

DGC 001 Who is Full Custody Dad?

Fred Campos: When my attorney explained to me, here it was 1999, that the chances of me gaining custody of my newborn daughter was next to zero. That's when I thought to myself, "Oh my gosh, here it is the close of the 20th century and we still have social biased (as) to who is the better parent." I was determined that I was going to win and change things.

Announcer: Welcome to the Daddy Got Custody Podcast. Helping good parents win and maintain custody of their kids. And now your host, Full Custody Dad, Fred Campos.

Fred Campos: Hey guys, this is Fred Campos, Full Custody Dad. I am so excited to be with you and starting this podcast. This is a long time coming, I have, as you probably know from the title, I have been full custody dad of my now 19-year-old daughter. For most of her life, I got full custody when she was four years old.

And about four years after I won custody, when my daughter was eight, my attorney and bunch of my friends said, "You should write down all the tips and ideas you came up with in order for you to win full custody of your daughter." And I wrote down about 500 of them. At that time, I was running around, I went from Dallas, Austin, Houston and San Antonio. I would actually offer weekend courses, explaining the tips and things I did as a parent, to win custody of my daughter. Then from there in 2010, I started writing these ideas down into a book.

But I got to thinking, before I brought this book to the public, or before I released this, I really need my daughter to grow up and make sure I maintained custody her entire life. And that these points were tested and worked well. So I've been pressured by several people, my good friend, Renee Groskreutz, who owns a podcast called, "I Teach Blogging." And my other great friend, who I have never actually met, but I feel like I know very well. You probably know him, as Smart Passive Income, Pat Flynn have encouraged me to perhaps put together a podcast about this particular issue.

I have owned a blog about fathers winning custody called Daddy Got Custody for about 10 years. And I have put together a course a couple years back. I regularly interact with attorneys and have discussions and ongoing talks, blog posts, and comments. As well as, I taken on a few coaching clients to help aid in custody. These are both male and female. And although I talk from a male perspective, I have probably helped more females with custody issues.

When you are going through a divorce, when you are involved in child custody. It is listed as one of the worst experiences of your life. It is like the death of a parent or a death of a child it is definitely a tragic event that occurs. But what I want to do, is reduce this to a podcast. And for the most part, my long-term objective is I know about

30 or 40 attorneys throughout the country, and I would like to interview them in this podcast format for you guys.

Fred Campos: So that you can hear tips directly from attorneys. And get some different perspectives. Child custody is one of those things that is kind different from state to state. So as we traverse around and talk to different attorneys we are going to get different perspectives, different clues, different tips. How to work with an attorney, etc. etc.

But before we do that, I am going to run some solo shows. And I am actually going to take all that material I have written down over 10 years and try to reduce it into about a dozen different podcast here. We'll start these out as solo shows and then we'll be interviewing attorneys. And it is the middle of April 2018, for those of you who may be listening to this a little later than that. And I have already lined up a few attorneys we are going to interview for. And I've outlined our first dozen podcasts.

So, I know that you are probably tuned into this because you are in the throw of your divorce and child custody. But I want to be a cheerleader and an encourager, somebody that is going to tell you, "Hey, you know what? Now that I am looking at this in the rear mirror of 20 years, you are going to make it. You are going to be awesome. You are going to get through this. And you are going to become a better person because of that."

And maybe some of these tips and ideas will resonate with you. To be the better parent. Because of course, that is the only reason you should be the full custodial parent. Is because you happen to be the better parent and would be the better custodial parent to your children.

So, what are we going to do in this episode of course is we're going to hear my story and everything I have been through. And tell you why I am probably qualified to give you this information. Again one thing you need to know about me, is I am just an average guy. I owned a software development company at the time I met my Ex. And today, I do website designs in the North Texas area. So, the most important thing you need to know is I am not an attorney. I am definitely, definitely pro attorneys. You are going to need an attorney to traverse your way through the legal system.

I recommend that you find and hire a good attorney. And we'll talk a little more about that. We'll talk about that in episode three. But, I am going to give you a parenting perspective of what you need to do, all the elements you can do as an individual, as a good parent. To put your best foot forward in court. To present a great, great, testimony as well as evident and getting together witnesses. And to be a friend and guide through this time of your life. Of challenging the courts and to be a good custodial parent.

Everything I am going to tell you in these podcasts, could apply to both the males and the females. There is no slight of hand. There is no trickery. We're going to do, again based on my premises, "Are you the best parent you can be?" If so, you need to be the custodial parent. And if you happen to be the guy. Yes, we are, we are going against

the social norms. And social norms at least during in my 20 years of experience have been that mothers usually are a little bit better parents. But there are exceptions to the rules. There are unbelievable Dads. And they need to kick against the goad and be the very best that they can be.

So that's kind of the premise of where we are going to go with these podcasts. I am very, very excited about that. So I want to kick it off and tell you a little bit about my story.

So we have to hit the rewind button. Believe it or not, I cannot believe, almost 20 years ago. It was 1998, and yours truly was a software developer. I had invented a great little remittance product. I was running a small business. I had about five employees. We were taking it to the next level. As a 20 something, I was making hand over hand money like crazy. I had good months where I was making about 20k a month that was coming home to me. And I was just young, I had a sport car, I had just bought a four-bedroom house. I was on top of the world.

I was walking away from my conservative Christian values. I was really starting to get into the drinking scene. I had, the Animal House, I had the roommates, I had a pool table. I was just thinking, "I was living the life." And kind of lost track of what my goals were. Money was getting the best of me. At that time, I had experienced gambling, learned how to play craps. And I was just, just having the time of my life.

And I was in a long-term relationship that had come to an end and I was dealing with depression. And as typical as you probably know the story goes. I had through a mutual friend, I had met a girl. And through a one-night stand, in a very, very short relationship. I had heard those words that pretty much bring any single bachelor down to a streaking halt that require you to hit the brakes. I heard those words, "I'm pregnant."

Now I had two business partners in my software venture. And we were growing and blowing. So we said, I met with my partners and told them what had happen. And they said, "Absolutely don't what happens, you are going to have to have a prenuptial agreement because we have so much money coming into this company. And you are the primary." I owed 51% of that business. So I sat my girlfriend down at the time and told her, you know "I am interested in marrying you. We don't have a very strong relationship but I do want to do what is right. But I have this business here that definitely earning a significant amount of money. I don't have buyout agreements yet, so we have to do a prenuptial agreement."

Well as you can probably guess, the prenuptial pretty much ended the relationship. So maybe the relationship was based on money we may never know. We don't have her to interview and talk this through. But, needless to say I was a meal ticket at this point. She wanted nothing to do with me. She wasn't sure she wanted to bring this baby to term. I was getting my butt back in church. I was getting rid of the sport car. I was making a baby's room. I was basically having that come to Jesus moment, where I realized, "Man, I am going to be a father, and I need to get my life together."

So I went and sought out an attorney. I spent a lot of time find the right attorney. Made some recommendations. We'll talk a lot more about that in Episode 3. About how to find a good attorney. As I was sitting down and talking with him. His name is James and you'll hear me refer to him a lot. He was saying, "Fred, you know, you'll probably not be the custodial parent. You are going to have weekend relationship with your child." And I was sitting there thinking, "Oh my gosh I cannot believe this."

Here it is the end of the 20th century, and before I even file and set toe in court, my attorney was telling me. That basically Dads don't have custody of their kids. They don't have a good relationship. They are just saddled with, you know, one evening during the week and maybe weekends on first, third and fifth weekends. I started analyze my Ex a little further and I am thinking, "I can be the better parent. I should be the one in charge of her residency, and schooling and education."

Man I was going to do anything and everything. I joined Fathers for Equal Rights. I was trying to find everything I could about custody and the law. I was taking baby classes. I had signed up to take parenting classes. Just about anything I could possible think of.

I was painting a baby's room. I got rid of my roommates. I was trying to get ready for being a parent. I sold the sports car, got a more economical SUV. I stopped drinking. I got my rear in church. I really started getting my life in order. So I had a metamorphic change.

But, my daughter was born. My Ex pretty much wanted nothing to do with me. I had filed a paternity case. And like you perhaps, I found myself involved in this costly, crazy custody battle. And I kept talking with my attorney. There has got to be something that allows me more access to my kid. My Ex started denying me visitation. Even court appointed visitation. When my daughter was born up until her first year, I was only allowed to spend time with her like five hours on Sunday and a couple hours on Tuesday.

So then I really started thinking, I have got to figure out how a non-custodial parent can get more access, even of a new born. So I started putting together a photo albums. I started gathering witnesses. I started really building a case. As we go through these first couple of solo shows, I am going to walking you through all the different details of things I did. My attorney was like, "Wow you have come up with some really good evidence. These photo albums are good." I kept going to the Temporary Hearing and I was having problems with my Ex not honoring the visitation. And we were dealing with contempt of courts.

And then I finally decided a couple years into it, "Man I am really going to file for custody. I can be the better parent. I am going to prove to the home study. I am going to prove to the judge. If I have too, I'm going to get a jury involved." And lo and behold, long story short, you'll hear more details about it in further episodes. By the time my daughter was four years old, I had been granted full custody of my daughter, Caitlyn. I became the custodial parent which I maintained custody and the custodial parent all the

way until my daughter turned 18 and graduated from high school. Until she became an adult. And I went to court, I kid you not, about 40-50 times because we had a contested custody hearing and my Ex was always doing crazy things. My Ex wound up spending time in jail two or three times for various issues. For non-child support to denied visit and things like that. And then as my daughter turned 16, from 16 to 18 she actually had no visitation with her mom those last two years.

Now, that brings me to today, my daughter is grown up. She has gone off to college at Stephen F. Austin. She is majoring in music therapy. She has reconnected with her Mom. She has a great working relationship with both parents. I to this day, do not speak to my Ex. But I have a wonderful, wonderful daughter out of it. I have since remarried. I have two more kids. So I am a parent of three kids. I got so involved in my daughter's schools, that I eventually was elected to public office and I serve on the HEB ISD school board.

So I see parents every single day in dealing with issues. As you heard in the beginning, I was working on a book and then it turned into a course. And now I deal and work with parents, pretty much as a hobby, but maybe 10-15 hours a week. I do coaching for custody. I connect them with good attorneys. I now run an attorney directory, where I am trying to connect good attorneys with customers through online marketing.

So I bring to the table about 20 years of experience of dealing with everything you can think of. From CPS calls on me. From CPS calls on my wife, Karen. Who I refer to as just an unbelievable awesome stepmom to Caitlyn. So I dealt with about 60 court issues. I dealt with changing an attorney late in it. I dealt with depositions, through home studies, we had judge court cases. We had jury court cases, which are things that are allowed in family court services in Texas, but maybe not allowed in your state.

So you name it, I am by no means an attorney, or not the best legal stuff. But I know what it is like to be the best parent. To be the underdog, to feel totally alone in this. And I want to provide you as many tips as possible to give you the best case of be the best parent that you can be for your kids.

I can tell you now, and it is funny looking back on it, that kids grow up really, really fast. When I was going through this process, I thought the world coming to an end. I never, it felt like time moved really, really, slow. As you can imagine, we dealt with 9-11, and I was really concerned about not getting the opportunity to hug my daughter every night.

I cannot tell you how incredibly awesome it was to be the better parent. To have third party people like teachers, and principals and pediatricians, say, "Oh yea, beyond a shadow of a doubt this guy is a super Dad. He definitely deserved to be the custodial parent of his daughter Caitlyn."

I cannot even begin to tell you what a difference it made in Caitlyn's life living under my house. I cannot tell you how awesome it was to get my life together to date and marry the right person and have more kids. And what an incredible marry you have when you find the right person. There are so many encouraging things I want to tell you. You may

be focused on this moment in time. You may be just looking at it through blinders thinking, "I am never going to make it through this. What am I going to do?" But I just want to encourage you, that "You are going to make it through this. The rest of your life is not totally based on your experience right now." You are going to get through the stigmatize of being a single parent. Perhaps for many of you, you are going to remarry. I am going to help you find the right person. There is the right person out there, somebody who will love and appreciate you.

And this process, it is amazing, as I sit here in 2018 to think that we don't have a better way of getting through this process. But the court systems are slow. Sometimes judges are biased, they have reasons for being the way that they need to be. You just need to traverse through these particular issues, so you can be the very best.

Now, I am not here to help you, if you are not the best parent. If I could honestly look at my Ex and say that she is a better parent than me, I would have not fought her for custody. So the very first premise in everything we are going to do on this podcast, everything we are going to talk about, everything we are going to talk about in interviews with other attorneys, are taking the position that you are the better parent. Because my premise is not that fathers should have custody of their kids. My premise is that the best parents should have custody of their kids.

So, I hope that you will join with me on this journey. It is going to be very, very, exciting. I have outlined the next eleven shows, which will be solo shows, which we will deal with different issues as to: What to do before you file. Can you save your marriage? What it is like to hire the best attorney. Really, really focusing on allowing you to reboot and become the better parent, because the better parent will win. And then, moving up the food chain in regards to dating, remarrying and having friends. And maybe some changes, life changes you need to make. You know divorce and custody is a chance to reidentify who you are as a person.

Then we are going to talk a lot about the judge and the jury system, I call that the People's Court. For many of us it is going to be like traversing through the Matrix, through social workers, putting together evidence and depositions. We are going to talk a lot about the Temporary Orders and the Child Support system and how it varies from state to state.

Then I am going to give you a lot of advice on getting together on what I am going to call, the Rehearsal Dinner, which is getting your witnesses together, your testimonies together, your charts, and maybe your private investigators. We'll have a whole session on things to do and not do in court. We'll talk a lot about the Final Court Hearing and about settling out of court. And things that you can do to encourage this relatively long and expensive process.

Then we're going to talk about what happens after your Final Orders. About what it looks like to win custody or not win custody, what you can do. We'll talk about Contempts and reasons and when you can go back and seek custody. We'll talk about

the reality of getting custody past your final. And then we'll end with some tips about dealing with your Ex moving forward and trying to rebuild that relationship. And the best part about all of this, is we will take the perspective of a non-legal presentation.

And then, we'll move into weekly podcasts of talking with different attorneys and get their advise. And I'll kind of bounce around we'll do several attorneys in each state. That way we can deal with intricacies that are defined for local state in regarding custody. Because custody is a little different from state to state. My experience has all been here in the North Texas area. So we'll start with some attorneys, and maybe if we are lucky we'll get to interview my attorney, who has had about 42 years of experience in Family Court Services. As well as some other attorneys that I have already got on the books to interview for you.

And then, we'll reach out to other attorneys throughout the States based on, I know about 30-40 from different states and those I have worked with in the web development field. And then I am sure through time, we'll also reach out, and you could even recommend some attorneys, that maybe we'll interview and get some really good insight from.

My goal here, and through these podcast, is to help you become a better person. To help you in your child custody pursuit. And to learn some interesting facts about the way custody is done from different attorneys and working with attorneys moving forward. So I want to be an encourager to you, and I am glad that you have joined me.

Please visit www.DaddyGotCustody.com for more information. And subscribe to this that way you will be notified of this moving forward. And if you think that this is a worth wild endeavor or you think, as we move forward, that some of these podcasts are very beneficial, please give me some ratings and some feedback on iTunes.

With that I am very, very excited. I look forward to talking with you in the next episode. it's going to be called, "The Art of War and Is It Worth the Fight." So until next time, I want you to pray for your kids, praise your kids, and love on your kids. Take care.

Announcer: Thanks for listening to the Daddy Got Custody podcast. Please subscribe and visit DaddyGotCustody.com for more information.