

Dad who feared losing his son forever wins in court

A father wanted to keep his son from being ripped from his loving home and whisked out of the country, where he'd never see his son again. With the help of the Law Offices of Jeffery M. Leving Ltd., he gained an important victory in court that keeps him and his son together in the U.S.

Attorney Jeffery M. Leving, founder and president of the firm, will talk about the case on his radio show, the Dads Rights Legal Hour, 9-10 a.m. CDT Saturday, April 3 on power 92.3 FM in Chicago.

Before Dad came to the Leving firm, he was divorced. He had a son, now age 7, and under the divorce decree, the child lived with the mother. However, the boy was recently staying with Dad, while the mother had apparently relocated to Colombia. The boy was thriving while living in Dad's loving and stable home in Illinois. Suddenly, according to court documents, the mother announced to Dad she was taking the boy from him and would bring him to live with her permanently outside the U.S.

"Dad was terrified that he would lose his son forever - and never see him again - so he called me," Leving says. "We went to court and asked the judge to order that the child, a U.S. citizen, stay with Dad, in his warm and nurturing home here in Illinois, and to ban the mother from removing the child from the country. We carefully prepared and strongly argued the case - and we won."

The judge ordered that the child would stay with Dad, and the mother can't take the boy away.

"This is a victory, modified for broadcast, that protects the child from being shlepped to a foreign country, under who-knows-what circumstances, where Dad was worried about the child's safety and well-being," Leving says. "For Dad, it's a big relief: He's gone from fearing he'd never see his child again, to having his son in his life and in his home every day. I'm proud of the great result we got for this dad and his boy."

Leving also will talk about child poverty: We have 10.8 million impoverished children living in the U.S., and Leving has long believed that we can diminish child poverty with paternal involvement. According to the Census Bureau, half the children from father-absent homes are impoverished. I can tell you that keeping divorced, separated and unmarried fathers involved in their children's lives goes a long way toward reducing poverty among children. "Fathers matter," he says.

Additionally, the new expanded child tax credit, part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, is meant to help too and cut child poverty in half by raising the child tax credit from \$2,000 to \$3,000 - \$3,600 for children under 6. A key provision is that half the credit can be received in advance, with monthly checks from the IRS for \$250 or \$300 per child from July through December. This monthly distribution will be a big help for families scraping by - a reliable source of funds for month-to-month expenses, such as food, housing, clothing and school costs.

"I worked with President Biden during his time as vice president. I served on President Obama's National Finance Committee, and I collaborated with Mr. Biden both in Washington and here in Chicago," Leving says. "I'm glad he proposed this measure, pushed it through Congress and signed it into law. Reducing child poverty is good social policy, good economics and good politics. When children are living in poverty, uplifting them is the responsibility of all of us."

Jeffery M. Leving is the founder and president of the [Law Offices of Jeffery M. Leving Ltd.](#) and is an advocate for the rights of fathers. He is the author of *Fathers' Rights, Divorce Wars and How to Be a Good Divorced Dad*. To learn more about Jeffery M. Leving and his latest court victories, follow him on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and view his videos on [YouTube](#).

