

MASS - AFCC

Volume 1

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WELCOME TO MASS - AFCC

More than fifty enthusiastic professionals, including judges, lawyers, mediators and mental health professionals, attended the September 14, 1993 organizational meeting of the Massachusetts Chapter of Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. The reputation of AFCC as well as the need for an interdisciplinary organization dealing with a wide range of family issues accounted for the positive response. Robert Tompkins, the National President of AFCC, and Tim Salius, the technical assistance director and a past President, addressed the group regarding the activities of the national organization and the benefits of membership. The national office of AFCC has been very helpful in launching the Massachusetts Chapter and has provided \$1,000.00 in seed money.

The Massachusetts Chapter has been very active since the initial meeting in September. An interim Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Chapter has met several times; By-laws have been drafted; the first in a series of seminars was held on November 16, 1993; and the first Annual Meeting has been organized for March 15, 1994 at the Marriott in Westboro. A separate meeting announcement and registration form for the Annual Meeting is enclosed in this mailing.

The speaker at the First Annual meeting will be the Honorable Scan Dunphy, First Justice of the Hampshire County Probate Court. Judge Dunphy will be joined by Liz Austin to discuss the mandatory parent education program being

launched in the Hampshire County Probate Court. Educating parents about the effects of divorce on children and appropriate parenting for families in separate households is quickly emerging as a priority nationwide. In Massachusetts many individual groups and agencies are beginning their own programs. Massachusetts has just passed legislation authorizing the Chief Justice of the Probate and Family Court to establish parent education pilot projects in different courts. Judge Dunphy and his court were instrumental in the passage of that legislation. The text of that legislation appears on page 3.

Join us at the Marriott in Westborough on March 15, 1994 to learn more about the Massachusetts Chapter of Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, to share your ideas with people with similar interests and to get the Massachusetts Chapter of AFCC off to a great start. The membership form and the meeting reservation form are enclosed in this mailing. Please feel free to duplicate it and share it with friends and colleagues wishing to join.

I look forward to seeing you on March 15 and working with you thereafter.

The Honorable Arline S. Rotman
Associate Justice of the Worcester
Probate and Family Court