <http://www.dadsrights.com>

"Not simply a legal primer, *Fathers' Rights* also analyzes a man's stress levels and pinpoints when counseling may be required as well as ways to rebuild the relationship with a child after the divorce is final. Concise yet empathetic, it should provide real support to any man going through divorce." - Booklist

"The book we've been waiting for. *Fathers' Rights* covers the subject of divorce and child custody like no other book out there today. It is informative, fair-minded, smart, and wise - required reading for all concerned parents."

- Asa Baber
Columnist, Playboy

"Jeffery Leving is without a doubt the best fathers' rights attorney in the country. With this book, he addresses one of today's most important issues and gives men the tools to get back into their children's lives. Children are the real beneficiaries of Mr. Leving's work. If you know a father struggling to stay involved with his children, buy him this book."

- Michele Delo
American Coalition for Fathers and Children

"An invaluable handbook that belongs anywhere that decisions about children are being made - from homes to lawyers' and counselors; offices. The extensive list of resources alone is worth the price of the book."

- Travis Ballard
President, National Congress for Fathers and Children

"Well-written, straightforward, practical, and smart."

- Warren Farrell, Ph.D.
Author of *Why Men Are the Way They Are* and *The Myth of Male Power*

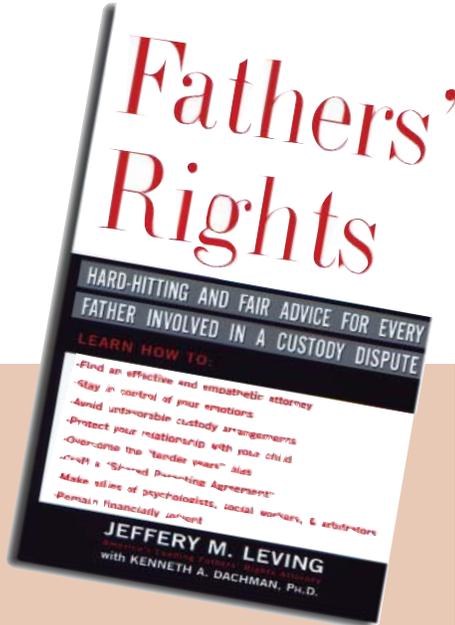
Millions of fathers are currently embroiled in the fight of their lives to win custody of their children. Wounded by the acrimony and greed that often accompany divorce proceedings, many wonder if they will ever again be an important part of their sons' and daughters' lives.

With this landmark book, renowned men's rights attorney Jeffery M. Leving offers disenfranchised fathers true hope and meaningful advice certain to save years of anguish and possibly thousands of dollars.

Drawing on more than twenty years of front-line experience, Leving leads fathers through every twist and turn of the legal system and shows them how to protect their rights (and their children's) - both before and during divorce litigation.

This authoritative and accessible book covers every aspect of the custody process, including protecting the parent/child relationship as a breakup occurs; finding an competent and sympathetic lawyer; drafting a "Shared Parenting Agreement"; demonstrating parental competence when falsely accused of abuse; avoiding parental alienation; determining when to settle and when to litigate; techniques for dealing effectively with psychologists, social workers, and other domestic relations experts; and much more.

Illustrated with vivid, real-life examples, Jeffery Leving and Dr. Kenneth Dachman provide practical information essential for scores of American fathers routinely excluded from their children's lives by a biased legal system in which avarice and recrimination too often overwhelm compassion and justice.



Fathers' Rights Order Form

MAIL OR FAX PAYMENT TO: LAW OFFICES OF JEFFERY M. LEVING, LTD. 19 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, SUITE 450 CHICAGO, IL 60603
FAX: (312) 807-4782 TEL: (312) 807-3990 WEBSITE: WWW.DADSRIGHTS.COM

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CREDIT CARD No. _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____ / _____ CID/CVV NUMBER (LAST 3 NUMBERS ON REVERSE SIDE OF CARD) _____

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____