

Welcome!

- Objectives For Our Family Law Reform Conference
 - Stimulate productive, open-minded discussion
 - To listen and seek mutually acceptable solutions
 - To develop action items for change
 - Form working groups to implement reform agenda

The Perfect Storm

- The Adversarial System Is Inappropriate For Fractured Families
 - It picks a winner and a loser
 - Zealous advocacy inflames tensions
 - There has been no effort to simplify the laws or the process
 - It is disproportionately expensive compared to family assets
 - It is unnecessarily lengthy, which hurts all parties, particularly children

The Perfect Storm

- Too Much Is Power Vested In A Single (potentially flawed) Human Being
- Professional Allegiances Cloud Judicial Independence and Trump Client Loyalty
- Court-Ordered Professional Fees Do Not Obey Market Forces

The Perfect Storm

- Lengthy Alimony Awards Discourage Self-Reliance – But Generate Legal Fees
- Winning Child Custody Can Be Profitable
 - Parents are motivated to lure children away from the other parent
 - Profit component discourages initiative and self-reliance
- Federal Funding Discourages Shared Parenting Arrangements
- States are rewarded for enforcement of payments but not schedules
- Enforcement programs create \$6 billion of make-work jobs per year

Why Now Is Different

- Changes In The Workforce Are Changing Gender Roles

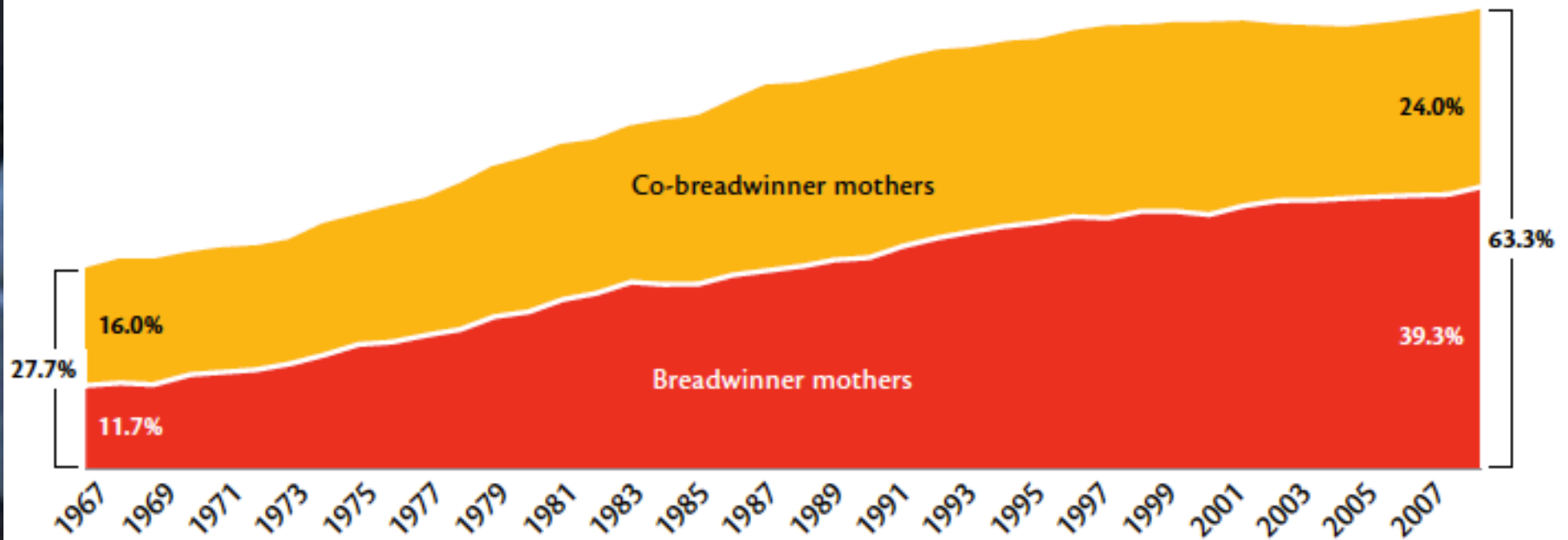
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Why Now Is Different

The new workforce

Share of mothers who are breadwinners or co-breadwinners, 1967 to 2008



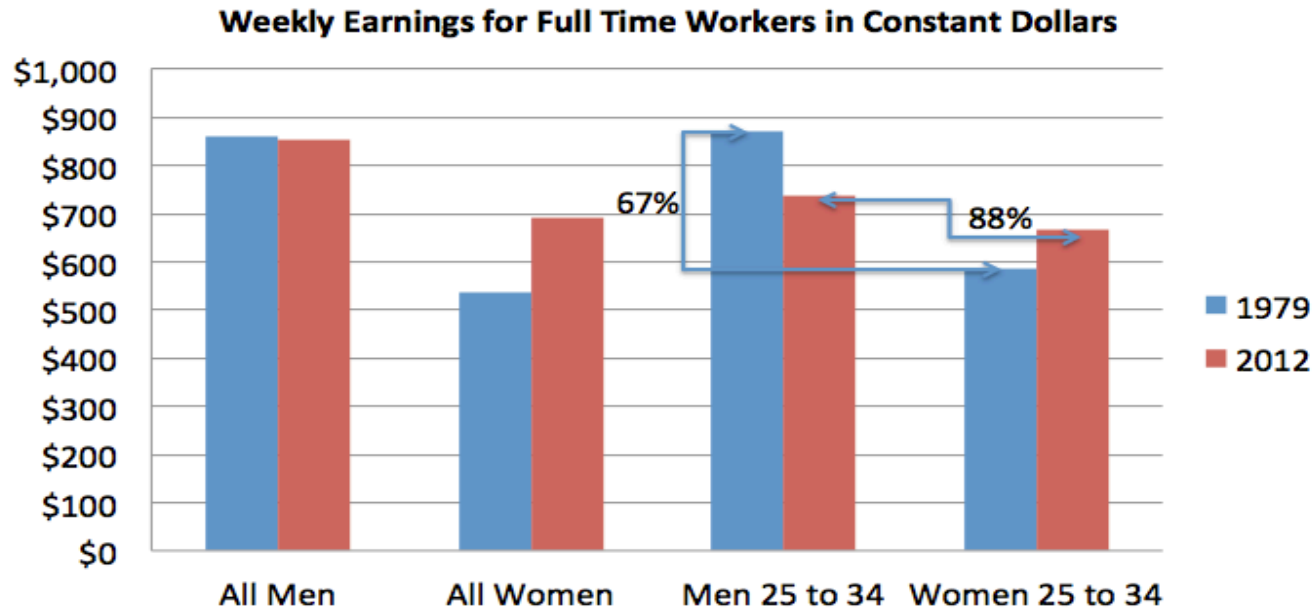
In 2013 this percentage reached 69% - US Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Why Now Is Different

Gender Income Gap 2012



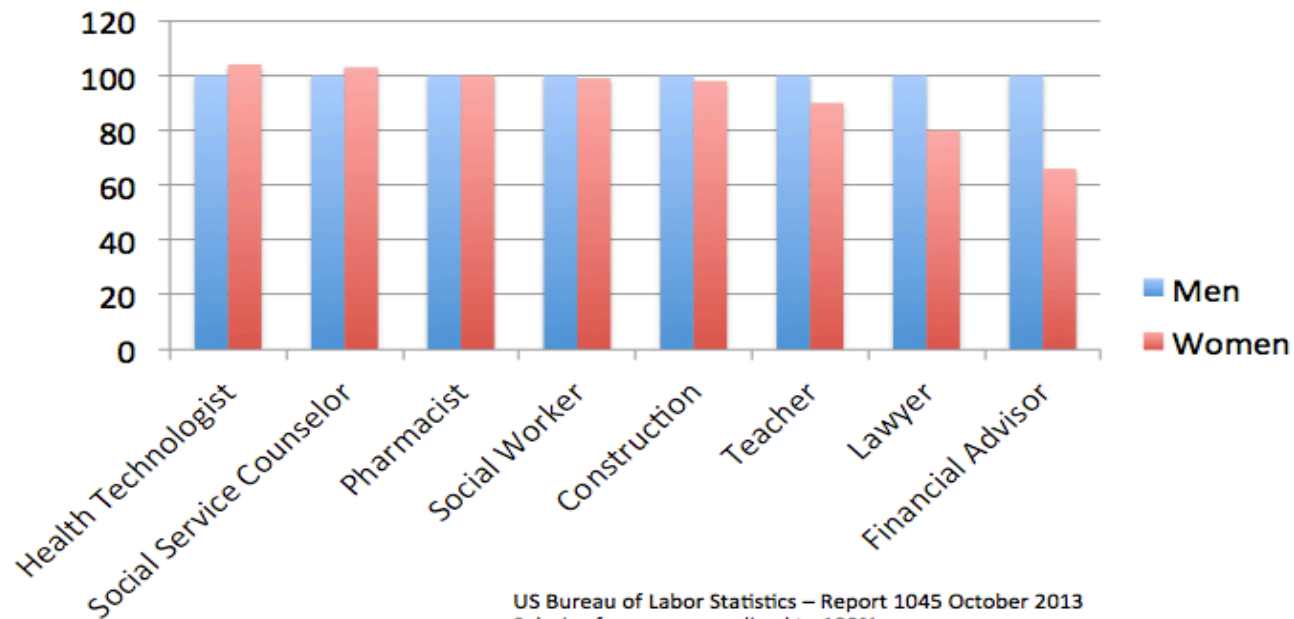
US Bureau of Labor Statistics Report 1045 – October 2013

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Why Now Is Different

Earnings by Occupation



US Bureau of Labor Statistics – Report 1045 October 2013
Salaries for men normalized to 100%

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Why Now Is Different

There were 27 million employed single workers in the U.S. in 2012. The women in this group earned 96% of what the men earned.

US Bureau of Labor Statistics



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Why Now Is Different

Hourly wages of Individuals Working Between 5 and 39 Hours Per Week in 2012. Women earned 10% more than men.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



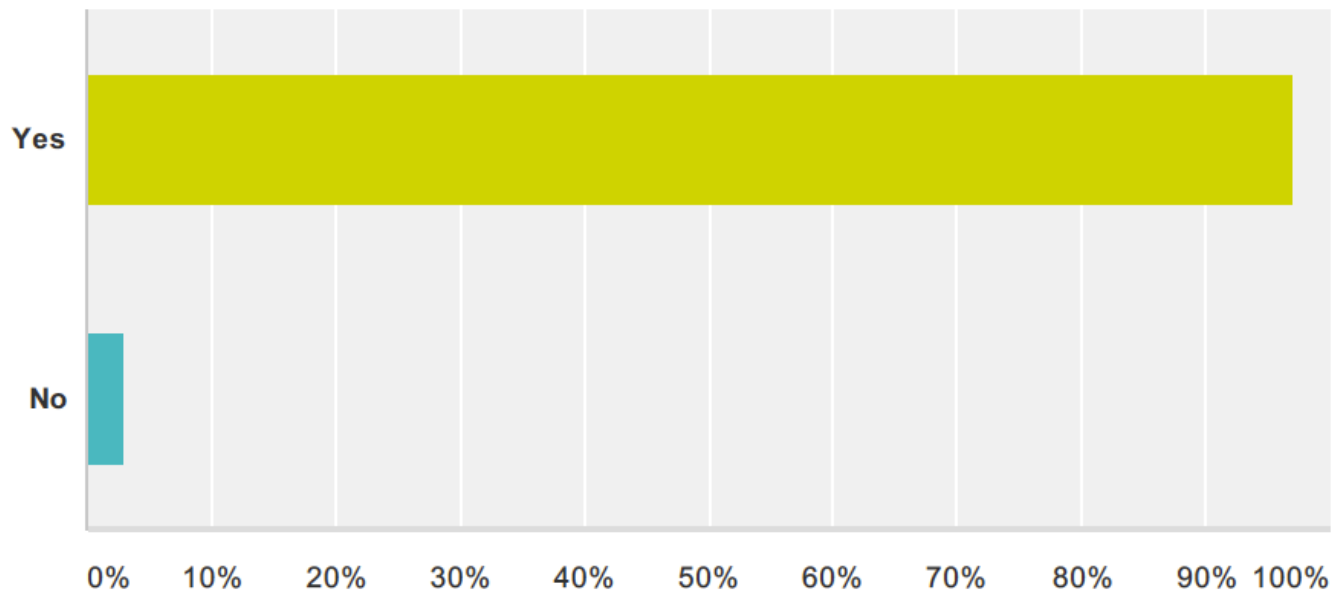
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Why Now Is Different

Q9 Should men and women be treated equally under the law?

Answered: 1,070 Skipped: 0



2014 poll of U.S. cross-section over the age of 25

The Scandinavian Model

- Based on Gender Neutrality
- Based on Income Equality
- Does Not Assume a Breadwinner / Homemaker Template for The Majority of Families
- Modern America Is Now Closer To This Than The “Father Knows Best” Model

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The Scandinavian Model

✓ Replaces Adversarial System With Mediation and Counseling

Divorces completed by filing a form. There is no court hearing. No judge. No lawyers. Issues are resolved with the help of an accountant, a mediator, and perhaps a counselor

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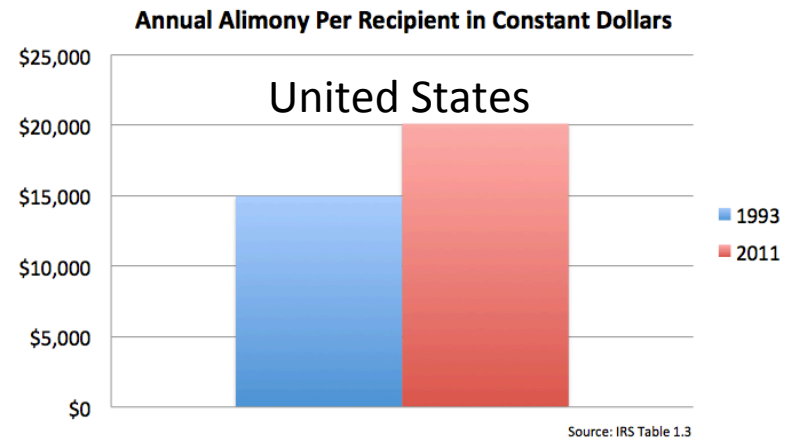
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The Scandinavian Model

✓ Alimony Is By Contract Instead of By Law

This encourages couples to discuss and agree to an earner model that works best for them

Contrary to what modern U.S. demographics should dictate, per-recipient alimony awards are increasing faster than inflation, suggesting that U.S. courts are out of sync with modern U.S. society and, instead, motivated by other incentives



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The Scandinavian Model

✓ Child Support Is Not Profitable

It is a fixed amount, equal to HALF the cost of feeding and clothing a child

It is only paid by a parent when that parent does not assume their 50% parenting responsibility and the other parent agrees to assume that responsibility

The amount does not change with percent custody time

Couples can increase this amount by contract (pre-nup / post-nup)

Custody battles are almost unheard of in Scandinavia

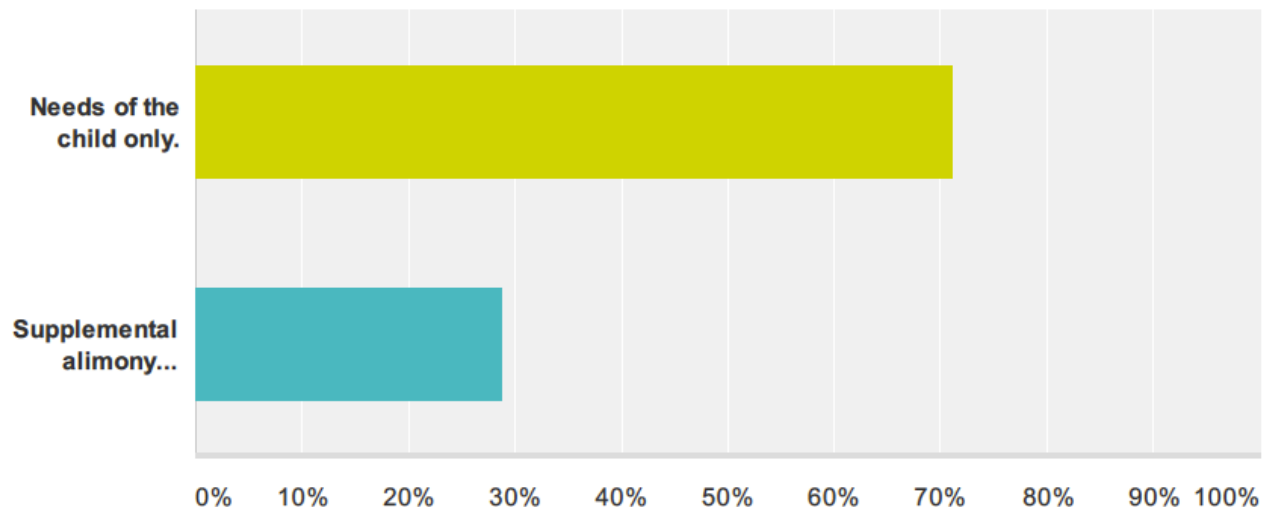
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Child Support in the U.S.

Q10 Should child support be enough for the needs of the child, or should it also include supplemental alimony (spousal support)?

Answered: 1,070 Skipped: 0

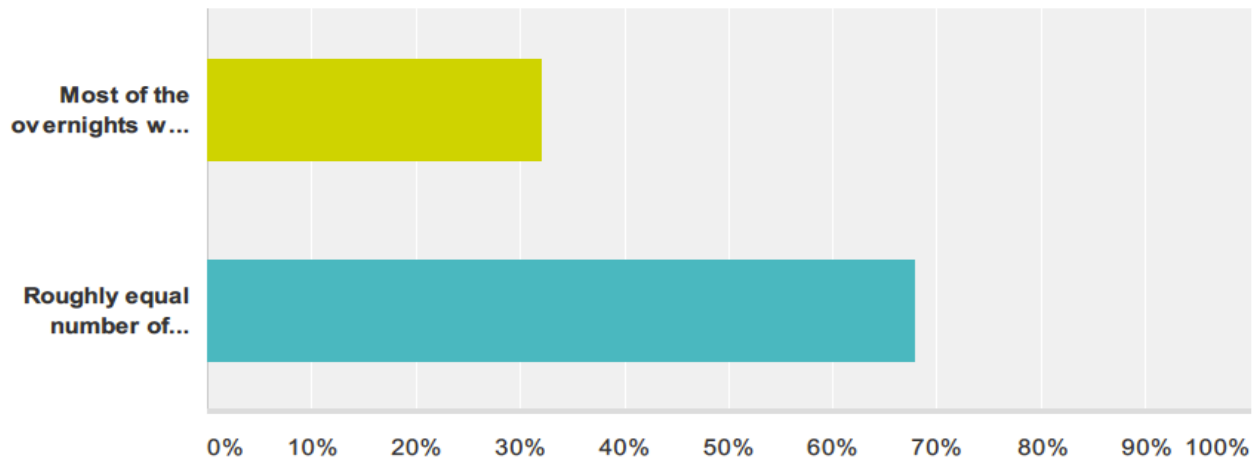


2014 poll of U.S. cross-section over the age of 25

Gender Equality in the U.S.

Q13 In the event that two capable caring parents divorce, is it better for the children to spend most of their overnights in one of the parent's homes, with limited visitation by the other parent, or should the children spend an approximately equal number of overnights with each parent?

Answered: 1,070 Skipped: 0



2014 poll of U.S. cross-section over the age of 25

The Scandinavian Model

✓ Legal Fees Are User-Pay

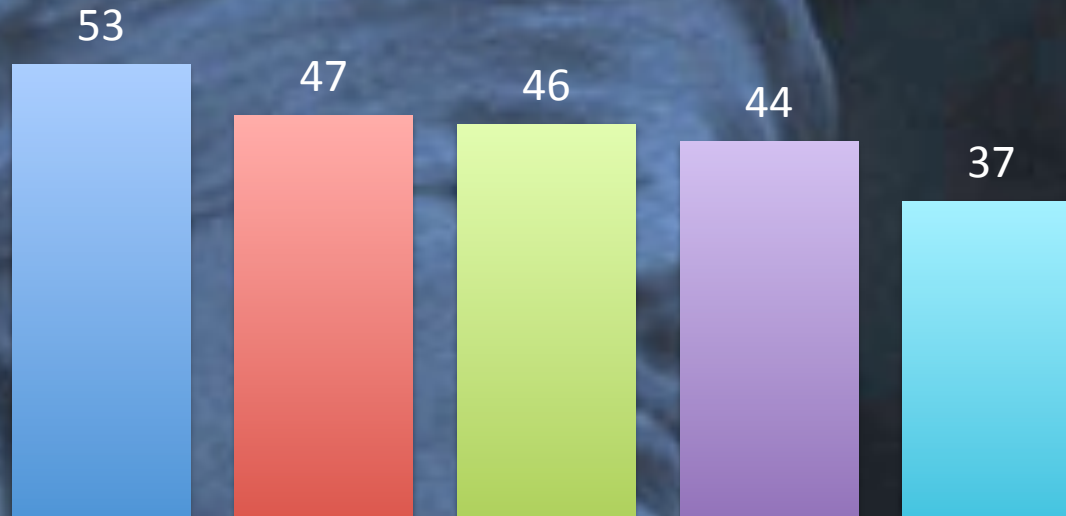
In the extremely rare instance of a court battle, each party must pay for their own lawyer if they choose to hire one. This discourages unnecessary litigation.

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Percent of Marriages That End In Divorce

■ United States ■ Sweden ■ Denmark ■ Norway ■ Iceland



Even though filing and completing a divorce action in Scandinavia is simple and inexpensive, the divorce ratio is higher in the United States

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Other Benefits To Scandinavian Model

- Alimony negotiated between the parties at the time it becomes appropriate
- Children not exposed to the tensions of a battle over custody, or used as pawns.
- No legal discovery, custody experts, or guardians at litem.
- More money available to send children to college instead of litigation fees.
- Parents are more amenable to shared custody, because their financial security is not impacted by sharing the children.
- Most custody schedules are determined by common sense, and the best interests of all parties, instead of court orders.
- Parents are less adversarial, allowing for more cooperation in raising the children and attending life-events such as graduations and wedding.

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Is The Scandinavian Model Right For The U.S. Going Forward?

- To be discussed at the bar 😊

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Why Now Is Different

- The Internet Has Made Video Communication Almost Free

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Why Now Is Different

YouTube Has Made Video Distribution Free
We can now reach the 95% who do not read!

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel for 'Divorce Corp'. At the top is a banner image with the text 'MARRIAGE IS AN INSTITUTION. DIVORCE IS BIG BUSINESS.' and 'DIVORCE CORP.' Below this, it lists 'THE MOVIE - DVD - BLURAY - DOWNLOAD' and 'THE BOOK - HARDCOVER - eBook - AUDIOBOOK', with a link to 'AVAILABLE NOW AT DIVORCECORP.COM'. The channel name 'DivorceCorp' is displayed with a 'Subscribe' button showing 3,169 subscribers. The main video player shows a thumbnail for 'Divorce Corp Film Trailer (Documentary)' with a play button and a progress bar at 0:00 / 2:20. To the right of the video player, there is a description: 'Divorce Corp Film Trailer (Documentary) 1,375,624 views 11 months ago SUBSCRIBE FOR MORE Divorce Corp VIDEOS: http://www.youtube.com/user... If you would like to get involved, visit www.divorcecorp.com. Divorce Corp is an explosive new documentary that exposes the appalling waste, and shameless collusive practices within the U.S. family law industry. More money and more people flow through the family court... Read more'. Below the video player, there are three 'Created playlists' shown as thumbnails: 'North Dakota Shared Parenting PSAs' (6 videos, 2 days ago), 'Family Law Report' (13 videos, 2 months ago), and 'Divorce Corp Clips' (34 videos, 11 months ago). On the right side of the page, there are sections for 'Featured Channels' (CNN, The Huffington Po..., TED, Film Festivals and...) and 'Related channels on YouTube' (BuzzFeedVideo, Sesame Street, Skyy John, Thomas & Friends, coiledbritches).

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What Can Our Group Do?

✓ Raise Awareness – Conventional Methods

- Social media
- Public service announcements
- Video blogging
- Press releases
- Op Eds
- Media appearances

✓ Raise Awareness – Unconventional Methods

- Demonstrations
- Sit ins
- Publicity stunts (e.g. Ice bucket challenge)

✓ Write Model Reform Legislation

- We need some expert volunteers to draft
- We need to lobby lawmakers

✓ Pursue Legal and Constitutional Challenges

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Action Committees

- ✓ Alimony Reform
- ✓ Alternative Dispute Resolution
- ✓ Child Support / Sharing
- ✓ Constitutional Challenges
- ✓ Domestic Violence
- ✓ False Paternity
- ✓ Judicial Reform
- ✓ Parental Alienation
- ✓ Simplification of Processes



Thank You

Simone Jantz
Meagan Piker
Garrett Guidera
Mike Scally

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Let's Seize This Opportunity



*Because by the time they make that U-turn,
we'll be going 160 mph!*

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