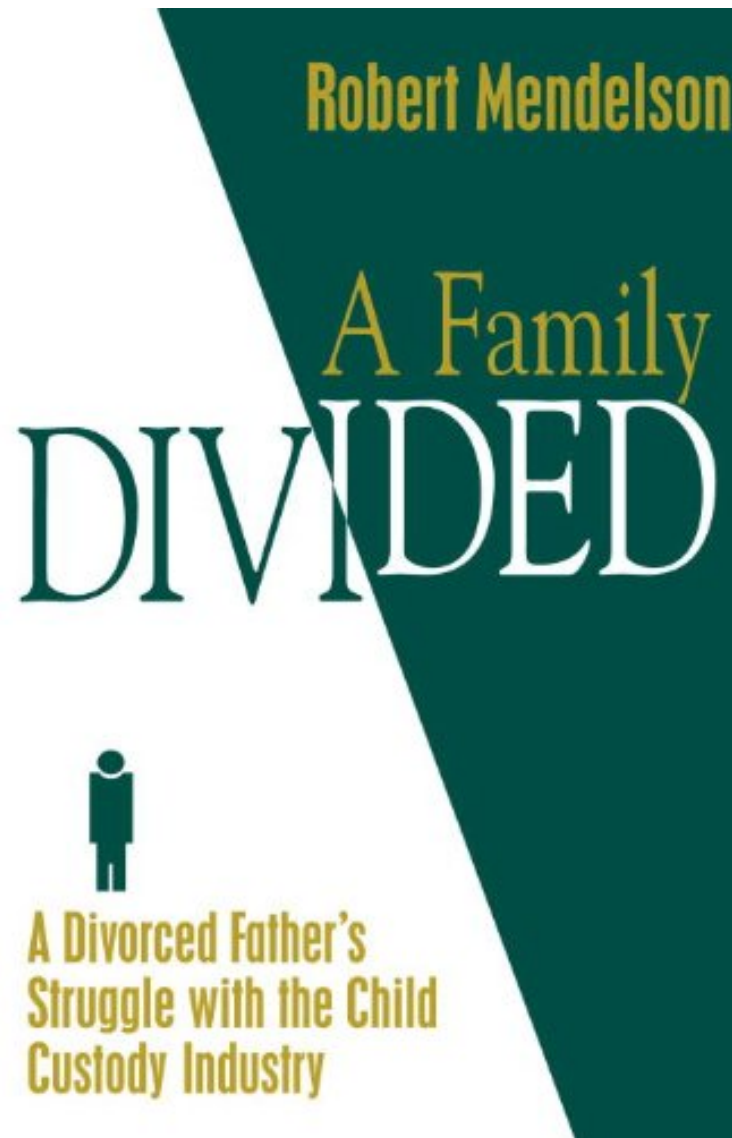


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# A Family Divided: A Divorced Father's Struggle With the Child Custody Industry

Robert Mendelson

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**Robert Mendelson : A Family Divided: A Divorced Father's Struggle With the Child Custody Industry** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Family Divided: A Divorced Father's Struggle With the Child Custody Industry:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Reveals both sides more than the author knows By niki I'm a divorce lawyer and bought this for the client perspective. The book is well-written and fairly interesting, although it drags at

points. The author didn't realize how much of what Michael Nieland went through in the latter part of the book was his own fault. He would decide not to speak up in many instances, hoping for the best, and then getting angry and go looking for "justice" too late. He also refused insights into himself that would've been helpful for his case, although this is probably 20/20 hindsight. Michael Nieland also did his younger daughter several disservices, some quite bad. IMHO, this book is as much about Michael getting sucked into the game as it is about the serious downside of the family courts. And if he can be sucked in, so can anyone. Altogether a good book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. heart wrenching and enlightening saga By Ellen K. Martahus Excellent book remarkable story of a father's love for his children and the unrelenting battle he was forced to fight just to be able to see them. A view of the corruption that can be present in aspects of law and psychiatry 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. man bites dog, dog bites man By A Customer In my search for a book that would detail and prepare me for the custody process, I found this book to be very insightful. Not only does Mendelson do a good job in describing the bureaucracy and secret underbelly within family law, but he is able to give it a real life perspective because of its direct influence from Michael Nieland, the father and main character. I got the feeling that his story was fully represented. Nieland's personal anecdotes gave this real life story even more validity and emotion. It does not read as a text book at all. If you are currently going through or are preparing for custody proceedings, this book can be a difficult and bitter read at times, however it can save you from the unexpected and unforeseen and may even help you stay focused, rather than lost in a whirlwind of anxiety and personal tragedy. My only complaint would be that there is not much discussed regarding the attorney/client relationship.

A Harvard-educated physician returned home one day to find a note from his wife stating she had moved out and taken the children with her. The marriage was over, but he hoped he would remain a vital part of his children's lives. His wife had other plans. This is the story of a once-happy family now torn apart by divorce - its dignity shredded in a family court system that sees mothers as the only proper guardians for their children, even in the overwhelming majority of cases not involving abusive or threatening husbands. Written from the divorced father's point of view, this book exposes our twisted legal system, its obvious abuses of civil rights, and indifferent courts that subject caring fathers across the nation to vengeful ex-wives, opportunistic psychologists and psychiatrists, and overzealous attorneys. Author Robert Mendelson argues that all fathers should not be viewed as deadbeat dads who shirk their responsibilities. Public opinion, the press, and the courts are wrong to think that men cannot be single parents. A Family Divided alerts divorcing fathers to the hidden minefields and pitfalls of custody proceedings, offers practical recommendations for reform, and sheds light on the real cause of fatherlessness in America today.

"All too frequently fathers going through the process of divorce are treated as if they are cash machines, whose continuing psychological involvement with their own children is superfluous to their well-being. Robert Mendelson's new book, A FAMILY DIVIDED, compellingly chronicles one man's journey through the land mines we call family court, and along the way provides important advice to fathers facing the prospect of divorce as well as thoughtful recommendations to policy makers for change. Don't go to divorce court without having read this book!" -- Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., President National Fatherhood Initiative "I wish to congratulate Mr. Mendelson on his book A FAMILY DIVIDED. The book is on target about the social ill that faces society today. I liken it to social cancer." -- Sidney Siller, chairman, National Organization for Men From the Author A FAMILY DIVIDED is the true story of a Harvard educated physician who in the first lines of the Foreword is quoted as saying: "I went to court to divorce my wife -- not my children. My wife seemed to have other ideas." That quote from Michael L. Nieland, M.D. provides the impetus for my book. However, A FAMILY DIVIDED is not merely one divorced father's recollection of his bid to share equally the custody of his children. It is much more. I have attempted to shed entirely new light on perhaps the greatest social ill facing our society today: the proliferation of one-parent families headed by mothers. Study after study has demonstrated that children raised without fathers have a much greater likelihood of becoming disturbed, dysfunctional, even violent adults. Yet, neither the media nor any book has identified the primary cause of this national problem. Until now. A FAMILY DIVIDED reveals the unlikeliest of villains: the judicial system. By focusing on one divorced father's battle to remain in his children's lives, A FAMILY DIVIDED demonstrates that family courts -- responsible for more than one million children newly affected by divorce annually -- all too often aid and abet the alienation of children from their fathers. It is worth noting that although Dr. Nieland's decade-long custody battle with his ex-wife is chronicled from his point of view, I have gone to great lengths to make sure that the book is balanced and truthful. All the participants in this child custody saga state their positions, in part, through letters, reports, court petitions, and actual courtroom testimony. Every scene is illuminated by proper documentation. In summary, I wrote A FAMILY DIVIDED (as I stated in the Acknowledgments) for "the millions upon millions of Michael Nielands out there who suddenly found themselves excluded from their children's lives simply because they were no longer married to their former spouses. It is my wish that this book will shed some light on this injustice." Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. From Foreword: Dr. Michael Nieland never thought of himself as a hero.... But divorce proceedings seem to have a way of thrusting respectful law-abiding citizens into

starring roles in a drama that can be stranger than fiction, especially when young children are involved. Battle lines form. Winners emerge, but at what cost to the children? Sometimes, as in Dr. Nieland's case, the defeated fight back. It isn't easy. The odds can be overwhelming, the cost prohibitive, the system itself seemingly corrupt. At one point or another -- despite the apparent injustice of it all -- many finally give up. Exhausted. Forlorn. Beaten. This true story is about one parent under siege who refused to give up.