



## Self-Directed Family Law Reform Activities for Volunteers “Top 20 List”

Not everyone is willing to look beyond their own case. But if you have a *passion to be part of something bigger* than yourself, and help make sure what happened to you doesn't happen to anyone else – including YOUR sons & daughters, or YOUR grandchildren, then it's time for you to help by becoming a family law reform advocate, not just someone looking for a “quick fix” solution in your individual case. You will find, *the more you do for others, the more help you will find for yourself*. The family law reform movement doesn't need any more ideas; the family law reform movement needs DOERs – people willing to not just “talk” about what “needs” to get done by “someone else,” but people willing to take actions, follow-through, stick-with-it, and be consistent.

If you want to get involved, this TOP 20 LIST provides the most significant things and meaningful action items you can do to help drive impact that require the least amount of time, energy, money, or direction. The quicker everyone does these things regularly and consistently, the quicker things will change. Family law reform is complicated because all our opponents are big and powerful (*judges, bar association, DHS, IV-D worker associations, county attorney, domestic violence industry, government workers unions, etc*) and are all highly funded by government money (your money) to fight against us. Their work is more secure if changes are not made, so they fight to preserve the status quo.

Until people are willing to donate to our cause, we must rely on volunteers. Pick 1-5 things you can do for at least 6 months, get some experience, report back your success, and we'll invite you into the “inner circle” of CPR for even more family law reform activities. But you must educate yourself first by doing these activities to see what we are up against so you can be an even stronger and respected advocate for family law reform. If you want to be part of the solution, this is a time to READ THE FINE PRINT!

### **Become an advocate for family law reform! Start with these activities!**

1. **Prayer Committee:** pray regularly ... pray for your situation, the affected children, other fathers, CPR strategy, funding, and effectiveness, the movement ... provide spiritual support for others ... have a teachable spirit and seek spiritual wisdom ... this is a battle between good and evil ... get right with God – make Him #1 in your life. Share with CPR what has been helpful and how God is working in your life so we can share it with others. Start/join the prayer committee for CPR.
2. **Contact your elected officials:** contact both your state rep and state senator. Then contact federal congressmen/women. Tell them your story and get their support for a solution. *Keep contacting them over and over* to ask when they will do something. Refer them to CPR for details. Follow-up with them to see if they have contacted CPR and ask them if they will support our issues: 1) presumption of equal shared parenting, 2) means testing for Title IV-D child support services. Let CPR know their responses – send email to [info@cpr-mn.org](mailto:info@cpr-mn.org)
3. **Do online research** – get yourself educated about how massive the problem is & what we are up against. If you think there is one simple solution, or that any one person has the answer, or that any one judge or ex is the problem, you don't know enough – but you can learn, and we want to help you!
  - a. Read everything on the CPR website – make suggestions of what is needed on the CPR website to be more helpful and more appealing and fill in any educational gaps – forward links to online documents to us ([info@cpr-mn.org](mailto:info@cpr-mn.org))
  - b. KNOW your **OPPOSITION** ... do you know who the “real” opposition is? CPR knows (*see above*). Tell us what you learn ... the more you know about your opposition, the more chance you have to win. Apply war strategies.
  - c. KNOW the family law reform **ISSUES** – information is power. The degree of your success is directly related to the degree of your knowledge. The learning never stops. No one will care more about your case than you do; No one else will do more for your case than you are willing to do for yourself (*not even your attorney.*) You will be frozen in inaction unless you have the information you need. Take responsibility.
  - d. LEARN about the top two **SOLUTIONS** at [www.cpr-mn.org](http://www.cpr-mn.org):
    - i. **LEARN about joint physical custody** (JPC/equal shared parenting) be able to explain why it is in the best interest of children – what are the experts saying - share research with CPR so we can share it with everyone and add it to our website
    - ii. **LEARN about Title IV-D:** read all IV-D information on the CPR website, read every article online by Dr Stephen Baskerville, read book by Stephen Baskerville called Taken Into Custody.
    - iii. **Additional solutions:** eliminate false allegations, enforcement of parenting time, less litigation and more mediation, reconsider no-fault divorce when children, reduce parental alienation, realistic child support, etc

**Get MEDIA coverage for CPR:** *we must grow our media database so CPR can bombard the media with our issues – with limited database, and limited media relationships, there is limited credibility, and there is limited coverage – please gather and provide us emails of media people and call them.*

4. **Call into talk radio programs:** call into programs talking about anything remotely related and redirect the conversation to family law; keep the conversation going around our issues; contact, re-contact, and continue to “bug” radio stations asking them to invite experts like CPR on their program to discuss family law issues.
5. **Write letters to the editor:** watch newspapers for any article remotely related to family law issues that you could respond to with a letter-to-the-editor; email link of article to CPR, provide all contact information of the newspaper and editor so CPR can send out mass email to everyone to do the same. Watch the paper for *letters-to-the-editor* that are printed on our issue; send them to CPR with name of newspaper and date – we track!
6. **Get to know reporters:** the best way to get media coverage is to build a phone/email relationship with reporters, provide them information on a regular basis (but summarize information for them), to build credibility, so they know you, trust you, and will consider doing articles on our family law reform topics. Always offer CPR as a resource for more information.

**Help CPR raise money** – *all donations tax-deductible - the more funding CPR receives, the more services CPR can provide, and the more reform activities CPR can participate in. Without individual, foundation, and corporate contributions, services and activities will be severely limited, and reform will take much longer. CPR is dependent on the support from people who appreciate our efforts. We refuse any/all government funding.*

7. **Fundraising** ... help CPR raise money ... if we don't have enough volunteers to help implement ideas, we need to hire people to make the necessary progress ... if CPR can't find people to donate their time, CPR must pay for what we need ... our opposition is winning because they are well funded and hire people to stay on task, and fund projects and well orchestrated campaigns against us reformers. **CPR has a long list of “shovel ready” projects just waiting for funding** (*help us get them done!*)
8. **Pay annual membership donation** – Please remember your \$75 annual membership donation to CPR and you will get 1 t-shirt and 1 yard sign for FREE; if you can't afford a \$75 a year contribution, find someone else who can make the contribution on your behalf – it's a worthy cause. It's tax-deductible. Designate United Way funds to CPR through your employer (write in).

**Help advertise for family law reform** – *CPR does not have an advertising budget. We depend on you to spread the word. We need your help exposing the problem. Most people only go through family court once, they think they are alone; they think their case is unique. We need to FIND the other 250,000 non-custodial parents in Minnesota who can become involved in the family law reform movement. Change requires involvement of the masses. Just like the civil rights movement.*

9. **Distribute CPR TV Show flyers:** the TV show is making parents, attorneys, judges, etc aware that there is a family law reform movement in MN; we understand the problems and we will persist until things change. Watch the show. Tell others.
10. **YARD SIGNS & T-SHIRTS.** Promote message “*hey government get out of our pockets, get out of our families.*” Make \$20 donation/get 3 yard signs ... find 3 people who will put them up - ask them to reimburse you ... it's all about *getting the word out and building public awareness* that will *build public outcry*. **T-SHIRTS** available with \$15 donation. You'll be amazed how many people will STOP you when you wear this shirt!
11. **FIND a printer who will donate FREE printing to CPR:** we need more banners, flyers, yard signs, and photocopies on a regular basis. Find a PR firm/agency willing to donate help on messages!

**Help us build & display critical mass** – *without critical mass (100-500 people at the meetings every month), change won't occur. There's power in numbers. Just showing up is the minimal effort required if you are fed up with family court. There are 250,000 NCPs in MN and 17 mil NCPs in U.S.*

12. **Attend monthly meetings regularly:** promote the meetings and bring at least 1 new person with you each time. HELP with the meetings – take on a specific meeting task for at least 3 months, and then find a replacement for the next 3 months. The task list is provided at every meeting – take initiative! (Mtgs suspended until we find a qualified volunteer mtg leader.)
13. **Market for us:** help us grow our database ... we won't make change without critical mass. Get other people to email their request to CPR to be added to our email list of citizens interested in family law reform.
14. **Refer others to CPR.** Give us 10 names of people (emails most important) you know who are interested in family law reform – could be other non custodial parents, or grandparents, or second spouses, etc.
15. **Build attorney consortium:** Help us find attorneys who support family law reform. MN attorneys will be sanctioned if they speak out against judiciary. Find attorneys who respect the constitution and will argue to protect it. Forward their names to CPR. Maybe these attorneys will speak at a CPR meeting? Ask them.
16. **SHOW UP at events: e.g. August - Volunteer to take your 3 hour shift at the MN State Fair** ... we need people to hold signs and hand out literature ... we need someone to organize the activity.
17. **SHOW UP at legislative hearings, meetings, town halls, etc:** either observe inside or protest outside, testify or ask questions that get elected officials to make a public statement in support of family law reform. Tell us what you hear!

**Writers:** *much of what we do is education. We need a large base of writers to write regular news releases and educational brochures*

18. **Any specific successful outcomes you have had in court – write it up:** provide step by step documentation that was helpful to you that could be helpful to others ... when it's documented, others can be helped too – send to us!
19. **Write your story in 2 pages or less:** focus on what happened to you, the negative impact on your kids, what unfair things the county did, and what the solution is (*joint physical custody, IV-D limitations, stop false allegations, etc*). If you can't tell your story quickly, no one will listen. Better yet, create a 2 minute YouTube – forward it to CPR, we'll post!

**Lead – Follow – or get out of the way!** *But we want you to earn the right to become part of the inner circle!*

20. **Be a leader** – Once you have been around awhile and accomplished the above TOP 20 tasks *regularly*, then fill out the VOLUNTEER FORM to participate on a committee. After you have been involved with a committee, become a committee CHAIR for one year, show you can work with & manage others to achieve accomplishments and then you will become part of the CPR inner circle. Until you have been around consistently, and shown initiative, what CPR offers you will be limited and your value to family law reform is limited. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE – DO SOMETHING!**

