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Court order prevents child from being removed from the country; dad feared he would never see her again

CHICAGO – “It is shocking how often someone threatens or attempts to take a child out of the country to live permanently, against the wishes of the father,” says Chicago-based family law attorney Jeffery M. Leving. “Our firm is contacted by desperate fathers in need of help in this situation throughout the year.”

A recent case involves a divorcing couple and their 11-year-old girl. The mother told Dad that she plans to take the child and move to her native country in the Caribbean – and she plans to do this regardless of what Dad, or even the court, has to say about it.

Leving will talk about this case on his weekly radio show, the Dads’ Rights Legal Hour, 9-10 a.m. CST Saturday, Jan. 7 on Power 92.3 FM.

“Dad contacted us frantic, not knowing if or when his beloved daughter would be dragged to the airport,” says Leving, founder and president of the Law Offices of Jeffery M. Leving Ltd. “He was despondent, because he has always been an involved, caring and supportive father, who, since the parents’ breakup, has encouraged his daughter to maintain a loving relationship with her mother. Meanwhile, Dad said it appears the mother is trying to sever his relationship with his daughter.”

The Leving legal team brought this emergency before the judge who’s hearing the divorce. They presented the facts and cited the relevant law – and won. The judge granted an order prohibiting the mother from removing the child from the state of Illinois, and the U.S., period – a great victory, modified for broadcast, that brings peace of mind to a father who feared he would never see his little girl again.

“Divorce can be hard enough on children and parents,” Leving says. “They don’t need this added drama. Thanks to our tenacious representation and the judge’s wise decision, this loving father and child will not lose each other.”

Leving also will speak about an issue he raised in a recent article published in the Chicago Tribune regarding foster care: The fact that parents are billed by the state for child support if their children are in the child welfare system.

“The vast majority of child welfare cases involve not abuse but neglect, which is often caused by poverty, such as a parent not being able to afford food, clothing or adequate housing,” Leving says. “Taking children away from their homes on the basis of ‘neglect,’ and then sending their desperately poor parents a bill for child support, is heartless.”

Jeffery M. Leving is founder and president of the [Law Offices of Jeffery M. Leving Ltd.](#), and is a strong advocate. He is the author of Fathers’ Rights, Divorce Wars and How to be a Good Divorced Dad, the latter of which was endorsed by President Obama and by Cardinal Francis E. George, then the archbishop of Chicago. To learn more about Leving and his latest court victories, follow him on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and view his videos on [YouTube](#).

