



2006-07

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO CONTINUE THE COUNCIL ON RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this State to promote the recognition of the importance of the participation of both parents in the lives of their children; and

WHEREAS, social policy and practice have often focused on the difficulties of raising a child in a single-parent family and have often created barriers to the involvement of both parents in their child's life; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of this State to promote the financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of this State to provide assistance in preparing fathers for the legal, financial, and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of this State to promote the establishment of paternity upon the birth of a child; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of this State to identify and promote methods that reduce negative outcomes experienced by children affected by divorce, separation, and disputes concerning custody and visitation.

THEREFORE, pursuant to the power vested in me by Article V, Section 11 of the Illinois Constitution, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, hereby order the following:

I. CONTINUATION AND REORGANIZATION

The Council on Responsible Fatherhood shall be continued in the form described herein and relocated within the Department of Human Services.

II. MEMBERSHIP

- A. The Council shall consist of 21 members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor.
- B. Members appointed by the Governor must be chosen on the basis of their interest in and experience with children and families.
- C. The Governor shall select one member of the Council to be the Chairperson.
- D. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Senate shall each appoint one ex officio, non-voting member.
- E. A majority of the members appointed by the Governor shall constitute a quorum.
- F. Members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for their actual expenses in carrying out their duties as members of the Council.

- G. All members appointed to the Council on the effective date of this Executive Order shall remain members of the Council, subject to the provisions of this Executive Order.
- H. The Department of Human Services shall provide staff and other support services to the Council.

III. DUTIES

The Council shall have the following duties:

- A. To develop a comprehensive plan that promotes the positive involvement of fathers in their children's lives.
- B. To evaluate State programs, government policies, and community initiatives related to fatherhood and to make recommendations regarding those programs, policies, and initiatives to the Governor and the General Assembly.
- C. To convene a statewide symposium in order to discuss and resolve issues related to responsible fatherhood and the importance of the participation of both parents in their children's lives.
- D. Subject to appropriation, to develop criteria for and to issue requests for proposals for grants for responsible fatherhood projects and activities related to responsible fatherhood projects that are approved by the Council.
- E. To receive grants, contributions, and other funds for the purpose of projects and activities related to responsible fatherhood.
- F. To submit a report on or before January 1 of each year, to the Governor and the General Assembly concerning its findings and recommendations.

IV. FUNDS

Grants, contributions and other funds received by the Council on Responsible Fatherhood must be deposited into the Responsible Fatherhood Fund, a special fund created in the State treasury, and, subject to appropriation and as directed by the Department of Human Services may be expended for the purposes of this Executive Order.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Executive Order shall become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Issued by Governor: June 30, 2006
Filed with Secretary of State: June 30, 2006