



On a Serious Subject

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Most of us, including my family, tend to take our nude recreation for granted at times. We shouldn't. The fact is, more than occasionally, parents contact our office seeking AANR's help with some legal difficulty they've encountered with bringing their children to AANR parks.

It's rare that a young son or daughter lets others at school know—proudly—where they spent their weekend and someone starts asking questions, but it happens. More commonly, pictures of the kids in the buff enjoying the backyard trigger an inquiry. By far, the most inquiries we get are in cases of divorce or separation where an ex-spouse criticizes the AANR parent's decision to bring their children to our parks, even if those children have grown up going and view their favorite park like a second home.

In these situations, AANR and our regions are here to help. And we have helped hundreds of families. From providing legal referrals for qualified counsel, to providing articles from experts about the benefits of social nudism to growing families, AANR is ready to make such resources available to our members—by express mail if necessary. Among the arrows in our quiver, here are some of the most effective:

- Florida's Fifth District Court of Appeals decision in *Hadley v. Cox* 470 So. 2d 735 (FL App 1985). Here the court held that there were no grounds for denying a mother visitation with her five-year-old daughter although mom lived in a nudist park and the weekend visits would take place there.
- State legislatures that have recognized *family nudism* within their statutes, including Tennessee Code Annotated Sec. 39-13-511(a)(2)(B) (indecent exposure laws inapplicable in a "private facility which has been formed as a *family-oriented* clothing-optional facility properly licensed by the state,") and West Virginia Code Section 60-4-23. West Virginia,

in fact, exempts "Places set apart for traditional *family-oriented naturism*. . . including nudist parks, clubs, and resorts chartered by the American Association for Nude Recreation." A number of county and local governments have followed West Virginia's lead, and we forward applicable examples depending on where a difficulty has occurred.

- Expert studies including an excellent one entitled *The Effects of Social Nudism on Body Image and Self Esteem* by Richard E. Pearl, PhD of Middle Tennessee State University. Dr. Pearl's findings indicate that "attendance at a nudist camp and information about nudism, when given time to incubate, have a positive effect on body image and self-esteem."

- Numerous articles from such credible publications as *The Wall Street Journal* and *Woodall's Campground Management*, which extol family nude recreation in AANR parks as beneficial to communities and local economies.

- Copies of the American Association for Nude Recreation's (then the American Sunbathing Association) friend of the court briefs in such Supreme Court precedent cases as *Massachusetts v. Oakes* (tasteful pictures of minors) and *City of Erie v. Pap's A.M.* (constitutionality of restricting nudity). AANR's reputation for expertise on such subjects has helped us influence situations for the better more than once.

- Excerpts from the book *The Spirit of Family* by Al and Tipper Gore come in handy when a parent encounters difficulties for taking a harmless bathtub or backyard snapshot. It's hard to argue that these are obscene when one reviews a book by the former Vice President of the United States that contains about a dozen such snapshots.

In addition to these resources, AANR and its regions offer legal direct financial assistance to help defray some

costs associated with asserting nudist parental rights. Information about the application process will be furnished to members on request, or consult section 1.00 of the AANR Procedure Manual, available online at aanr.com in the download zone of our "Member Benefits" area. (You'll simply need your last name and P number as they appear on your membership card to register.)

Experiencing nude recreation as a family is a wonderful thing, and parents shouldn't have to worry. Through AANR's regular education of lawmakers and policy makers, we're making substantial progress toward a day that you won't have to worry. But if you ever have concerns, we invite you to call us toll free at 800/TRY-NUDE. ☎

Editor's note: In addition to serving as Executive Director, Erich is a licensed Florida attorney. He received his BA from Purdue University and his J.D. from Duke University School of Law. Erich is a member of The Florida Bar and the Bar's City, County, and Local Government Law Section. He is the author of two books—the Recruiting & Hiring Manual for Managers and Supervisors and the Performance Management Manual for Managers—published by CCH Incorporated and available from the Society for Human Resources Management's online bookstore.

