

FOR THURSDAY (PARENTAL COVENANT)

From the order for the sacrament of baptism for infants and children, Pilgrim Hymnal of 1958.

".....From the days of our fathers the church has taught that the sacrament of baptism is a sign and seal of the covenant of grace.....

.....Minister: Do you promise to instruct this child in the Word of God, and by precept and example to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to teach him the principles of our Christian religion, to pray with him and for him and to rear him up in the fellowship of the church?

Response: I do.

Minister: (To be used when sponsors participate in the service) You, who stand sponsors, solemnly engage to strive diligently to hold up the hands of these parents in the fulfillment of their covenant that this child be instructed in the Word of God, brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, kept in communion with the church, and strengthened to live in godly manner all the days of his life. Do you thus engage?

Response: We do.

Minister: Do you, the members of this church as of the whole Church of Christ, receive this child into your love and care, and do you promise that so far as in you lies you will uphold and encourage the parents in the fulfillment of their covenant?

Response: We do.

SUMMARY OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Georgianna B. Shepard, M.S.W., ACSW
Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Social Work Program,
University of Wisconsin, Superior; former case work supervisor
for children's services in California and Wisconsin; lecturer
and writer on child abuse.

ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE INHERENT RIGHT

1. to be cherished and nourished by a loving family who provides adequate physical care (food, clothing and shelter).
2. to receive continuing loving care and respect as unique human beings, growing in trust in themselves and others
3. to grow up in freedom and dignity in a neighborhood of people who accept them with understanding, respect and friendship
4. to protection from or treatment for any deprivation, or distortion in their emotional, physical, social and spiritual development
5. to be equipped for modern life by an adequate education

6. to receive preparation for citizenship and parenthood through interaction with parents and other adults who are consistent role models
7. to have adequate protection before the law so that their best interests are safeguarded
8. to be protected from neglect, physical harm and injury

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS TO THEIR CHILDREN

Financial support - provision of food, clothing and shelter

Physical care - to provide health care and keep the child safe from harm

Emotional care (the child has a right to psychiatric care, if needed)

Supervision and Guidance

Provision of Education

Residual Legal Rights of Parents retained even if parent loses legal custody (legal custody being the right to care, custody and control of a child, provision of food, clothing and shelter, ordinary medical care, education and discipline)

Right to consent to major surgery

Right to consent to adoption

Right to consent to early marriage, enlistment in the armed forces

Less formal rights also retained even if parent loses custody:

reasonable visitation - unless refused by the court

information about the child's whereabouts and condition

determination of religious affiliation

inheritance

right to notice and appearance at judicial proceedings involving the child

responsibility for support usually follows (court ordered)

SUMMARY: The rights of parents for custody, control and possession of their children implies a responsibility to care for the children and protect them from hazard.