

HAPPY
Father's Day

Fathers Day was started as a way to honor a single dad, and was made a permanent holiday in 1972. It celebrates bonds and the so important relationship between a child and their Father.

The Law Office of Brigid A. Duffield, P.C., recognizes that planning for Father's Day during or after divorce can create stress or tension between parents. However, this is a great day to celebrate Dad. Even more important, it's also a great opportunity to show your kids that while you may no longer be together as parents, you have the skills to set aside differences and acknowledge and respect Dad's role in the family. Here are some tips for Dads (and Moms!) to help make Father's Day special for Dads and their kids.

1) "Make Room for Daddy". Remember that 1953 TV show, a blast from the past, starring Danny Thomas. He was well ahead of his time! Moms historically were and often still are the gatekeeper and caregivers of the children. But in today's world Dads are very much carrying responsibilities for ensuring that children get to their adult life successfully. Dad's importance and influence in children's lives can not be understated. Father's impact on children is profound and hopefully, positive and respectful.

2) Take responsibility to get what you want Father's Day to look like. Let Mother know the plan since she likely may have some good ideas of things your children may want for you for Father's Day which may enhance your day. Hopefully, Mom will help the children create cards or make gifts or some action to acknowledge you and Father's Day. Though we hope you know for years if you need flexibility in scheduling, don't wait to the 11th hour to decide the plan. Fathers can likely predict each year if it is your weekend or Mom's. Those adjustments and tweaks can be made now for the next several years to eliminate the conflict which might arise when it is your day but not your weekend. If you are planning a special or unique event with your kids, let Mom know. Hopefully, she will get the children excited and looking forward to really celebrating Father's Day. If the plan doesn't go exactly as set out, model positive give-and-take behavior for your children and demonstrate conflict resolution skills at their finest!

Upcoming Events

*Cantigny Food Truck
Festival & Concert
June 14, 2019
5:00 pm-9:00 pm
Cantigny Park
1S151 Winfield Rd
Winfield*

For more information:
Cantigny Park Events

*Father's Day
Sunday, June 16, 2019*

**E-Filing Seminar
DuPage County
June 26, 2019
5:30 pm
DCBA Bar Center Classroom
126 S. County Farm Rd.**

For more information:
rrupp@dcba.org

**2019 DCBA Golf Outing
August 22, 2019
Cantigny Golf Course
27W270 Mack Road
Wheaton, IL
12 Noon Lunch
1:00 pm Shotgun Start**

For more information, visit:
[2019 Golf Outing Info](#)

3) Be flexible and focus on what's important. It is important to see your kids on "the" day and if that is not possible, what options are available? Can you celebrate your relationship with them any time you're together? If the day turns into a battleground, an opportunity for demonstrating conflict resolution skills is likely lost. Work at a relationship with your co-parent (no, not "The Ex!") that will allow the day to go smoothly and keep your kids out of the middle or worse picking sides.

4) Don't let money or distance limit you. If money is tight, spend time together with your kid(s) doing something simple: read a story together, or go for a walk, a hike or a bike ride, paint their bedroom. That shared experience is a permanent memory which will linger long after a "thing" purchased has been forgotten. And if you can't be together because of distance...or any other reason, make sure they know they're foremost in your mind: call, send them a card, email or text telling them how much you love them and how proud you are to be their Dad.

5) Practice forgiveness. Maybe life is not going the way you had hoped for you and your children. Regardless of what happened or how it happened, resentments will not improve matters - especially not for you or your kids. Your children will not always remember or know what happened, but they will remember and recreate in their life what you modeled for them.



From Our Archives...

Job Description

POSITION: Father, Dad, Papa, Daddy, Pa

JOB DESCRIPTION: Long term, team players needed, some as Coaches. Candidates must possess excellent strength both physical and of character. Must have diplomacy and discerning skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24 hour shifts. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sporting events in far away cities. Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required...particularly for daughters.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The rest of your life. Must be willing to be the heavy, the "bad guy", until someone needs \$5. Must be willing to make the hard calls. Also must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 mph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf. Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as bike and small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and anything bug related. Must monitor drivers, maintain discipline and coordinate outside cooking feats. Must have ability to attend and not embarrass the family at social gatherings for children of all ages. Must be willing to be an embarrassment at all times. Must handle assembly and product safety testing of go-carts and battery operated devices. Must always hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of an end product. Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the residence.

POSSIBILITY FOR ADVANCEMENT & PROMOTION: Virtually none. Your job is to remain in the same position of years, without complaining, not being understood, always needing to retrain and update your skills so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: None required unfortunately. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

WAGES & COMPENSATION: Get this! You earn it and you turn it over. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 for their college education which you hope will help them become financially independent and move out of your home. When you die, you give them whatever is left. The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could only do more.

BENEFITS: While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered, this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth and free hugs for life.

***With love and gratitude to the Fathers
and conflict resolvers in my life!***

My children's Dad & my Husband Ken 1942-2015
My Dad, Joe Brennan 1925-1977



***"My father didn't tell me how to live;
he lived and let me watch him do it."***

Clarence Budington Kelland

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