

Proposal

Northern Adirondack Fathers' Crisis and Support Center

-by Miles D. Wolpin
Department of Politics
State University of New York
Potsdam, NY 13676

To encourage constructive and responsible behavior by fathers of all ages, it is proposed to establish--initially on a part-time basis--a Northern Adirondack Fathers' Crisis and Support Center.

The Northern Adirondack Fathers' Crisis Center will function as a part-time source of referrals and support. Its primary constituencies are highly distressed teenagers and especially older males who are desperate or disoriented.

Such persons are frequently a danger to themselves and/or the community. Hence the center's primary goals are to lower potential costs to their families and our communities in the St. Lawrence County area by encouraging such "at risk" fathers to make constructive and responsible decisions. These are crucial for the well-being of children who need fathers as role models if they are to be successful and avoid burdening the community.

Unlike women, they currently lack a place to go where they can receive a sympathetic hearing in a society increasingly antipathetic to traditional male roles and masculinity itself. For this and other reasons most fathers are extremely reluctant to seek help via counseling or support from nominally neutral social service entities. The feminized and frequently feminist values of their staff commonly engender recalcitrance or mendacity by male supplicants.

Thus it will take considerable time and advertising before many males are willing to reveal weakness by actively seeking help even from a genuinely sympathetic source. For this reason the center will function during the initial year on a part-time basis. This will be from four to eight hours per week during both afternoons and evenings to maximize access. At the end of the initial year, a report will candidly summarize its activities.

Manned exclusively by unpaid volunteers, the projected Fathers Rights Association related center will gradually expand its hours of operation as the number of help-seekers ("clients") and volunteers increase.