



MISSOURI SENATE

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State Senator Jeff Smith Preparing Legislation to Support Fathers

Senator Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, is currently drafting legislation to help fathers gain access to equal justice concerning visitation and child support issues. He is consulting with the Fathers' Support Center in St. Louis (FSC), a non-profit agency that provides services to help fathers obtain and hold jobs, and commit to cohesive family relationships.

"The Fathers' Support Center is a great resource that strengthens families and has a dramatic impact on our community," Sen. Smith said. "After speaking at their graduation ceremony last year, I was inspired by their great work, and it's one reason I plan to introduce legislation to help more fathers gain visitation rights when the General Assembly convenes in Jefferson City on January 7."

Since its inception in 1998, FSC has served more than 1,500 fathers and their families in the St. Louis area through personal development and family life skills training, a job readiness/retention program, job placement referrals, youth leadership opportunities, fathers' support groups, and male wellness programs.

"We all know a father's role in his children's life is vital," Sen. Smith said. "When fathers take a positive and active role in the care of their children, it sets a foundation for kids to develop into happy, responsible adults."

In recognition of their outstanding community work, FSC will take part in a Thanksgiving dinner hosted by the St. Louis Rams.

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