

## Author, appearances & citations

Cook is the author of "Joint Custody, Sole Custody: A New Statute Reflects a New Perspective" (Conciliation Courts Review, Volume 18, No. 1, June 1980.)

He is also cited in:

Sharing Parenthood After Divorce, Ciji Ware, Viking Press  
Joint Custody & Shared Parenting, Jay Folberg, BNA Books  
How to Forgive Your Ex-husband & Get on With Your Life, Marcia Wootman, Warner Books  
Fathers' Rights, Jon Conine, Walker & Company  
Weekend Fathers, Gerald Silver, Stratford  
Divorce Book for Parents, Vicki Lansky, New American Library  
Help for Children from Infancy to Adulthood, Miriam J. Williams Wilson, Rocky River Publishers  
The Divorce Lawyers, Emily Couric, St Martin's Press, and others.

Congressional testimony, Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate, Jan 24-26, 1984. pgs 295-310, regarding child support enforcement, and other testimony.

Attendee and frequent program participant, association-wide meetings of:

American Bar Association's Family Law Council  
American Orthopsychiatric Association  
Association of Family and Conciliation Courts  
American Psychological Association

Previously, Cook was:

**Executive Director, California Space Shuttle Task Force**, a successful bi-partisan effort to bring the Space Shuttle into being as a nationwide project, to obtain a base-site at Vandenberg, California, and prime contracts for California companies. Appointed by Sen. Alan Cranston and (then) Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke. (1970-1973)

**Producer, public affairs telecasts, KCBS (then KNXT) "Insider/Outsider"**, a five-year weekly series examining the problems of minorities within the city following the "Watts riots". And, producer of "Communism: Myth vs Reality", 38, 1'2 hr programs broadcast by 80 stations analyzing Soviet Union, China, and Communism, subsequently acquired by U.S. government and service academies.

**Staff, The RAND Corporation**, Santa Monica, Calif.-based government policy analysis organization.

For nine years, member of **U.S. Department of State** and **U.S. Information Agency** in the Middle East and in Washington, D.C. (1951-1959)

Foreign Affairs Guidance Officer, USIA News Policy Staff  
Ass't Attache, USIS, American Embassy, Tehran, Iran.

**Executive Vice President, California Business Properties Association**. Cook organized and managed this nonprofit liaison with government for the developers, financiers and constructors of major commercial, business and industrial properties. (1973-1983)

### Military

U.S. Air Corps, 3 years. Cryptographer. (3rd Air Commando Group)  
Seven battle stars, Distinguished Unit Citation. Top Secret clearance.

### Education

Graduate school American University, Beirut, Lebanon  
Undergraduate, B.S., University of California at Los Angeles  
Courses at Geo. Washington Univ Law School, Washington, D.C.



James A. Cook (Photo: 1989)

## **PUBLIC POLICY-MAKING IN FAMILY-LAW**

### **GUIDANCE FOR LEGISLATORS**

How to rectify need and effect,  
with goals and rationality,  
in setting public policy through legislation.



### **CONSIDER**

During marriage, issues eventually resulting in divorce often include:

- \* Dominance (and/or personal autonomy)
- \* Financial
- \* Sex

### **CAUTION:**

Following divorce, be sure the legislative proposal (or current law) is not merely a continuation of the above arguments under the guise of using the legislature to circumvent the judiciary by one person against another.

? Does the proposed legislation (or present law) create:

- \* Dominance by one sex over the other?
- \* Financial extortion of one sex by the other?
- \* Child-rearing by one parent, or one sex, at the expense of the other?

Protect the three family law goals of the last half of the 20th Century:

1. No fault. (Eliminate fault-finding to justify, or punish, in divorce.)
2. Equality.  
Equality is the single most dominant political and social imperative of the past forty years for today's adults.

The American system is extending equality for the races, for the sexes, for the faiths, for parents and for children.

3. "Best interests" as the criteria for deciding child custody.

Evaluate family law legislative proposals to assure that they:

- do not engender fault-finding,

## CONSEQUENCES OF SOLE CUSTODY

Possible legacy in view of:

1. Availability of joint custody.
2. Alternate but excluded parent proposing joint custody.
3. Awareness by children of joint custody.

Sole custody contributes to:

- Uneasiness among young children.
- Skepticism among older children.
- Reanalysis as adults about a sole custody childhood.

For the parent imposing a decision for sole custody, the following is worth considering:

- Recognition and reactions by the child.

**ARTIFICIAL RESTRAINTS** Artificially kept away from the non-custodial parent's residence for any meaningful residence or period of time.

**COMPARISONS** Comparative situation, in relation to that of families or lifestyle of peers.

**IDEALIZED** Tends to make an ideal, or saint, of the ostracized parent and stimulates sympathetic consideration for the noncustodial parent.

**'CRAZY-MAKING'** 'Crazy-making' insofar as 'words of sweetness' not being compatible with an ostracization and isolation of the non-custodial parent. Words and actions don't correlate; leads to skepticism about such a parent.

**RESENTMENT** Arbitrariness or rigidity tend to characterize the covetous custodial parent. Adolescent revolt is heightened. Natural inclinations of independence and teen-age revolt are stimulated by the existence of an obvious reason to resent the covetous sole custodian.

**IDENTITY-SEARCH** Lifelong search for identity, speculation about the missing portion of ones parental self.

**PROMISCUITY & LONGING** Promiscuity and sexual activity is comparatively higher and earlier among children of non-nuclear families than among those with a close, consistent, and unobstructed contact with the alternate parent.

**VISITATION RESENTMENT** Scheduled visitation leads to resentment. Disdain for a control agreement conceived by one parent for imposition upon the other without consideration of the child's independent preferences.

**BLAME** Feelings of loss and abandonment shifted to blame of the custodial parent for having induced or contributed to the problem.



THE  
JOINT  
CUSTODY  
ASSOCIATION

a non-profit association concerned with the joint custody of children, and related issues of divorce, including research, information dissemination and legal and counseling practices

**DISTURBANCE** Disturbed relations with others, particularly in close relations with the opposite sex, which may lead to a need for professional analysis later on that justifies a resentment of the sole custodian.

**LAW & JUSTICE DISDAIN** Forces or induces the sole custodian parent to place the responsibility, or blame, or wisdom of the decision on the judge or court...thereby inducing skepticism in the child about the equitability of the court system.

**MANIPULATION OF POWER** Among self-willed children growing to adulthood, serves as a demonstration that manipulation of the court system can be used to enhance or impose power, to the disadvantage of otherwise blameless or naive people.

**REJUSTIFICATION** Requires a continual rejustification, by the sole custodian, to the child about the unworthiness of the excluded parent to participate in joint custody. If the justifications being given are not borne-out by the conduct of the excluded parent, increased skepticism of the custodial parent may result.

**DEPENDENCY** Induces a fawning, catering, 'feeding' and 'spoiling' by the sole custodian of the child in order to cultivate the child's dependency on that custodian.

**UNWARRANTED EXPECTATIONS** Could lead to such a unilateral or selfish adulthood that reminders will be forthcoming about the failings of the sole custodian parent and the influences that spawned unwarranted expectation in adulthood.

**RAGE** Cultivates rage which, because of the powerlessness of childhood, is constrained until adulthood triggers or unleashes a hidden recognition of the rage. Resentment of a controlling sole custodian is expressed against someone else who 'reminds' the former child of childhood rage-resentments.