
USER'S GUIDE



Dad's House, Mom's House

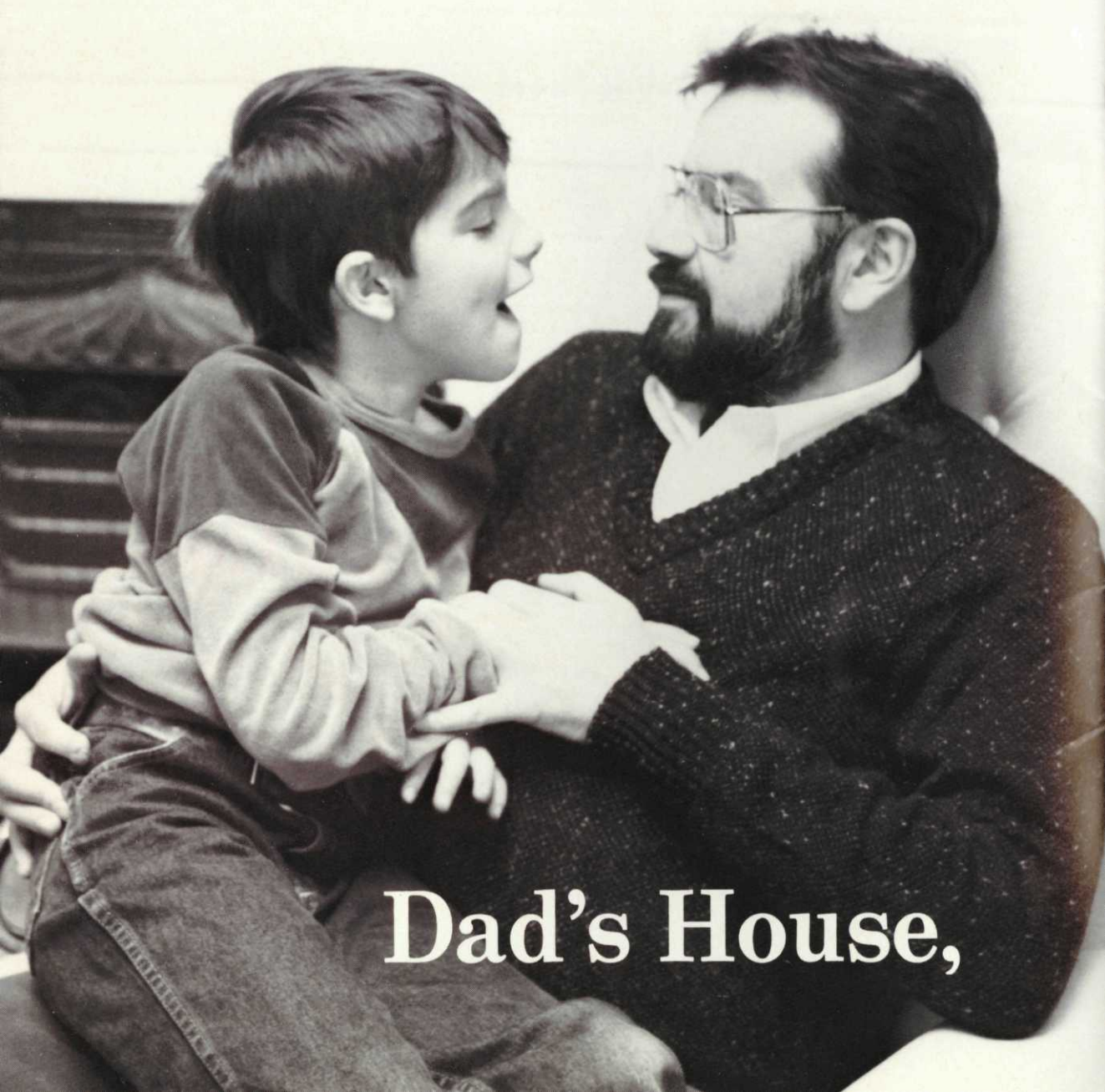
A FILM ABOUT
JOINT CUSTODY

Produced by
The National Film Board of Canada
Ontario Production Studio

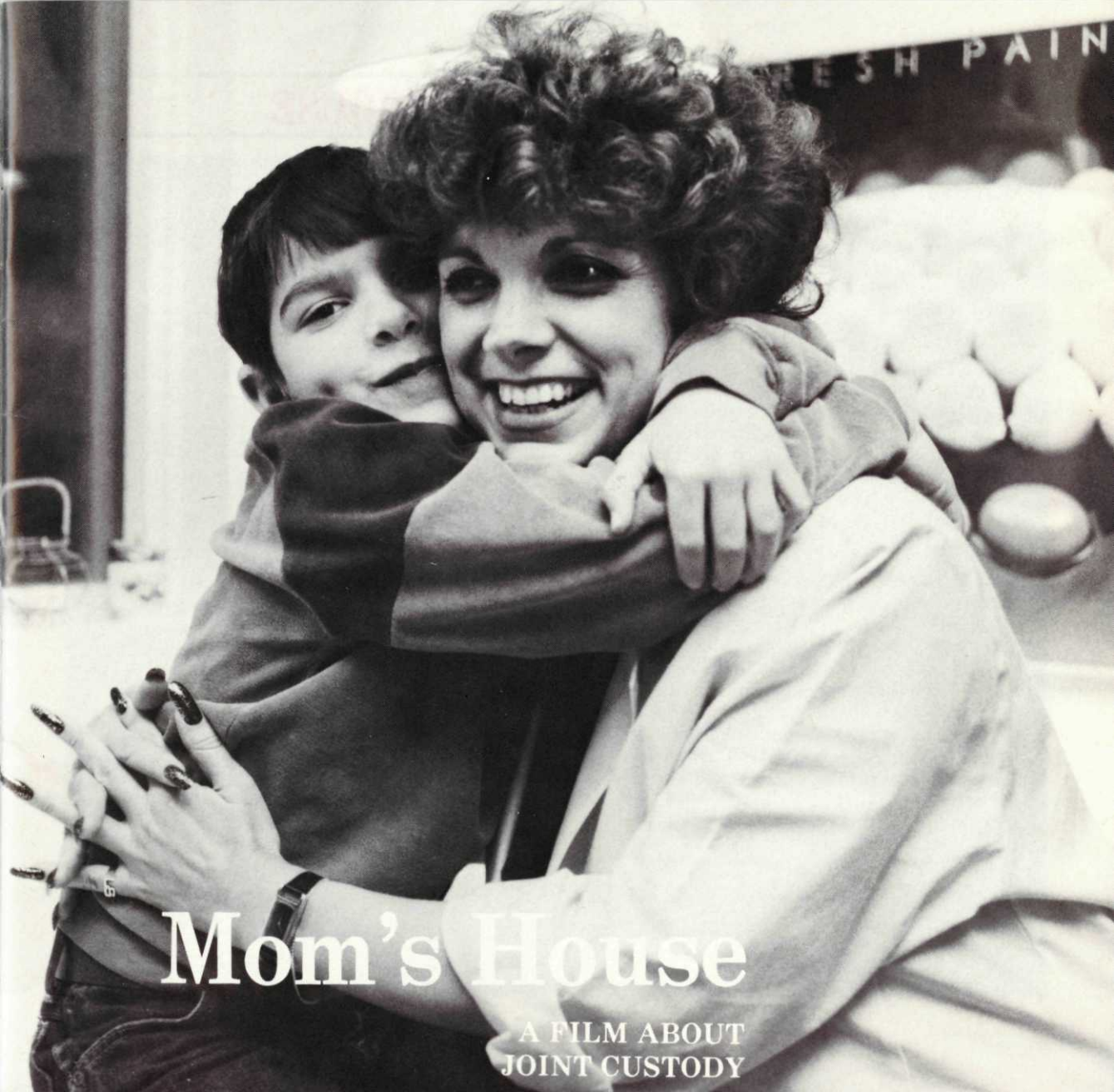


National
Film Board
of Canada

Office
national du film
du Canada



Dad's House,



Mom's House

A FILM ABOUT
JOINT CUSTODY

DAD'S HOUSE, MOM'S HOUSE

MOTHER:

"I think that in a divorce one of the things that's hardest for the kids to grasp is the fact that a parent is leaving them. It's as if they were being cut off at the knees."

DAUGHTER:

"I don't think I could stand to live with either my Dad and miss my Mom that much, or live with my Mom and just not see my Dad at all. I phone my Dad just to talk sometimes. Or, I'm at my Dad's house, and sometimes I'll just phone my Mom and say, you know, 'What's going on? What are you doing?'"

FATHER:

"The time that I miss most with my children is the incidental time, where everyone's busy doing something else and you simply have the presence of your child. I understand, sure, the parent with whom the children reside has all the problems—'brush your teeth every night,' 'have you got your homework done?' 'stop fighting,' 'turn off the T.V.!' All those kinds of things. But I don't know... I'd take more of that I think."

LAWYER:

*"Lawyers, on the whole, seem to share the belief that if parents could co-operate regarding their children, they would not be divorcing in the first place. Adults divorce for many reasons related to adult needs and satisfactions, but conflict stemming from the spouse's **parental** behaviour is not among the more prevalent reasons expressed for obtaining a divorce."*

PSYCHIATRIST:

"The children still have a dad and a mom, and dad's parents and mom's parents; they're connected to two families and that's important to them. So somehow it's got to be a divorce for the parents, or a separation for the parents, but as much as possible not for the kids. That's the agonizing difficulty for people in these kinds of things, to see that one's own interests are very different from the children's interests."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Why Is This Film Important?	4
Audiences for the Film	5
Some Prescreening Questions to Consider	5
Post-screening Questions for Discussion	6
Why Joint Custody Now?	7
Aspects of Joint Custody:	8
Legal Considerations	8
What is Family Mediation?	10
Economic Considerations	11
Emotional and Psychological Considerations	11
What Does Joint Custody Mean for the Parents?	13
Resources for Children and Parents	14
Books About Divorce and Joint Custody	15
Related Films	16
Acknowledgments	18
About the Filmmaker	18
NFB Offices in Canada	19

WHY IS THIS FILM IMPORTANT?

DAD'S HOUSE, MOM'S HOUSE explores the issue of joint custody by focusing on two divorced couples who believe that co-parenting is in the best interests of their children. Scenes from their daily lives show how shared custody works in practice, while everyone involved comments on the pros and cons of such an arrangement.

In contrast, we see a third couple try, but ultimately fail, to settle the question of custody with the help of a mediator. They pay a heavy price, both emotionally and financially, for resorting to litigation; no one comes out a winner, their daughter least of all.

Legal and mental health professionals who favour joint custody explain why they believe it to be an alternative worthy of serious consideration.

- During the past fifteen years, the divorce rate has doubled.
- Today, statistics indicate, more than one out of three marriages will end in divorce.
- Over the last ten years, nearly half a million Canadian children have been members of divorcing families.

Divorce is not just a social phenomenon: it has emotional, legal, economic and psychological consequences. And it touches the lives of a great many children, parents and grandparents. Yet in almost all cases of marriage breakdown

where children are involved, traditional custody arrangements prevail. One parent, almost always the mother, “gets” the child, along with all the attendant rights and responsibilities of parenthood; the other parent “visits,” often in rigidly parcelled-out allotments of time.

With the traditional sole custody arrangement, research shows, children often suffer, cut off from continuous contact with one of their parents—contact which is vital to their emotional and social growth. The non-custodial parents suffer, deprived of ongoing involvement in their children's lives. And the custodial parents, with the 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week job, feel burdened and frustrated by increased emotional and financial obligations.

Is there no better way? Increasingly, shared parenting or joint custody is seen as an alternative which can allow both parents to participate actively in their children's lives, an alternative which helps to reassure their children that marriages may end, but parents are forever.

AUDIENCES FOR THE FILM

DAD'S HOUSE, MOM'S HOUSE will be of value and interest to a number of different audiences:

- **Separated Parents:** to raise the issues of custody and access, and suggest ways of minimizing the negative effects of divorce on their children.
- **Legal Professionals:** for judges and lawyers, at conferences and legal seminars, and for students of family law.
- **Mental Health Professionals:** the film can be used by psychologists, social workers, family counsellors and mediators for pre- and in-service training. They, in turn, can use it in client-counselling sessions.
- **Teachers, School Counsellors:** for pre- and in-service training, to sensitize them to the types of living arrangements in which their students might be involved.
- **High School Students:** in Family Life courses, to stimulate discussion about divorce and alternate family structures.
- **University Students:** in sociology and psychology courses, particularly sociology of the family.

SOME PRESCREENING QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Shared custody is a subject about which people tend to have very definite opinions. Before looking at **DAD'S HOUSE, MOM'S HOUSE**, it is worth considering what one's own biases and unconscious assumptions might be.

Do you agree or disagree with the following?:

1. **The mother-child relationship is more important to the child's well-being than the father-child relationship.**
2. **Women are by nature more nurturing than men, and mothers are more committed to parenting than fathers.**
3. **Above all, children need stability. Spending time in two separate households will just confuse them.**
4. **If a man and a woman were unable to co-operate as spouses, they will never be able to make a success of shared parenting.**

POST-SCREENING QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. “**T**here’s no magic formula. It’s just to keep remembering that it’s the most important thing for the children.” After seeing the film, in what ways do you think joint custody might be beneficial for the children? For each of the parents? For the extended family?
2. What are some of the key elements needed to make a joint custody arrangement work?
3. What might be some of the initial difficulties in setting up such an arrangement so that it is workable? Discuss this from the children’s point of view, and from the parents’ point of view.
4. “What is important is that kids not get caught in a crossfire between parents, where they don’t feel it’s legitimate to love one parent or to love another parent.” How does shared custody minimize loyalty conflict for the child?
5. What are the situations in which joint custody might not be a viable alternative?
6. The film presents us with two families for whom joint custody is an established reality. Joe and Shirley, however, remind us of how difficult it can be to reach a satisfactory agreement. Joe seems eager to consider joint custody, but Shirley is reluctant. What might be some of the reasons for her hesitation to share custody of Melanie? What are the consequences for Shirley and Joe of resorting to litigation?
7. Split residency is the aspect of shared parenting that many people find most problematic. Yet both couples in the film talk about the ways in which having two homes is actually beneficial for their children. What are the benefits? Do you find them convincing?
8. Are there ways of breaking the news of impending divorce to children that will minimize their shock and anxiety?
9. What are some of the attitudes and presumptions of legal and mental health practitioners that can influence their reactions to the notion of joint custody?
10. The pros and cons of sole custody have not been subjected to the same searching scrutiny as those of joint custody. Why not?

WHY JOINT CUSTODY NOW?

“Where each parent is deemed to be a ‘good enough’ parent, and each supports and encourages the child’s relationship with the other, there is no basis in either psychology or law for making a rational choice between parents. In these families, the lawyer, judge and mental health professional can most effectively address the child’s best interests by encouraging each parent to take an active role, post-divorce, in the child’s life, by expecting that they share both parental responsibility and gratification on an ongoing basis in two separate homes.”

— Dr. Joan Kelly, Clinical Psychologist and co-author of **Surviving the Breakup: How Children Cope with Divorce**

In Canada, the legal presumption in cases of divorce is that one parent will have custody or control, while the other, visitation rights. More than 80% of the time, the custodial parent is the mother.

Historically, this was not always so. Until the beginning of this century, sole custody was awarded to the father as head of the family. Women, as well as children, were seen as the property of men and, as such, were legally subservient. But increasing urbanization and industrialization broke down the extended family system, and fathers of the new “nuclear” families often had to leave their homes in order to work. As a result, child rearing was mainly done by mothers,

who gradually came to be seen as the proper custodians of underage children, especially very young children.

Today, this doctrine of the “tender years” still carries great weight, particularly among lawyers and judges, when it comes to determining custody arrangements. It is, however, based upon certain assumptions: namely, that mothers are not only more suitable to nurture their children than fathers, but also that they will be at home most of the day, every day, exercising those particular abilities, and that children have only one “psychological” parent who gives them their essential sense of security.

These assumptions are not borne out in reality. The divorce rate continues to soar and so does the percentage of women working outside the home. As traditional definitions of male-female roles slowly begin to change, more men are becoming actively involved in the day-to-day rearing of their children. When their marriages break up, these fathers are not as willing to surrender parental rights and responsibilities. Furthermore, divorce research concludes that children do have two psychological parents and need both on an ongoing basis.

Increasingly, there is a move to try to settle the question of custody through mediation rather than litigation. The adversarial approach tends to discourage, first, cooperation between divorcing

parents and, second, ongoing contact with both parents that is so essential for the children.

It is for all the above reasons, and others as well, that more and more people are investigating joint custody as a possible alternative.



ASPECTS OF JOINT CUSTODY

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is no one simple definition of joint custody, partly because the term can mean almost anything that the parties involved want it to mean. In general, parents with a joint custody agreement continue to share the rights and responsibilities of child rearing, even though a divorce or separation has taken place.

A partial sample of such an agreement reads as follows:

The husband and wife agree and undertake that in all questions relating to the custody, maintenance, education and general well-being of the children, the children's interests shall at all times be paramount, and the husband and wife agree and undertake that in all matters they shall place their own separate convenience and interests second to the convenience and interest of the children.

The husband and wife shall conscientiously respect the rights of one another regarding their children. The husband and wife shall continue to instill in the children respect for both their parents and grandparents and neither the husband nor the wife shall by any act, omission or innuendo in any way tend or attempt to alienate

the children from either parent. The children shall be taught to continue to love and respect their parents.

This particular agreement also specifies where the children's primary residence will be, and calls for a generous and flexible division of time with the children.

It is important to note that **shared legal custody** and **shared physical custody** are not one and the same thing. In fact, split residency, where the child's time is divided equally between two parents, is not the norm in most shared custody arrangements. Some couples prefer to participate equally in decisions about medical matters, education, moral and religious upbringing and still have the child live primarily with one parent.

Whatever time-sharing arrangement is adopted, the spirit behind such agreements is that the children know that they still have two loving parents actively involved in their day-to-day lives.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. In the film, Linda says that the lawyer tried to "foist" sole custody on them. How important a role does the lawyer play with respect to the eventual agreement?

2. Do traditional legal arrangements regarding custody and access protect the rights of the parent or the rights and needs of the child? How do these needs and rights differ? What might custody and access look like from the child's point of view?

3. What difference would it make to have a presumption for joint custody rather than sole custody?



WHAT IS FAMILY MEDIATION?

The breakup of a marriage is a volatile, at times deeply painful, process which can wring human emotions dry. At the same time there is a legal component, since it is the state which must officially terminate the original marriage relationship. It is this particular mixture of personal conflict and concrete practical concerns regarding finances and property that make divorce-related disputes so difficult to resolve. Increasingly, the work of trying to settle such disputes is becoming the province of the family mediator.

Mediation is a counselling process in which a neutral third person tries to facilitate an agreement between disputing parties by helping them clarify the issues in question and examine possible alternatives so that they may devise their own solution. Emotional issues blocking the parents' ability to solve their problems may be dealt with in the mediation process.

Mediators usually abide by certain ground rules, such as the condition that all communications in the process are confidential and cannot be used in any ensuing court case. Where children are involved, the mediation process is child-focused and concerned for the child's well-being. Unlike litigation, mediation is concerned with **voluntary** settlements in which all the people involved concur. Meetings with the mediator are brief (one

to one and a half hours as a rule) and it normally takes four to six sessions to arrive at an acceptable compromise.

Many mediators are trained social workers or psychologists; however, their expertise does not do away with the need for legal representation during the mediation process. When both parties have their own lawyer, they can feel reassured and protected with regard to their own legal rights. Thus, agreements reached have a better chance of being considered fair by both parties. Statistics indicate that in cases where people have worked out their own mediated settlement, there is a much lower level of litigation in the courts.

In recognition of this fact, the federal Department of Justice has granted funds to establish a national organization that aims to promote family mediation. Family Mediation Canada is an interdisciplinary association of mediators, lawyers, judges and other professionals dedicated to furthering mediation and to finding ways of lessening the negative impact of marriage breakdown.

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

One of the most widespread post-divorce problems is the high incidence of default on support payments. Family courts are clogged with custodial parents (almost always women), desperately trying to force former spouses to meet their financial obligations. Many of these non-custodial parents have limited or no access to their children and therefore feel less inclined to assist them financially. Research suggests that joint custody helps to minimize such default.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How might shared parenting ease the financial pressures on both parents?
2. Do both parties have to be economically self-sufficient for joint custody to succeed? It is worth mentioning that though Linda and Bill split all of Andrei's expenses 50/50, Jim, who earns more than Heather, helps defray her expenses when the girls are living with her.
3. How does the economic situation of each parent affect the relationship with their children in joint or sole custody arrangements?

EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

CHILDREN OF DIVORCE STUDY

In order to understand how normal children react to their parents' divorce, California psychologists Joan Kelly and Judith Wallerstein studied 60 families with 131 children over a five-year period. Some of the most important findings of this major research project can be summarized as follows:

- The children were very dissatisfied with the traditional visiting arrangements, and consistently asked for more time with the non-custodial parent (who was usually the father).
- The children who were best adjusted five years after their parents' divorce were those who had the most contact with both their parents, and who continued to feel that both parents still cared for them and wanted to be with them.
- Those children who, after five years, had infrequent or erratic contact with their non-custodial parent showed marked signs of psychological distress. These included depression, a loss of self-esteem and the feeling that they weren't lovable. Typically, the children blamed themselves for the parent's absence, feeling that in some way they weren't worthy of the parent's attention.

- Children were well able to cope with differences in lifestyle and discipline in two different households as long as those differences weren't extreme.

COMMON OBJECTIONS TO JOINT CUSTODY

There are a number of common objections to joint custody, many of which have to do with the concept of shared physical custody. These concerns tend to be voiced as follows:

Assumption:

What children need most of all after the upheaval of divorce is a sense of stability that can best be provided by having one home and one primary parent. Children who have more than one principal residence will feel confused and emotionally insecure.

There is a tendency to confuse **geographical stability with psychological stability**. The sense of security that comes from being involved with both parents on an ongoing basis does much to allay children's fear of abandonment and helps to lessen their grief over the changes in their family life. There is obviously no need in such a situation to idealize the absent parent, nor to blame the custodial parent for such an absence. Benefits like these outweigh the complications caused by moving back and forth.

Assumption:

For young children, especially, absence from the mother will cause profound separation anxiety. Therefore it is not a

good idea for preschool children to spend a weekend or even a night at their father's home.

The mother is certainly extremely important in the young child's life. But recent research has shown that the father, especially if he has played a nurturing role with his children, is more important than was previously believed. Even in young infants and toddlers, the sudden absence of the father will cause real distress and anxiety. Continued and frequent contact, such as overnight and weekend visits, has a lot to do with how well the child copes with the changed situation.

Assumption:

Children will be terribly confused by having to cope with differences in style, personality and attitudes if they spend significant amounts of time with both parents.

Children in two-parent families have to cope with these differences too, a fact which does not seem to cause great anxiety. Unless the differences are so extreme as to cause conflict for the child, it is parental anger over the differences, rather than the differences themselves, that may be problematic.

WHAT DOES JOINT CUSTODY MEAN FOR THE PARENTS?

THE JOINT CUSTODY PROJECT: UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Researchers at the School of Social Work, under the guidance of Dr. Howard Irving, interviewed over 200 couples who had been sharing custody of their children anywhere from six months to twelve years. For 85% of the respondents, the arrangement was highly satisfactory.

Few of those interviewed mentioned child care or child rearing as having any bearing on the breakup of their marriage. In most cases, the option of sharing custody of the children was suggested by one of the spouses, rather than by any professionals involved. The decision was made on the grounds that it was in the best interests of the children or that it ensured equality of parenting.

Preliminary findings of the study suggest that:

- Shared parenting is indeed a viable alternative, but it is not for everyone; it requires that parents be flexible, mature and capable of setting aside any marital conflicts for the sake of their children. In fact, most of the respondents felt that they were able to do this very well even though, in many cases, they did not especially like their former spouses. They succeeded by focusing their discussions solely on their children.

- Contrary to the accepted belief that shared custody is an option only for the rich and well-educated, the data show that co-parenting is a possible alternative for working-class couples as well. Fully a third of the respondents earned less than \$20,000 annually, and a quarter reported high school completion or less.
- Strong commitment to parenting the children was seen by the low relitigation rate among shared parenting couples and by the low numbers of people who reneged on their financial responsibilities.
- Almost all the people interviewed felt strongly that shared parenting was indeed different from sole custody with liberal access, and that this difference was very important to them. Joint custody affirmed their legal equality and enabled them to share in decision-making.

SOME OTHER POINTS WORTH NOTING:

- Shared parenting sidesteps the “Santa Claus” syndrome where all the treats come from the non-custodial parent, while the custodial parent gets to dish out all the discipline.
- Kelly’s and Wallerstein’s study showed that shared parenting significantly reduced the amount of post-divorce depression suffered by fathers, and offered

mothers significant relief from physical, emotional and financial obligations.

For some parents, shared custody appears to have certain drawbacks, however:

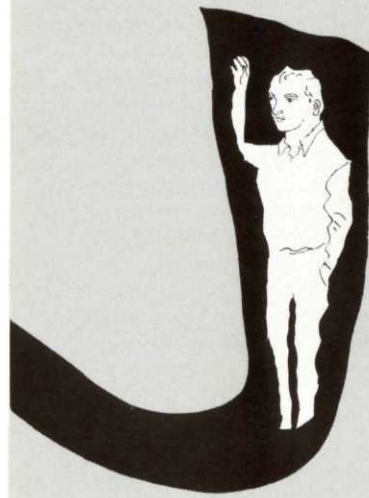
- Shared custody may be seen as a loss of power, especially by women who consider themselves the wronged party or who think of child rearing as their main task in life.
- Shared custody requires that the divorced parents stay in touch with one another and live in reasonably close proximity to ensure a continuity of school and friendships for the children.



RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

It is worth knowing that many Family Service Associations across the country run programmes to assist families and individuals undergoing separation and divorce. They may offer mediation counselling, focusing on custody and access, and sponsor group sessions for children and parents during the breakup of the marriage. Early intervention helps children, especially, adjust with less grief to the changed family circumstances.

Courts that deal with family matters are also setting up mediation services.



BOOKS ABOUT DIVORCE AND JOINT CUSTODY

FOR PRESCHOOLERS:

Sinberg, Janet. *Divorce Is a Grown-up Problem*. New York: Avon Books, 1978.

Stinson, Kathy. *Mom and Dad Don't Live Together Anymore*. Toronto: Annick Press, 1984.

FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN:

Cleary, Beverley. *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. New York: Dell, 1984.

Fitzhugh, Louise. *Sport*. New York: Dell, 1980.

Gardner, Richard. *The Boys' and Girls' Book About Divorce*. New York: Bantam Books, 1970.

Jong, Erica. *Megan's Book About Divorce*. New York: N.A.L., 1984.

Kalb, J. and Viscott, D. *What Every Kid Should Know*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1974.

Ontario. Ministry of the Attorney General, 1984. *Where Do I Stand? A Child's Legal Guide to Separation and Divorce*.

FOR ADOLESCENTS:

Danziger, Paula. *The Divorce Express*. New York: Dell, 1982.

Robson, Bonnie. *My Parents Are Divorced Too*. New York: Dorset Publishing, 1979.

The unit at Fayerweather School. *The Kids' Book About Divorce*. New York: Vantage Books, 1982.

FOR ADULTS:

Bohanan, Paul. *All The Happy Families*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1981.

Folberg, Jay, ed. *Joint Custody and Shared Parenting*. Washington, D.C., 1984.

Galper, Miriam. *Joint Custody and Co-parenting: Sharing Your Child Equally*. Philadelphia: Running Press, 1980.

Gardner, Richard. *Parents' Book About Divorce*. New York: Doubleday, 1977.

Goldstein, Dr. Sol. *Divorced Parenting: How to Make It Work*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill, 1982.

Irving, Howard H. *Divorce Mediation: The Rational Alternative*. Toronto: Personal Library, 1980.

Ricci, Isolina. *Mom's House, Dad's House*. New York: Macmillan, 1980.

Roman, M. and Haddad, W. *The Disposable Parent: The Case for Joint Custody*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1978.

Wallerstein, J. and Kelly, J. *Surviving the Breakup: How Children and Parents Cope with Divorce*. New York: Basic Books, 1980.

Ware, Ciji. *Sharing Custody after Divorce*. New York: Viking Press, 1982.

This bibliography is, of necessity, a limited one, but for those who are interested in further research into the subject there are articles in publications such as the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, *Family Law Review*, and the *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*.



RELATED FILMS

Except for *DAD'S HOUSE*, *MOM'S HOUSE*, there are no Canadian films specifically about shared custody. There are, however, a number of productions about divorce which could be very helpful. Some of these are:

CATHERINE FINDS HER BALANCE

Dist: Magic Lantern 25 min., 1984.

Part of the *Kids of Degrossi Street* series. Catherine is caught in a struggle between her father with whom she now lives and her mother who is contesting the separation agreement. She feels that somehow she is the cause of their problems and that she must choose between them. The issue comes to a head when both parents want to attend a gymnastic meet in which she is a participant.

DIVORCE AND OTHER MONSTERS

Dist: Gordon Watt 21 min., 1980.

Sandy struggles to cope with the feelings unleashed by her parents' recent divorce. Discussions with her friends, teachers and parents help convince her that she is not to blame, and that no matter what she does there is no hope for a reconciliation. She also learns that by talking about the "monsters" in her life she can more easily deal with them.

DIVORCE: A TEENAGE PERSPECTIVE

Dist: Magic Lantern 15 min.

In high school support groups, older children of divorce find help in knowing that

their problems are not unique, and discuss ways of adjusting to the changes in their lives.

DIVORCE AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Dist: Magic Lantern 18 min.

Stresses the importance of communication in families, especially where divorce is imminent. Realistic vignettes reassure the child that she is not alone, that there is a way to cope with the frustration and sorrow, and that divorce is not an end to the family but a regrouping.

HOW ABOUT SATURDAY?

Dist: Magic Lantern 20 min., 1978

A dramatic portrayal, from the child's point of view, of the divorce situation. Opens the way for discussion about the child's feelings of abandonment, anger and guilt. Presents divorce as a total family problem and indicates the importance of dealing with the child effectively.

IT'S JUST BETTER

Dist: NFB 15 min., 1982. C 0182 066

Ten-year-old Shawn Peter Dwyer shares his life with his mother and nine brothers and sisters. They may not have much money but their lives are a testament to the value of team effort, self-reliance and imagination.

PRINCESS

Dist: International Telefilm Enterprises 28 min., 1980.

Teenaged Laurie seems to have it all—brains, popularity, an adoring boyfriend, a little brother she idolizes. Then her world is shattered when her parents announce that they are getting a divorce.

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW

Dist: International Telefilm Enterprises 15 min., 1978.

Focuses on a 12-year-old boy and his perceptions about his parents' recent divorce.

THE UMPIRE

Dist: NFB 17 min., 1985. C 0185 002

Phillip, a 9-year-old baseball fan, learns that his parents are separating. The film is a warm and humorous treatment of how Phillip copes with the situation in a resourceful and positive way.

THE WAY IT IS

Dist: NFB 24 min., 1982. C 0182 097

A dramatic film about a 12-year-old girl who slowly comes to terms with the fact of her parents' separation. It is about painful emotions, the difficulties of communicating within a family, and the need to cope with an unalterable situation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

DAD'S HOUSE, MOM'S HOUSE

Director: Lyn Wright

Producer: John Kramer

Executive Producer: John Spotton

DAD'S HOUSE, MOM'S HOUSE: USER'S GUIDE

Writer: Arlene Moscovitch

Artist: Gail Geltner

Designer: Nancy Treml Studios Ltd.

Arlene Moscovitch is a Toronto-based media producer, consultant and writer. A former teacher and editor, she also worked for seven years as the Education Officer for the National Film Board's Ontario region.

The writer wishes to thank Lyn Wright and Helen Goudge for their insightful contributions to this guide.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Lyn Wright's varied career has encompassed work as an actress, writer, researcher and director of film and video documentaries. A native of Sydney, Australia, who came to Canada during Expo '67, Lyn moved from her first love, drama, to directing during the early 1970s. She has produced videotapes and films for organizations as diverse as Toronto Women's Educational Media, the National Film Board's Challenge for Change Program, the CBC, CUPE, and the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

The subject of her latest film, **DAD'S HOUSE, MOM'S HOUSE**, was inspired by her own experience as a divorced parent sharing custody. Lyn is presently researching a film about abuse of the elderly.

NFB OFFICES IN CANADA

DAD'S HOUSE, MOM'S HOUSE is available from the following National Film Board Offices:

ONTARIO

Regional Office
1 Lombard Street,
Toronto, Ont.
M5C 1J6
(416) 973-9110

First Place Hamilton
10 West Avenue South
Hamilton, ONT.
L8N 3Y8
(416) 572-2347

New Federal Building
Clarence Street
Kingston, ONT.
K7L 1X0
(613) 547-2471

659 King St. East, Suite 205
Kitchener, ONT.
N2G 2M4
(519) 743-4661

366 Oxford Street East
London, ONT.
N6A 1V7
(519) 679-4120

195 First Avenue West
North Bay, ONT.
P1B 3B8
(705) 472-4740

910 Victoria Avenue
Thunder Bay, ONT.
P7C 1B4
(807) 623-5224

150 Kent Street
Ottawa, ONT.
K1A 0M9
(613) 996-4861

PRAIRIE REGION

Regional Office
245 Main Street
Winnipeg, MAN.
R3C 1A7
(204) 949-4131

222-1st Street S.E.
P.O. Box 2959, Station M
Calgary, ALTA.
T2P 3C3
(403) 292-5414

424 21st Street East
Saskatoon, SASK.
S7K 0C2
(306) 975-4245

2001 Cornwall Street, Suite 111
Regina, SASK.
S4P 2K6
(306) 780-5012

Centennial Building
10031 103rd Avenue
Edmonton, ALTA.
T5J 0G9
(403) 420-3010

PACIFIC REGION

Regional Office
1161 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC.
V6E 3G4
(604) 666-0716

811 Wharf Street
Victoria, BC.
V8W 1T2
(604) 388-3868

545 Quebec Street
Prince George, BC.
V2L 1W6
(604) 564-5657

ATLANTIC REGION

Regional Office
1572 Barrington Street
Halifax, N.S.
B3J 1Z6
(902) 426-6001

Sydney Shopping Mall
Prince Street
Sydney, N.S.
B1P 5K8
(902) 564-7770

202 Richmond Street
Charlottetown, PE.I.
C1A 1J2
(902) 892-6612

Terminal Plaza Building
1222 Main Street
Moncton, N.B.
E1C 1H6
(506) 857-6101

1 Market Square
Saint John, N.B.
E2L 4Z6
(506) 648-4996

Bldg. 205, Pleasantville
St. John's, NFLD.
A1A 1S8
(709) 772-5005

10 Main Street
Corner Brook, NFLD.
A2H 1C1
(709) 637-4499

QUEBEC REGION

Bureau régional
Complex Guy-Favreau
200, ouest,
boul. Dorchester
Montréal, QUE.
H2Z 1X4
(514) 283-4823

530, rue Jacques Cartier Est
Chicoutimi, QUE.
G7H 1Z5
(418) 543-0711

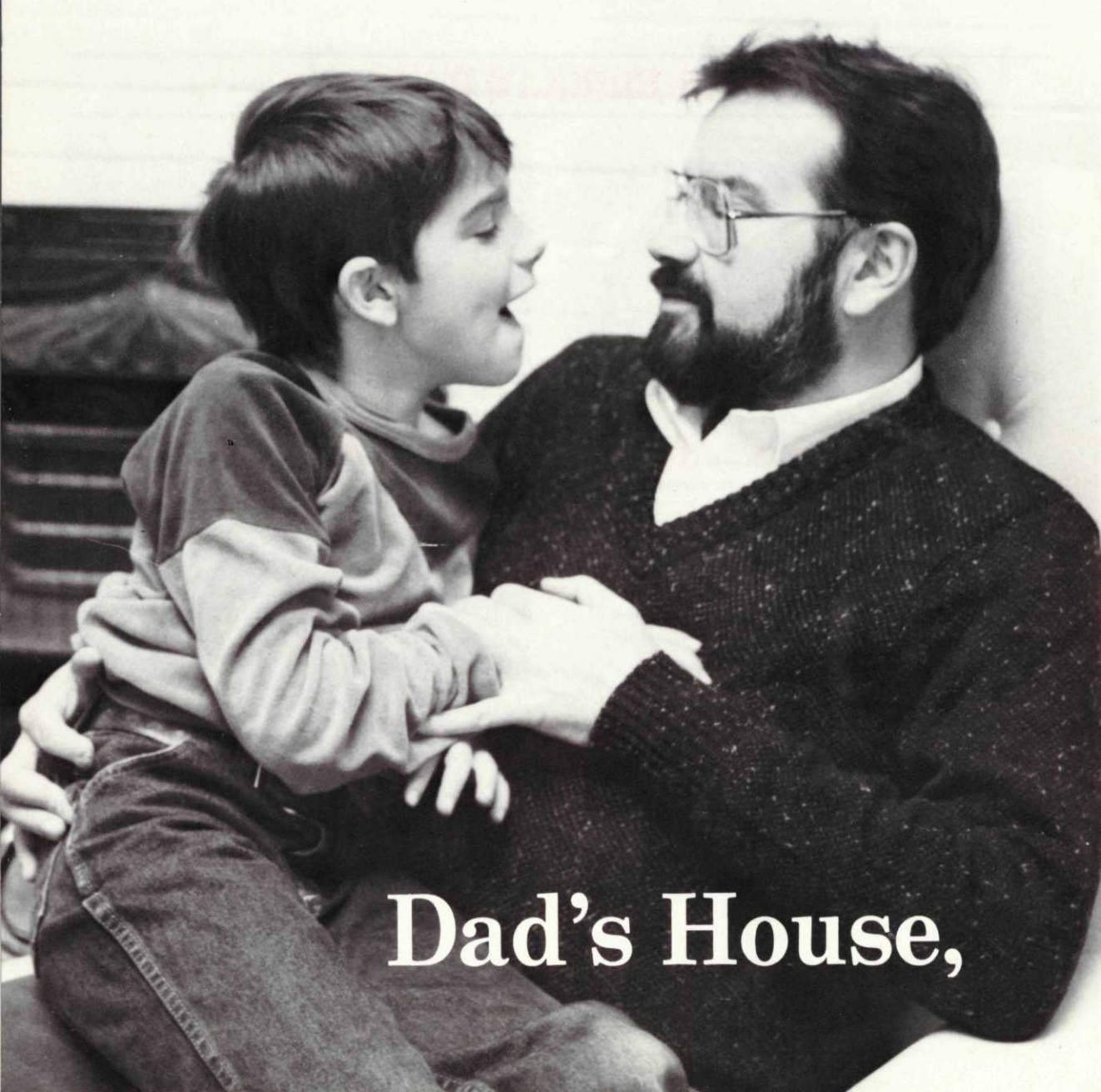
350 St-Joseph est
Québec, QUE.
G1K 3B2
(418) 648-3852

124, rue Vimy
Rimouski, QUE.
G5L 3J6
(418) 722-3086

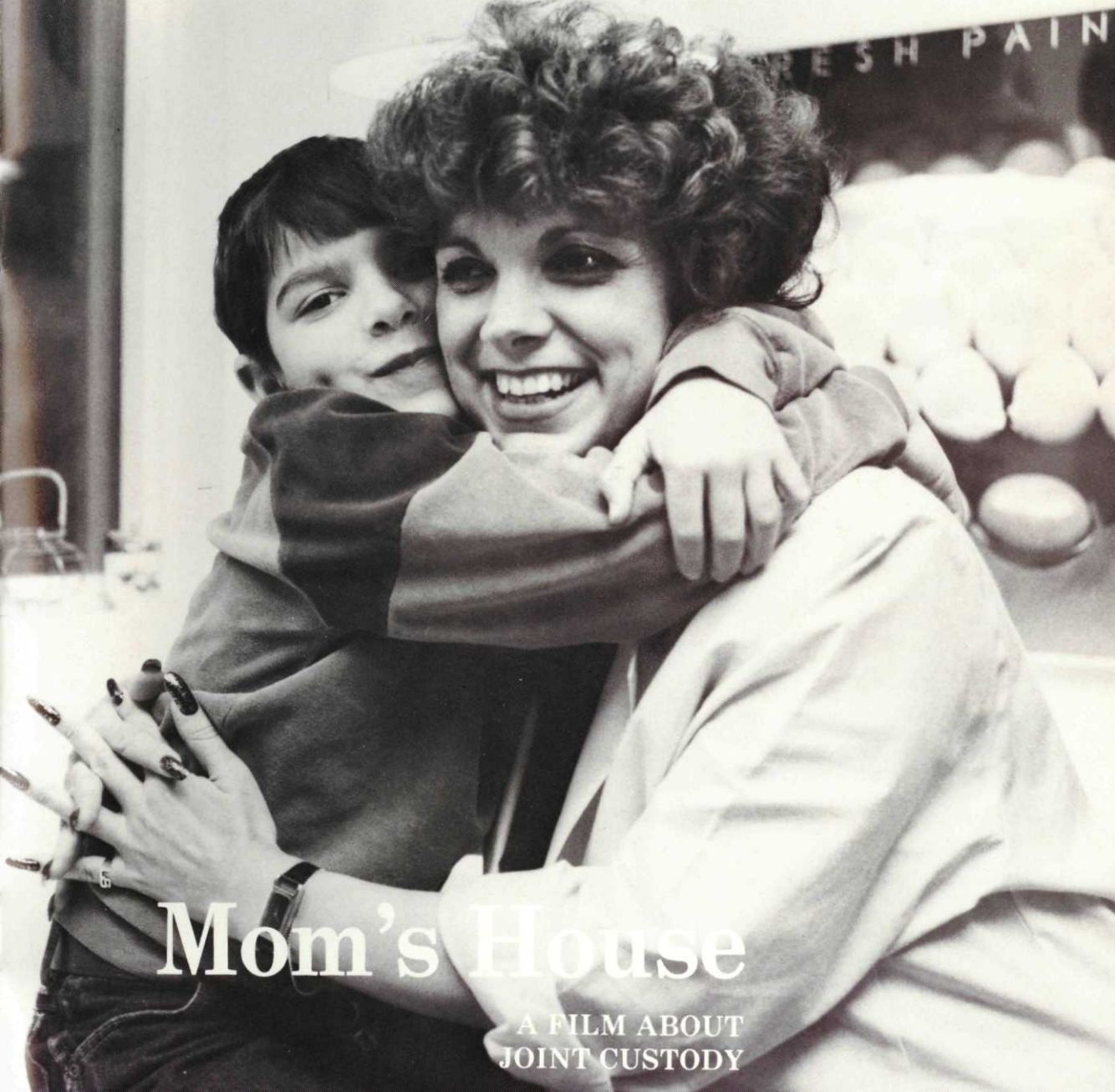
315, rue King ouest
Ste. 3
Sherbrooke, QUE.
J1H 1R2
(819) 565-4931

140, rue St. Antoine
Trois-Rivières, QUE.
G9A 5N6
(819) 375-5811

42, Mgr-Rhéaume est
Rouyn, QUE.
J9X 3J5
(819) 762-8700



Dad's House,



Mom's House

A FILM ABOUT
JOINT CUSTODY

**DAD'S HOUSE, MOM'S HOUSE:
A FILM ABOUT JOINT CUSTODY
PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA,
ONTARIO PRODUCTION STUDIO**

Color Screening time: 47 minutes 33 seconds

16 mm: 106C 0185 015

3/4" U-Matic: 116C 0185 015

VHS: 113C 0185 015

BETA: 114C 0185 015

DISTRIBUTED BY THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA



**National Office
Film Board national du film
of Canada du Canada**

**© NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, 1985, P.O. BOX 6100,
MONTREAL, QUEBEC H3C 3H5
PRINTED IN CANADA Canada**