

Professionals' Introduction to UpToParents.org: Building Better Outcomes for Families in Crisis and Transition¹

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Click [Here](#) for Judge Michael P. Scopelitis's two-minute explanation of why his jurisdiction is among those requiring use of these resources.

Freedom 22 Foundation has targeted its resources on developing free resources for improving outcomes for families in divorce and other difficult transitions.

1. UpToParents.org and ProudToParent.org afford uniquely engaging help for parents in divorce and paternity cases to build good co-parenting partnerships by focusing on their children's specific needs.
2. WhileWeHeal.org and NoDivorceToday.org offer similar child-focused help to spouses who are working on problems in their marriages.

Over 100,000 parents have used these free resources, now available in both English and Spanish. This article introduces the resources and shows how they can be easily implemented by courts and family professionals to the substantial benefit of families.

I: UpToParents.org and ProudToParent.org in Divorce and Paternity Cases

Experience teaches that the interests of children can quickly become lost in the hurt, anger, fear, and competition common when parents separate. Conversely, and fortunately, all family members typically benefit when parents are helped to notice and address their children's needs.

Indiana attorney and counselor Patrick Brown has captured the hope of this child focus in a remarkable observation: "Parents who agree on one thing will agree on everything, if that one thing is, 'What do we want our children to look like when they're 25?'" This is our experience as well—when parents see and serve their children's best interests, including by building a peaceful, predictable, and respectful co-parenting relationship, they usually cannot help but serve their own best interests as well.

The award-winning,² personalized, and interactive websites UpToParents.org (for use in divorce cases) and ProudToParent.org (for use in paternity cases) afford parents a uniquely engaging opportunity to consider and meet their children's specific needs in times of family crisis.

¹ An electronic copy of this article is the first article on the "Professionals Corner" link of UpToParents.org. All underlined links can be opened from that electronic copy.

²Recognition for these resources includes extensive enthusiastic [Parent Endorsements](#) as well as the ABA Dispute Resolution Section's prestigious "Lawyer as Problem-Solver Award" and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts' "Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award."

Parents can take advantage of this opportunity (1) without cost, (2) at whatever time and speed they wish, and (3) while away from each other and any distracting forensic experience.

Samples of parents' finished work in both English and Spanish are available at [Sample Agreed Commitments](#) and [Sample Exercises Responses](#). More information about the websites is available at [Some Unique Advantages of the UpToParents Family of Resources](#).

Professionals are encouraged to try [UpToParents.org](#) as hypothetical parents in divorce—and to have their staffs do so as well. *Interestingly, many judges and other professionals who have put these websites to use in their jurisdictions started by having their staffs and program personnel try [UpToParents.org](#) and then report on and discuss their reactions.*

The “Professionals Corner” link of [UpToParents.org](#) offers more information, including short memos on the easy and effective use of the websites in a variety of settings.

1. [Courts' and Co-Parenting Educators' Use of UpToParents.org](#).
2. [Improving Family Mediation with UpToParents.org](#).
3. [Supporting Collaborative Practice \(CP\) with UpToParents.org](#).
4. [UpToParents.org and the Co-Parenting Assets and Improvement Review \(C.A.I.R\)](#).

II: *WhileWeHeal.org* and *NoDivorceToday.org* in Marital Separation

Freedom 22 Foundation is also interested in offering parents in troubled marriages, even parents who have already commenced legal proceedings, options other than immediate divorce. To that end we have created [WhileWeHeal.org](#) and [NoDivorceToday.org](#) to help parents focus on making their separations as constructive as possible and avoiding damage to themselves, their children, and any future wish to reconcile.

III: Getting Started

Interested professionals are encouraged to visit and try [UpToParents.org](#) and to contact us with questions about these tools, their power, and their implementation.

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