



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Joint State Government Commission
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Short summary in response to Act of November 3, 2022 (P.L. 1747, No.114)

**GREATER FATHER INVOLVEMENT: Fostering Engagement of Fathers
in Improving the Well-being of Their Children**

In recognition of the importance of the active involvement of fathers with their children, the General Assembly passed the act of November 3, 2022 (P.L.1747, No. 114) creating the Advisory Committee on Greater Father Involvement within the Joint State Government Commission. The Advisory Committee was charged with evaluating the benefits of and barriers to fathers' involvement in the whole lives of their children. This included reviewing existing programs and initiatives and laws in areas such as early childhood development, healthcare, behavioral health, school, custody, incarceration, children and youth services involvement, housing, workforce development and employment opportunities, parenting and co-parenting, adult education and literacy, and conflict resolution training.

Opportunities for fathers to become involved in their children's lives frequently turn on the legal relationship between the father and the mother. Divorced fathers and fathers who have never had a legal relationship with the mothers of their children face greater impediments than do married fathers. Consequently, many of the obstacles to fathers' involvement vary based on the marital/relationship status of the parents. Legal, institutional, societal, and relational barriers are examined in the report, including federal, state, and local programs and initiatives that are designed to promote the well-being of children, to find ways to promote successful fatherhood engagement.

The advisory committee recommends the establishment of a permanent commission on greater fatherhood involvement within the Commonwealth government. Additionally, recommendations are made to ensure fathers' equal treatment in areas of family leave, judicial proceedings, housing, children and youth service agencies' policies and practices, and child support.

It should be noted that the recommendations contained in this report represent the general consensus of the Advisory Committee. They are not unanimously endorsed and should not be considered the official position of all the organizations represented on the committee.

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