



NEBRASKANS
FOR
FAMILY,inc

The Little Resource Guide



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

History..... 1

Legislative Goals..... 2

Financing..... 3

Our Web Site..... 4

Represent Yourself..... 5,6

Local Resources

 Mediation..... 7,8

 Free Legal Services..... 9

 Attorney Referral..... 10

 Local Organizations..... 11

Public Meetings / Education..... 12

Contact Us..... 13

CONTACT INFORMATION

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info@nebraskans4family.com

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Email Only:
info@nebraskans4family.com

PUBLIC MEETINGS / EDUCATION

MONTHLY MEETINGS (3RD Thursday of each month)

We realize that during times of extreme emotional distress, it is important to "talk it out" with others who are either going through the same thing or who have gone through it before you.

Though discussing your problems will not fix it, it may help you realize that you will survive. In addition, it is common for members to refer attorneys or even to share their experiences representing themselves.

Meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend and are held the 3rd Thursday of each month. Directions and details are available on the groups website at www.nebraskans4family.com.

LECTURES / SYMPOSIUMS

Nebraskans for Family believes that the most powerful tool you can possess is knowledge and information. On occasion we invite experts to educate members on current issues of concern. We have recently had very experienced attorneys give lectures on current changes to Nebraska family law and how to properly calculate child support for those who wish to represent themselves. On occasion, we will invite guest speakers including state senators, national shared parenting experts, attorneys, mediators, psychologists, and during election season we host town hall meetings for political to share their positions on family law issues. Information can be found on the groups website, located at www.nebraskans4family.com.

HISTORY

The Beginning

On Feb 28 2003 the organization was formed as a non-profit organization under the name Fathers' Rights of Nebraska. The group was originally founded by two fathers who were frustrated with the inactivity of existing shared parenting groups in Nebraska. Over the first few years, Fathers' Rights of Nebraska held numerous protests, received a large amount of public attention through the media and community outreach, worked with several state legislators to introduce family friendly bills in the Nebraska legislature. The group recognized a real need to assist people forced to represent themselves without the assistance of attorneys so we held pro-se clinics to help impoverished members represent themselves in court. We sponsored educational seminars to make the public aware of changes in the law as well as other issues important to families in Nebraska. FRN started a court monitoring program and actively monitored family law proceedings in Sarpy County. This project resulted in the filing of two complaints with the Nebraska Judicial Qualifications Commission against a Sarpy County District Court judge. One of the complaints resulted in formal which ultimately led to the judge retiring from office ahead of schedule.

Growth and Change

Over the years, the growing number of women joining our ranks do not go unnoticed. We decided that our name may tend to alienate these valuable and active members, so in July 2008, FRN was dissolved and a new organization emerged under the flag Nebraskans for Family (NFF). The new organization was formed as a domestic corporation and had none of the restrictions placed on a non-profit. Under this new structure NFF can now actively support or oppose candidates for political office. The organization can donate money, manpower, and other forms of material support for pro family candidates. In addition, it is now possible to publicly and vigorously campaign for or against political issues such as bills introduced in our legislature. The organization has always held the belief that anti-family legislation should carry very real political consequences for the senators who introduce them: however, not until the 2009 session has the organization had the ability to tackle these issues head on.

LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Nebraskans for Family Legislative Goals

Nebraskans for Family, Inc. shall legislatively seek change to promote equity between parents and remove provisions that are not fair or are detrimental to the healthy development of the children subject to these laws, including the following:

1. A child's right to a full, equal and positive relationship with both parents.
2. A child's right to support from both parents.
3. A child's right to be treated as an impacted person and not as a pawn of either parent.
4. A child's right to day-to-day love, care, discipline, and protection from both parents.
5. Fair and equal sharing by parents of their children's support.
6. Economic support of children based on each parent's ability to pay, while providing sufficient funds for the children's needs.
7. An accountability system in which a parent that receives child support must account to the Court and the parent providing support, how and where child support monies are spent.
8. Requiring the courts to consider the cost of maintaining two homes for the child when setting support orders.
9. Recognition of a parent's superior right to the custody of his or her child and recognition of a parent's legal interest in, and a constitutionally protected right to, companionship and care of their children.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Children's Rights Council of Nebraska/Iowa:

Nebraska CRC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. They receive only support from donations, grants, and memberships. Nebraska CRC is an advocate for parents and children affected by divorce or separation. The organization monitors custody and child support legislation in Nebraska and national research regarding the emotional and physical well being of our children. CRC also educates parents, community leaders, and legislators regarding the needs of children.

(402) 328-2652

Fathers for a Lifetime:

Fathers for a Lifetime is an Omaha Healthy Start Initiative created for men by men. The program is designed to promote the need for responsible fathering, provide fathers with education and training, link fathers with community-based resources and provide fathers with the opportunities to positively interact with their children.

2845 Ames Ave
Omaha, NE 68111
(402) 453-5300

Nebraska Fatherhood Initiative

LaRon Henderson, Director of Parent Engagement
E-mail: lhenderson@nebraskachildren.org
(402) 476-7661 (Lincoln)
(402) 561-7588 (Omaha)

LEGAL REFERRAL

Our Policy on Referring Attorneys:

Over the course of time, we have had experience with many attorneys in Nebraska. We have the benefit of hearing “the Good, the Bad and the Ugly” about many attorneys. In addition, some attorneys are very good in certain areas and bad in others (removals from the jurisdiction, false allegations of abuse, custody, etc.). We take these things into consideration prior to referring you to any attorney. We will never accept compensation from any attorney for a referral (nor can they pay it). Likewise, we will never accept payment from you for referring you to an attorney. Some organizations charge for this service to cover their costs. We have not found this to be necessary for our organization.

If you are in need of an attorney or want to find one for whom we have received positive feedback, please call (402) 391-3237.

Since the selection of an attorney is so important, we recommend that you also use the following resources before making an appointment and ultimately a decision about who you will trust with one of the most important events in your life and the lives of your children:

Attorney Referral Service of the Nebraska Bar Association

635 S 14th St # 200,

www.nebar.com

Phone: (402) 475-7091

Lawyer Referral Service of the Omaha Bar Association

Omaha, NE

Phone: (402) 280-3603

Page 10

FINANCING

In an age where grants and spending taxpayer money is all the rage, Nebraskans for Family has made a conscious decision to pay our own way. We have a group of members who make sure that our projects are financed. We do not accept, nor do we seek federal, state, or institutional grants or funding.

Members are never asked for donations, as we believe that they are members because they need our help. They do not need another organization looking for a handout.

We do what we do out of a genuine concern for the state of families and a child's fundamental right to the love and support of both of their parents and the parent's constitutionally protected right to companionship and care of their children.

This is a labor of love. No member will ever receive financial gain as a result of his or her membership; regardless of the position that member may hold within the organization.

Page 3

OUR WEB SITE

www.nebraskans4family.com

In the past few years, many new resources have been put up on the Internet that facilitates research. The sheer number and variety of those resources can sometimes make it difficult, if not impossible to locate important and sometimes time critical information such as a specific organization's contact information, address, etc. Though printed resource make it a little easier to aggregate all of this information, it is very expensive and time consuming to keep printed material up-to-date and available to a mass audience at any time and from any location.

Our current web site (www.nebraskans4family.com) has been designed to bring as many related resources as possible together on one site. Our goal is to make the web site useful for legal and legislative research, facilitating communicating both internally and outside of the organization.

Over the past year we have compiled and posted a list of agencies and organizations outside of our service area. The response has been amazing. We have received feedback from national and international organizations commenting on the usefulness of our site in helping their clients find resources in areas outside of the geography they serve. In addition, we see government organizations, legal clinics, courts, counselors, and even attorneys accessing our site for information and to conduct research.

As with all things useful, our site is constantly being updated. If you have ideas about how we can improve the site, please send those suggestions to info@nebraskans4family.com or call (402) 391-3237.

FREE LEGAL RESOURCES

Lancaster County Self Help Desk Pilot Program

The Self-Help Desk makes available correct and current information on Nebraska law and court proceedings in family law matters such as divorce, child custody, support, and visitation.
Phone (402) 475-7091

State Library

Located in the Nebraska State Capitol, open to the public.
State Capitol Building
Room 325, on the third floor, south side
info: nsc.lawlibrary@nebraska.gov
Phone (402) 471-3189

Legal Aid of Nebraska

Provides legal aid to low income persons in non-criminal cases.
Access line: (877) 250-2016

The Neb. State Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project

The Volunteer Lawyers Project is a Statewide volunteer legal services project and referral network founded on the belief that all citizens should have access to the legal system, regardless of ability to pay.

PO Box 81809 Lincoln, NE 68501-1809

Phone - Lincoln: (402) 475-7091

Toll Free: 800-742-3005

Email: jmcneil@nebar.com

MEDIATION (con.)

Center for Conflict Resolution - Scottsbluff

Counties covered: Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Hooker, Keith, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux.

Phone: (308)635-2002

www.conflictresolutioncenter.com

Central Mediation Center - Kearney

Counties covered: Adams, Blaine, Buffalo, Chase, Clay, Custer, Dawson, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Howard, Kearney, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Merrick, Nuckolls, Perkins, Phelps, Red Willow, Sherman, Thomas, Valley, Webster, Wheeler

Phone: (308)237-4692

www.centralmediationcenter.com

The Resolution Center - Beatrice

Counties covered: Butler, Cass, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, York

Phone: (402)223-6061

www.theresolutioncenter.org

REPRESENT YOURSELF

A Few Comments on Self Representation (Pro Se / Pro Per)

In the words of the Honorable Richard D. Sievers, Nebraska Court of Appeals and chairman of the Nebraska Supreme Court Committee on Pro Se Litigation, "The Committee believes that with difficult economic times, as are presently occurring in Nebraska, there is no reason to expect a reduction in pro se litigation, and in fact, an increase is more likely given what we know about what drives people to self representation. Therefore, the Committee believes that access to the courts requires that we within the system move forward at this time to provide some measure of assistance to people who are forced into self representation." The good judge wrote these words having no idea how much worse economic times would get and without the knowledge of the explosion in pro se litigants the courts have seen over the past few years, and yet he was absolutely correct.

Though you may have no choice but to represent yourself, doing so will involve time and patience. Lawyers are paid for their unique set of skills (education) and the experience they have accumulated in navigating the judicial system. You can obtain the education but you certainly will not accumulate the experience so please only undertake the self-representation option if the stakes are low or you just have no other choice.

The good news is that in response to the committee's report, the Nebraska Supreme Court has created a few very good resources for those who choose to represent themselves.

(Continued on the next page)

REPRESENT YOURSELF (con.)

1. Supreme Court's self-Help Web Site

<http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/self-help/>

On the Judicial Branch Web Site you can currently find forms and instructions on the following topics:

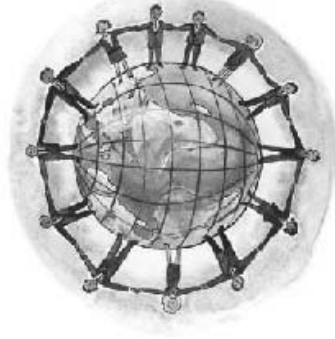
- Appeal to the Supreme Court/Court of Appeals
- Child Support and Visitation
- Child Support Termination
- Enforcement of Child Support Order(s)
- Enforcement of Visitation Order(s)
- Divorce
- Name Change
- Overview of the State Court System (Citizen's Guide to Nebraska Courts)
- Parental Notification Bypass (Abortion for Minors)
- Protection Orders for Abuse or Harassment
- Settle Out of Court
- Small Claims Court
- Temporary Delegation of Parental Powers
- Title Transfer for Deceased's Motor Vehicle

2. Lancaster County Self Help Desk Pilot Program

The Self-Help Desk makes available correct and current information on Nebraska law and court proceedings in family law matters such as divorce, child custody, support, and visitation.

Phone (402) 475-7091

MEDIATION



What Is Mediation?

Mediation is a method of problem solving which enables individuals or groups in conflict the opportunity to seek a mutually agreeable resolution with the assistance of a neutral third-party mediator. Mediators are not judges. They make no decisions for the parties. A mediator helps parties realize and describe their needs, clarify issues, and explore solutions. The purpose of mediation is to help parties find a solution that will work for each of them. Nebraska's ODR-approved mediation centers primarily use an interest-based facilitative mediation process.

Nebraska ODR-Approved Mediation Centers

Concord Center - Omaha

Counties covered: Douglas and Sarpy

Phone: (402)345-1131

www.concord-center.com

The Mediation Center - Lincoln

Counties covered: Lancaster

Phone: (402)441-5740

www.themediationcenter.org

(Continued on the next page)