



Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc.
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FaFNY.org
“Working to Keep Fathers and Families Together”



Candidate/elected representative
(including Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches at State and Federal Levels of Government)
Questionnaire for the 2002 Primary and General Election

Candidate Name: _____
Office: _____
Incumbent?: _____ Today's Date: _____
Phone/Fax: _____
E-mail/Web: _____
Address: _____

1. The NY Legislature passed in two consecutive sessions a gender neutral language change which was signed by the Governor. Do you support a similar bill (constitutional change not being necessary) which would change the term “visitation” to “parenting time” in the Domestic Relations Law ?
2. While reported numbers vary on who “wins” custody of children (US Census Bureau reports 84.1% mother custody, as high as 93% mother custody in New York), NY being a non rebuttable sole custody state awards sole custody in 100% of child custody cases. From the child’s perspective they lose a parent and extended family 100% of the time. Do you support a rebuttable presumption of shared parenting in both parents in New York’s Domestic Relations Law?
3. Right now in New York there is NO access enforcement for non custodial parents who attempt to parent their children. Do you support access enforcement for each parent’s time with the children including open access to such things as school and medical records?
4. Right now in New York the average cost of divorce is upwards of \$50,000. States with shared parenting and MANDATORY MEDIATION (such as Connecticut) have costs in the \$5000 range. Do you support mandatory mediation for divorcing couples and child custody issues?
5. A 1986 study on Bias against women in the courts found overwhelming bias against MEN. Young men and women complain of generation bias. People of color in this state also complain of a lack of color among Judges and staff. The courts have been stated to be run by “old white men and suburban white women”. Clearly, our courts serve no one other than themselves and the trial lawyers who make their living there. Do you support a Commission to study bias against FAMILIES (including gender, race, cultural and generational bias) in New York’s Courts?
6. New York’s nine tiered court system is the most antiquated in the nation. Reform would require changing the New York Constitution and has stalled in the legislature these past 4 years. Do you support court restructuring and in what form?
7. There is a Division of Women in New York and an Office of Children and Families. There is no agency or division in NY State Government that deals with the issues of Fathers and men. Would you support such a Division?
8. The longevity rate for men is 7 years less than women. Comparing black men to white women shows a longevity disparity of up to 14 years. The suicide rate for men is 4 times that of women with a doubling after divorce/separation. We promote women’s health as an issue but not men’s health (such as the breast cancer awareness stamp with no prostate cancer stamp). Do you support a Division of Men’s Health within the Department of Health to address these disparities in men’s health especially those of men of color?

9. **Currently Child Support is based on a “income shares” model. Some states have begun to reform this using a “cost shares” model put forth by economists as a more equitable way to ensure child financial welfare. The income shares model has been ruled unconstitutional in some courts and child support has been ruled as unconstitutional due to the high rate of mother custody making the whole process gender biased. Do you support a move to the cost shares model of child support and reform of the current system?**
10. **The Bradley amendment (US Senator Bill Bradley) states that once child support arrearages are incurred they never go away. The US Census Bureau reports that the number one reason for not paying child support (by both men and women) is the inability to pay. Even though they lack the ability to pay, those in arrears are subjected to draconian collection methods including incarceration. Do you feel these methods of collection are creating debtors prisons and what would you do to correct this system?**
11. **Due to recent advances in DNA testing we can determine paternity up to a 99.9% accuracy. DNA labs report that false paternity is as high as 50% in those tested. Across the board false paternity may be as high as 18% (including married couples). Current policy holds the “father” financially responsible once he claims the child as his even if later testing conclusively determines he is NOT the father. What would you do to relieve these men of this fraud perpetrated against them, hold these malevolent mothers who perpetrated the fraud responsible and what would you do to find these true “deadbeat dads” and hold them financially accountable for their children?**
12. **Women have the “right to choose”. They can terminate a pregnancy even if it is against the wishes of the fathers (even married) or they can carry it to term and then hold the father financially responsible even if he didn’t want the child (even in out-of-wedlock births) making him sacrifice his body to work to support the child. The NY Court of Appeals has even ruled that “a man’s right to reproduction ends at ejaculation”. Do you support changes to allow a MAN’S right to choose?**
13. **The Divorce rate in first marriages stands at 50%, second marriages 60%. There is a 1/3 out-of-wedlock birth rate with two out of three African-Americans born to single mothers. Single parent households have been shown to cause poverty and social dysfunction at much greater levels than intact married households. Incidents of family violence (child abuse and domestic violence by men and women) is greatly reduced in married households where both biological parents are in the home. Family breakdown has been described as the number one social issue facing America today. What are you going to do to put America’s families back together again?**
14. **Outside of the previous answers, why should Fathers, Mothers and Families support you in this upcoming election?**

The Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc. is a 501c3 (applied for) non profit educational and advocacy corporation that is working to keep fathers and families together through social and policy changes. We DO lobby as allowed under IRS non profit rules. We do NOT endorse candidates or parties for political office. The aforementioned questionnaire is for the benefit of our diverse membership and families in general and is designed to educate the public on the views of their potential elected representatives and to foster debate and discussion on family issues in New York and Nationally.

Please return the questionnaire to the above address. All returns will be verified with the submitting candidate prior to publication and/or distribution of the information contained here-in.