



# The Esperia

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES, STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS  
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**“We are parents. Rights and Responsibilities”**

**Presentation: Lois Anastasios, Lawyer  
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## “We are parents. Rights and Responsibilities”

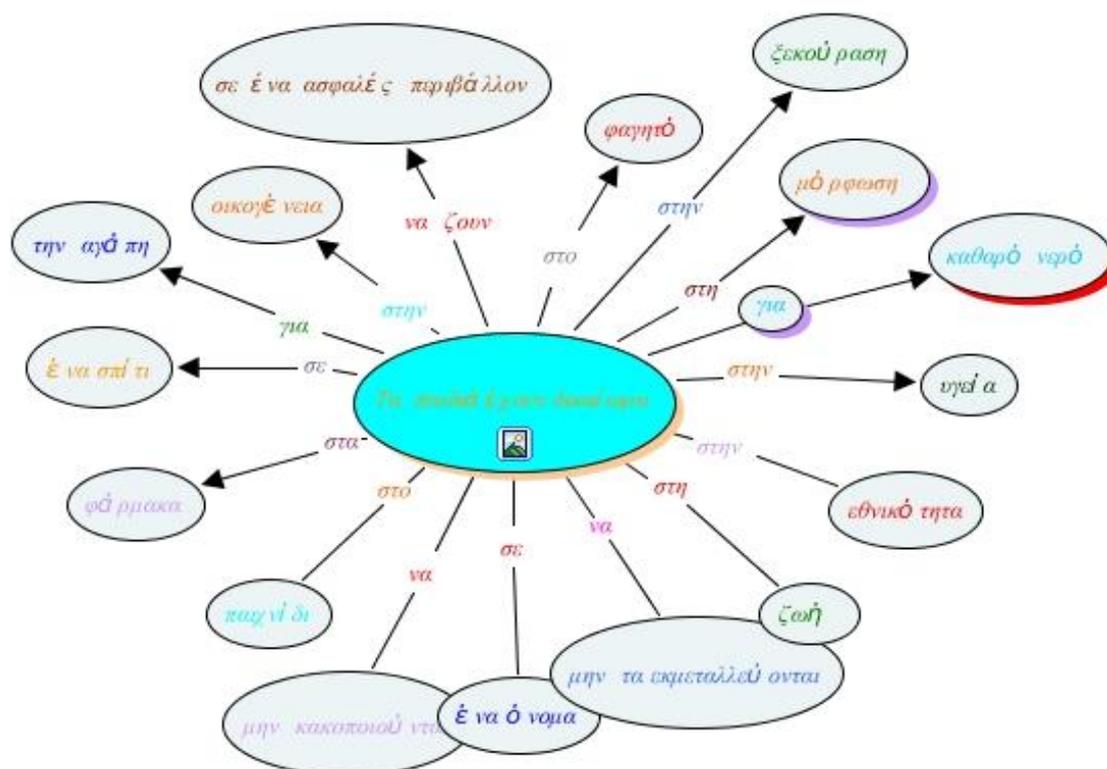


The parents' role is not limited only in giving birth to the child and taking care of it during infancy, but it also expands in equipping it with all the necessary skills and equipment for dealing with the problems of life, successfully.

For this reason, it is absolutely necessary that the parents, among others, should cultivate to their child some essential preferences and dislikes, good internal dispositions towards people, things and circumstances, ways of behavior, as well as the right way of seeing life. In order to achieve this purpose, a man's life, from the moment he becomes a parent, is a continuous duty, an obligation, which at the same time is also a right. A family is a dynamic unity of co-dependent members. There is a dynamic co-dependence between the members of a family. Each family member accepts the effects of the other family members and simultaneously effects on them. The child, with his/her behavior influences his/her parents' behavior and shapes it to a certain extent. **As a result, between the parents' rights and responsibilities which aim at the ultimate purpose of bringing up a complete child, there is a relationship of interaction.** Every parent's right is an obligation to the child at the same time, and vice versa. The basic rule which frames the parents' rights – responsibilities is the child's benefit. Everything happens based upon this basic rule, the child's benefit.

The parents' attitude is of primary importance for the child's life. Parents teach better with their personalities and their paradigm than their advice and preaches. They are the child's background and live tradition; they are the child's first teachers and his/her

best and beloved companions. They should create the appropriate atmosphere for the child's moral and religious prudence, the right conditions for his/her normal physical development and also care for the maintenance and promotion of the child's mental and physical health. It is their right and responsibility to care for the mental, national, social, political, professional, humanistic, and artistic education. They have the right and the responsibility to give the child the base so as to develop a correct viewpoint of life, which will include a total of values which will bring rules of thoughts and actions that could be applied in all the areas of human life and especially in those which are connected to the moral, national and social life.



Good parents have the right and responsibility to care for the following, consciously and systematically.

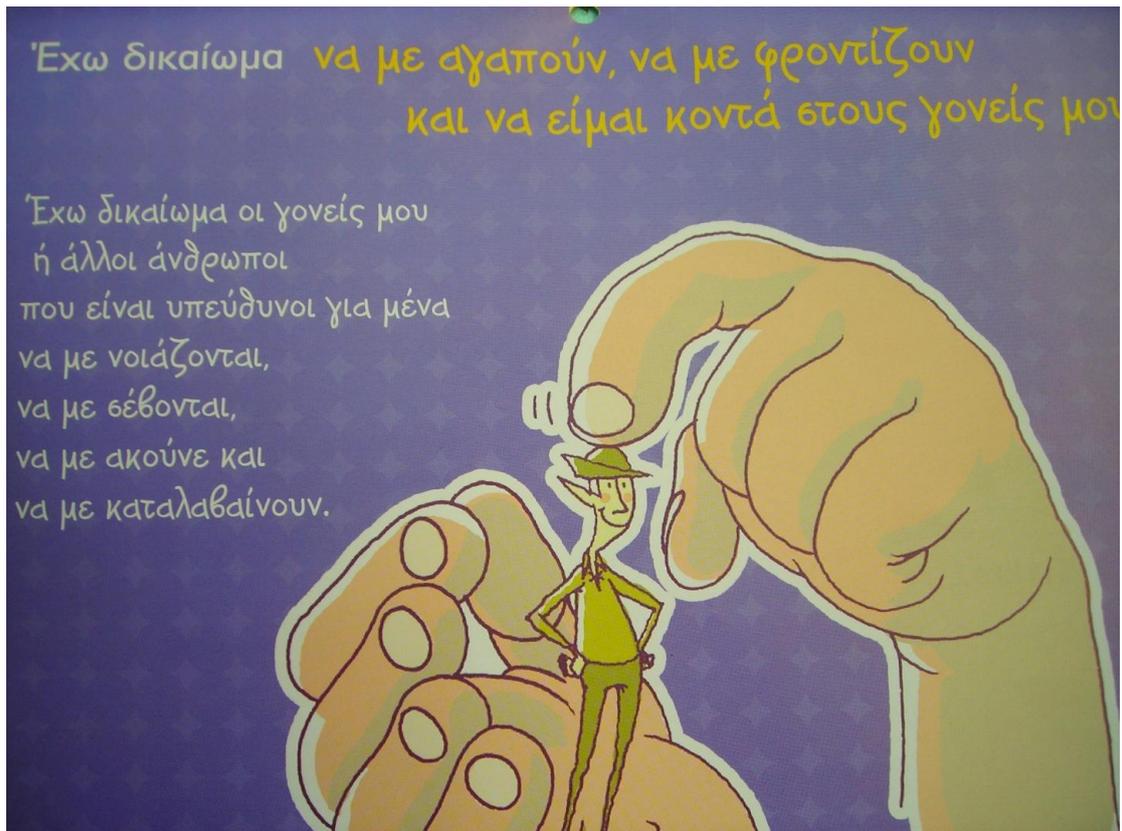
- They take care of the **child's needs**
- They create a **pleasant family atmosphere** and attend to ensure a happy childhood for their children.
- They inspire **respect** to the child, not fear.
- They cultivate the child's **trust** towards them, so as the child can confess to them their problems and feelings.
- They show **interest** in the children's school progress and achievements and they feel contended for the children's development and progress.
- When the children grow up, they show interest in their future plans and ambitions, their achievements in their studies, their special hobbies and interests, by encouraging their success appropriately.
- They treat their children as **responsible** or as partly responsible persons.

- They allow their children to feel **independent** and they cultivate to them though and action independence
- They promote the children's **enthusiasm** and they trigger their willingness for significant actions.
- They keep **encouraging** their children to never give up trying to achieve their aims.
- They always cultivate broad **social horizons**
- They **respect the child's personality** and their demands are equivalent to the child's degree of maturity and mental and physical skills.
- They are kind and behave with love towards the child's friends
- They **praise and encourage** the child in every effort, avoiding irony, taunting, cursing and slander.
- They try **to understand the child's point of view**
- They **trust** the child
- They care for the **child's play** and they also provide the child with other ways of entertainment, as well.

The above framework of obligations and rights will remain a wishful thinking practice unless the state introduces a **legal framework** which will both guarantee the parents' rights and responsibilities.

Consequently, every lawful state has established a framework of laws which define the parents' rights and responsibilities, on the one hand, in a general and abstract way which allows parents to select freely their way of bringing up their children according to their viewpoint of life and on the other hand, according to the dominant socio – political aspects. We should not forget that the Law is an essential tool of the state which defines behaviours in order to maintain the social coherence and the existent socio – political system.

**In the Greek Law there are the corresponding legal providences which set the rights and responsibilities of the parents.** The basic source of rights and responsibilities in the Greek Law is the 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Book of the Civil Code, entitled: **“Parent – Children relationships”**. As it is impossible to analyze all the restrictions that define the parents' rights and responsibilities towards their children, we will focus on four of them – maybe the most important ones.



**1507 AK “Parents and children are obliged to pay mutual help, affection and respect.”**

With this legal provision the moral obligation of parents for respect, affection and help obtains a legal dimension and specializes into the more specific cases of psychological and material support both in the daily problems and in the cases that a member of the family faces a certain issue. It also includes the mutual respect of the ideas and the religious and political views of the members of the family, as well as the protection from actions that could hurt the family members.

**1510 AK “The care for the underage child is a duty and a right of the parents (parental care) which the parents have in common. The parental care includes the child’s custody, the management of the child’s fortune and the representation of the child in every case or trial that concern the child’s belongings or the child itself”.**

**1511 AK “Every decision of the parents in relevance with the practice of parental care must aim at the child’s benefit.**

According to the child’s maturity his/her opinion should be asked and taken into account before every decision concerns the child’s benefits”.

As a consequence, it is understood that the child’s care is a right and obligation of the parents. The parents have to realize all the actions referring to the child’s care. Nowadays, this law is even more important because of the legal provision 1511 for the protection of the child’s benefit through the search for the child’s opinion. The **1511 AK** defines the general law for protecting the child’s benefit but also stresses the child-centered stance of the contemporary society that the lawmaker also adopts. With

the term “benefit” it is meant the physical, mental, psychological, moral or any other kind of benefit which is under question in each case. The concept of the word “benefit” in the particular phrasing is abstract and at the same time evaluating, so as to include all that are necessary for each child, separately. But the most important criterion in order to specialize the child’s benefit is his/her own personal opinion, which must be sought by the parents, and the only limitation is the child’s maturity. As far as the rest responsibilities – rights which are mentioned in the certain law (custody, property, management, representation) are concerned, the custody is without doubt the most important function which aims at the child’s development as a personality to the best degree both to his/her benefit but also for the society’s benefit in which he/she will be a member.

**1518 AK “The custody of the child especially includes the upbringing, the supervision, the education and training, as well as the definition of the child’s place of living.** During the upbringing of the child his/her parents encourage them without gender discrimination to develop their personality with responsibility and with social consciousness. Disciplinary measures are allowed to be imposed on the child as long as they are pedagogically necessary and do not affect the child’s dignity. The parents take into account their children’s skills and personal penchants for their education and professional training”.



That is, a child’s custody includes the upbringing, the supervision, the education, the training and the specification of the place of living. As a matter of fact, the concepts that have been mentioned so far cover each other to the extent that the education (school) is part of the learning (which also includes general – out of school education)



