

CHILD CUSTODY BILL

FOR GAY PARENTS NOW IN CITY COUNCIL

Soon to be reported out of the Judiciary Committee in the D.C. Council is the "No Fault Divorce" Bill which will prevent sexual orientation from being a factor in child custody and child visitation cases in divorce settlements.

City Councilperson Arrington Dixon, the author of this bill, has indicated that strong community support for this measure is essential for its passage.

The Council on Civil Liberties in Family Law which has followed this bill since its first drafting, is a coalition composed of various interested community groups representing **NOW, Gay Activists Alliance, Metropolitan Community Church, Mattachine, Dignity, and Unitarian Universalists Gay Caucus.** The Council is urging all concerned D.C. voters and individuals to write and phone the council members in a show of supportive solidarity for this important measure.

This type of lobbying has shown its effectiveness with the City Council in past Gay Legislation such as the Gay V.D. clinic appropriations, Title 34 and the elimination of the vice squad.

Passage depends on demonstrating to the City Council that there is community support for this bill. This will only happen if **you** take the time to call or write to your council member and the 4 at large members listed on the back of this paper.

For more information . . . call 363-3881 or write to the Council on Civil Liberties Box 2554 Washington, D.C. 20013.

PLEASE DO IT NOW . . .
YOUR PHONE CALLS WILL PASS THIS BILL

URGENT

Your help is needed now for passage of Bill No. 1-36 in the District of Columbia City Council. That bill, which has already passed the Judiciary Committee of the Council, will eliminate sex and sexual orientation as factors in child custody and visitation decisions.

The City Council will be voting on this measure very soon. Some of the Council members worry about voter backlash in the fall elections, so we must show them that we are the voters they should be worried about.

Write to City Council members and to the Mayor expressing your support for 1-36. Make sure you indicate that you are especially concerned that the custody and visitation provision be passed.

D.C. CITY COUNCIL

At-large Councilpersons

Mr. Marion Barry Mr. Doug Moore Mr. Jerry Moore Mr. Julius Hobson, Sr.

Ward Councilpersons

- *Mr. Dave Clarke (Ward 1: Adams-Morgan, Upper Shaw)
- Mr. John Wilson (Ward 2: Dupont Circle, Lower Shaw, Southwest, Foggy Bottom, parts of Capitol Hill near Capitol)
- *Ms. Polly Shackleton (Ward 3: West of Rock Creek)
- *Mr. Arrington Dixon (Ward 4: Upper Northwest, east of Rock Creek)
- Mr. William Spaulding (Ward 5: Northeast, west of Anacostia River)
- Ms. Nadine Winter (Ward 6: Most of Capitol Hill and areas adjacent to the east)
- Ms. Willie Hardy (Ward 7: Northern Anacostia)
- Mr. James Coates (Ward 8: Southern Anacostia)

Chairman of the Council (with full voting power)

Mr. Sterling Tucker

Council Address:

The City Council
14th and Pennsylvania, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Mayor's Address:

Mayor Walter Washington
The District Building
14th and Pennsylvania, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

*Ms. Shackleton introduced 1-36 in its original form and strongly favors the custody and visitation rights provision. Mr. Dixon introduced the provision as an amendment to 1-36 in the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Clarke voted for the provision with Mr. Dixon in Committee. All three are therefore on public record as favoring the provision. You should thank them for their support thus far.

Write Today

Address Inquiries to:
Council on Civil Liberties
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%GAA/DC Box 2554
Washington, D.C. 20013
363-3881