



**GALLAGHER, STELZER & YOSICK, LTD.**  
**Attorneys at Law**

216 South Lynn Street  
Bryan, OH 43506  
Phone: 419-636-3166  
Fax: 419-636-5743  
[www.nwohiolaw.com](http://www.nwohiolaw.com)

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YOSICK, LTD.**  
**Attorneys at Law**

## **WORDS FOR DIVORCED PARENTS TO LIVE BY**



216 South Lynn Street  
Bryan, Ohio 43506  
Tel: 419-636-3166  
Email: [firm@nwohiolaw.com](mailto:firm@nwohiolaw.com)

**Dear Ann Landers: A friend sent this to me, and I hope you will find room for it in your column. It was said by Judge Michael J. Haas of Cass County, Minnesota to divorcing parents. This quote is from the official transcript of the divorce proceedings.—  
K.W., Onalaska, Wis.**

Dear K.W.: With so many marriages today ending up in divorce court, your contribution will help parents learn something truly valuable. Here are Judge Haas' words of wisdom:

“Your children have come into this world because of the two of you. Perhaps you two made lousy choices as to whom you decided to be the other parent. If so, that is your problem and your fault.

No matter what you think of the other party—or what your family thinks of the other party—these children are one half of each of you.

Remember that—because every time you tell your child what an ‘idiot’ his father is, or what a ‘fool’ his mother is, or how bad the absent parent is, or what terrible things that person has done, you are telling the child that half of him is bad.

That is an unforgivable thing to do to a child. That is not love. That is possession. If you do that to your children, you will destroy them as surely as if you had cut them into pieces, because that is what you are doing to their emotions.

I sincerely hope that you do not do that to your children. Think more about your children, and less about yourselves. And make yours a selfless kind of love, not foolish or selfish, or your children will suffer.”

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