

Jonathan Schweiger, Pro Se
Broward County, Florida

September 25^h, 2019

Pursuing Justice Foundation, Inc

Re: National Pro Se Day Statement

To the Honorable Courts,

I believe in our beloved court system where the “Framers” and Founding Fathers created what today is known as the United States Government and Judicial Court System. With a Grandfather and Uncle who were attorneys themselves, I was raised to always respect the “Letter of the Law”. It wasn’t until March of 2011 when my faith in our Judicial System was challenged due to the legal factors that played a role when my divorce proceedings, custody issues, and the like first began. It was a truly frightening eye-opening experience that I would not wish upon my worst enemy. I went from being a productive member of society traveling the road to success, to a shell of a man who was told over and over again I have little or no rights in continuing to be the involved father as I was, and how everything that I had worked for, was taken from me by what I now consider to be a flawed legal system.

Going from a six-bedroom house, to a four bedroom, to a three-bedroom, to borderline homelessness only empowered the “other” parent. Prior to my marriage, I had I worked very hard for the assets I had retained over a 24-year career only to have them swiftly and unfairly taken from me leaving me broke due to the Fla Fam Law rules and procedures. Adding insult to injury, my name and reputation within the community, school system, house of worship, personal, and professional life was intentionally “dragged” through the mud adding a “label” to live with, while becoming an outcast, and leaving me virtually un-hirable.

All with the intent to further empower the “other” parent. This was my experience during a 5-year span, and, while having an attorney to “represent” my best interest.

By 2015 I was not only traumatized, I was emotionally, spiritually, and financially bankrupt barely operating with an amputated spirit. Without any resources to continue, I was then forced to agree to a settlement that was not in my, or my children’s best interest. It was painfully clear, to me, this was not the same country the original Framers envisioned or the country my Grandfathers and Grand-Uncles fought for during WWII.

Fast forward to March, 2019, with a new career on track and no longer homeless, yet still in debt from my previous experiences with our family court system, I am now forced to represent myself. I’m still at a disadvantage, however, the changes made between 2015 to 2019 along with my personal experience this time around has brought back some of my belief in our beloved court system my Grandfather use to talk to me about.

I still believe our current Family Law Legal System is flawed, antiquated and needs to be revamped, However I did find that some of the Clerks of the Court to be very helpful, and, more importantly, the Honorable Judge overseeing my case, was fair, firm, reasonable, and respectful to this Pro Se Representative.

The current resources made available to Pro Se litigants are reasonable, but the reality is we are still very much disadvantaged. It’s one thing with having to deal with the “Gamesmanship” of Opposing Counsel, who does this every day for a living, it’s worse when, as Pro Se, I am not privy to the same tools and/or online access to schedule certain motions important to my case, nor can I have access to review any and all documents filed in association with my case . The Fla. Fam. Law Rules and Procedures require all Pro Se litigants MUST use a Case Manager.

This requirement is not only time consuming for this Pro Se litigant with a full-time job, it has also led to some very questionable coincidences after speaking with and/or dealing with the case manager managing my case.

For my case in particular, I'm trying to remain the involved Father to my children I have been throughout their entire lives, by not becoming a "visiting" parent. To me, this is not a Mother Rights issue, a Father Rights issue, or a Gender issue, this is a Generational issue and an Equal Parenting issue.

In my humble opinion, we're living and seeing the results of a flawed Family Court System daily. There are too many single parent homes in this country, and, we're in desperate need of your help with solving the "Motherless" and "Fatherless" epidemic-crisis that's been affecting our children for the past two decades.

My goal in writing this statement is not to point fingers at what is wrong with our current system, we need your help in finding a solution to help level the playing field whereby all Pro Se litigants are not disadvantaged.

We desperately need your help in accomplishing this.

Respectfully & Sincerely,



Jonathan Schweiger, Pro Se
Broward County, Florida