# CHILDREN OF DIVORCE: A Practical Guide for Parents, Therapists, Attorneys, and Judges

*William Bernet & Don R. Ash* 2nd. Ed. 2007 196 pp. ISBN 1-57524-288-5 \$31.50

This book speaks to the adults who deal with children of divorce—parents, therapists, attorneys, and judges—and gets them all on the same page. The authors believe that parents and professionals should be able to communicate with a common language regarding the children of divorce. This book contains much specific advice on how to achieve basic goals: children should have a good relationship with both parents; divorced parents should find ways to make life as normal as possible for their children; and divorced parents and their children should accept the inevitable losses and disappointments and move on with their lives. *Children of Divorce* is organized around the use of parenting plans, agreements that are developed through the collaboration of the parents rather than imposed by a judge.

The authors are ideally suited to merge the psychosocial and legal aspects of divorce and its impact on vulnerable children. One author is a child and adolescent psychiatrist who

has evaluated hundreds of divorced families. The second author is a sitting judge who has seen divorced families at their worst and at their best.

William Bernet, M.D., is a graduate of Harvard Medical School, and a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He is a distinguished life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr. Bernet has published professional articles, chapters, and books on many topics including group and individual therapy with children and adolescents, humor in psychotherapy, forensic child psychiatry, child maltreatment, true and false allegations of abuse, satanic ritual abuse, and child custody and visitation.

**Don R. Ash, J.D., M.J.S.** has served as Circuit Court Judge for the 16th Judicial District in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, since 1994. He has conducted extensive research regarding the usefulness of parenting plans for the children of divorce. This work eventually led to the 2001 adoption of parenting plans as state law in Tennessee. Judge Ash has received the Distinguished Service to Families Award from the Tennessee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (2001), as well as the Mediation Association of Tennessee Award of Excellence (1999). He has been elected president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference and, most recently, appointed to the Court of Judiciary.

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CHILDREN

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> William Bernet, M.D. Don R. Ash, J.D., M.J.S.

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