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**The On Step Institute
for Mental Health Research**

Presents A Conference

**AFTER DIVORCE:
FATHERS, MOTHERS,
CHILDREN AND THE LAW
Where Are We Going?**

Saturday, June 6, 1998

**Stern Auditorium,
Mount Sinai College of Medicine
101st Street and Madison Avenue
New York City**

Introduction and Purpose

This conference is an invitation to mental health professionals, legislators, attorneys, mediators and members of the judiciary to discover solutions in the new reality of dual provider families. Shared primary care responsibilities require a new developmental paradigm for post divorce families in the 21st century.

Fifty percent of our marriages end in divorce, and the creation of new family systems and fifty percent of our children live with one biological parent. Mental health professionals are still proposing anachronistic models that grew out of the concept of child development in a nuclear family. Legislatures and the courts are trying to create civil order out of what amounts to societal chaos without benefit of social models for the 21st century.

The losers—post divorce parents and children impoverished emotionally and financially by high conflict divorce; by higher stakes for all parties with relocation of custodial parents; by marginalization of non custodial parents; and by criminalization of post divorce parental behaviours.

We invite you to join us in creating new solutions and paradigms for your communities and patients.

Edward M. Stephens, M.D.

Ona Robinson, Ph.D.

Program Chairs

*Special thanks to Ildiko Mohacsy, M.D.
and Stephen Walker*

Generous financial support for this conference has been given by the On Step Institute for Mental Health Research Inc, a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.

The Institute is devoted to researching the origins of conflict and developing skill systems for promoting collaboration.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Saturday, June 6, 1998

8:15 **Registration and coffee**

8:45 **Welcome and Introduction**
Edward M. Stephens, M.D.
Ona L. Robinson, Ph.D.
The Hon. David Sidikman

9:00 **Sharing Parenting Around
the Nation: How other States are
Dealing with Post Divorce Parenting**
David Levy, J.D.

9:30 **Daughters in Divorce: Problems
for Mothers**
Ann Ruth Turkel, M.D.

10:00 **Reorganizing the Family Courts to
Promote Cooperative Parenting After
Divorce and Separation**
Prof. Andrew Schepard

10:30 **Stretch**

10:45 **Panel Presentations**

**The Way We Really Are: Actual vs.
Court Ordered Family Dynamics**
Edward M. Stephens, M.D.

**Economics of Divorce: The Post Divorce
Cost to The State and Family**
Stephen Walker

**The "Law Guardian" in Theory
and Practice**
Patricia Grant, Esq

**New perspectives on Criminalization
of Post Divorce Parental Behaviour**
Howard Yagerman, J.D.

The Judiciary Speaks
Judges Panel to be named

*(Questions from the floor at the
conclusion of presentations)*

12:15 **Lunch**

1:15 **Award Presentations:**

The Hon. Judith Kaye, Chief Judge, State
of New York, for her outstanding work
on behalf of children and families in
matrimonial matters.

The Hon. David Sidikman, New York
State Assembly, for his work in sponsor-
ing Shared Parenting legislation.

The Hon. Owen Johnson, New York
State Senate, for his work in sponsoring
Shared Parenting legislation.

1:30 **Keynote Speaker**

**The Mother in Divorce: Toward
Empowering New Perspectives.**
Karen De Crow, J.D.
*Past President, National Organization
of Women*

2:30 **Small Group Workshops**

WORKSHOP 1.
**The Psychological Well Being of
Our Children.**

Ildiko Mohacsy, M.D.
Herbert Levowitz, M.D.

A review of major goals and obstacles in
treatment. How to promote a healthy
psychological resolution for children.

WORKSHOP 2.

**How to Increase Child Support: Bringing
Father Back**

Robert E. Fay, M.D.
Leon Lefer, M.D.

*An overview of fathers' difficulties
remaining integrated in the family after
divorce; Research findings and self
image drawings of children with dimin-
ished fathering; Strategies for keeping
paternal connections.*

WORKSHOP 3.

Parenting After Divorce and Parenting Plans
A. Jayne Major, Ph.D.

*Shared parenting will be explored
together with basic concepts of parent-
ing plans. Sample plans will be given to
participants.*

WORKSHOP 4.

**The Role of the Mental Health Professional
in Custody and Divorce**

Ona L. Robinson, Ph.D.
Edward M. Stephens, M.D.

*Descriptions of mental health interven-
tions and the roles of mental health pro-
fessionals in the court system and post
divorce management.*

WORKSHOP 5.

The Law in New York, Current and Proposed

The Hon. David Sidikman
Stephen Walker
Howard Yagerman, J.D.
Prof. Andrew Schepard

*In depth discussion of proposed New
York legislative reform in favor of
Presumption of Shared Parenting in all
custody decisions.*

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Karen De Crow J.D. Past-President, NOW;
Co-author of *Women who Marry Houses*;
Columnist, N.Y. Times Syndicate

Robert E. Fay, M.D. Pediatrician; Forensic
Pediatric Consultant-Child Abuse Allegations;
Counsellor to divorcing parents

Patricia Grant, Esq. Practicing marital law

Leon Lefer, M.D. Assist. Clinical Professor of
Psychiatry, Columbia University College of
Physicians & Surgeons; Attending Psychiatrist,
St. Vincents Hospital

Herbert J. Levowitz, M.D. Staff Psychiatrist,
Woodhull Hosp.; Attending Psychiatrist, Long
Island Jewish Medical Center and Schneider
Children's Hospital

David Levy, J.D. President & C.E.O., Children's
Rights Council; Editor, *The Best Parent is Both
Parents*

A. Jayne Major, Ph.D. Author, *Building a
Successful Parenting Plan*; and *Breakthrough
Parenting*; Founder, The Parent Connection, Inc.

Ildiko Mohacsy, M.D. Asst. Clinical Professor. of
Child Psychiatry, Mt. Sinai College of Medicine

Ona Robinson, Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist;
School Psychologist and Psychoanalyst;
Director, On Step Institute

Andrew Schepard, Prof. of Law, Hofstra Univ.
School of Law; Co-Founder, PEACE, (Parent
Education And Custody Effectiveness); Editor,
Family Conciliation and Courts Review

David Sidikman, Esq. New York State Assembly

Edward Stephens, M.D. Member, American
Psychiatric Assoc. Comm. on Juvenile Justice;
Psychiatrist and Psychoanalyst; Director,
On Step Institute

Ann Ruth Turkel, M.D. Assistant Clinical
Professor of Psychiatry, Columbia University
College of Physicians & Surgeons; Supervising
Analyst, Wm. Alanson White Institute

Stephen Walker, Exec. Dir., NYS Coalition for
Presumptive Shared Parenting

Howard Yagerman, J.D. NYSBA Commission
on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice;
NYCLA Matrimonial Section; NYSBA, Family
Law Section

PLEASE POST PROGRAM

The On Step Institute for Mental Health Research
The Garden Suite
169 East 74th Street
New York, New York 10021



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