

New Act reforms child custody rules

By JUDITH HOLZMAN
L.L.B.
Herald Special

The right to custody of a child is the right to exercise the duties and responsibilities that most parents take for granted, such as the right to care for the child, to control the child, and to make decisions about his or her education. The right to access is the right to visit and keep up a relationship with the child. Custody and access are issues which seem to cause parents the greatest anger, frustration, and

Legally Speaking

a CLEO publication



bitterness when their marriage or relationship breaks down.

Last Oct. 1 a new law called the Children's Law Reform Amendment Act, 1982 came into force. The new legislation deals specifically with care and control of children and access rights. The new

law spells out the rules in areas which up till now have been somewhat uncertain. Here are some examples.

Before the Children's Law Reform Amendment Act was passed, both parents had the right to custody of the child unless the court ordered custody to only one parent. That meant that even though the parents were separated, both of them at the same time had the right to the custody of the child. This caused some confusion in situations where, for example, one parent

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Self-defence for women returns to Y

Wen Do, women's self defence, returns to the Georgetown Y as a two-day workshop Jan. 22 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Theresa Green, who has been certified in the Wen Do system, will be returning to instruct the workshop.

Wen Do is a system of self defence designed for women that teaches

awareness, avoidance and reaction to attacks. Wen Do offers ways to deal with harassment and physical attacks.

Register in person at the Y, at 89 Mountainview Rd. S. by Jan. 14. The Y is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mail-in registrations will also be accepted. Call 877-6163 for additional information.



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