



U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
Administration for Children
and Families
Office of Family Assistance

Responsible Fatherhood State Profile: Nevada

www.fatherhood.gov

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Nevada

Strategies Intended to Promote Healthy Marriage

State-Funded Marriage Preparation Activities

Nevada does not directly use state funds for marriage preparation programs. However, one pilot marriage program funded by the federal government is available in the state.ⁱ

Other Marriage Initiatives

The Native Wellness Institute offers a program in the state called Leading the Next Generation. The program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, promotes improving the quality of couples' relationships based on Native American culture.ⁱⁱ

Strategies Intended to Promote Parenting and Responsible Fatherhood

State-Funded Direct Service Parenting/Responsible Fatherhood Programs

Nevada has an access and visitation program offering mediation and other support services to divorced and never-married parents.ⁱⁱⁱ

State-Funded Programs to Prevent Unwanted or Early Fatherhood

Nevada established a teen pregnancy plan in 1996 that includes recommendations for promoting male responsibility, abstinence-based activities, and postponement of sexual involvement. The Boys Encouraging Adolescent Responsibility (BEAR) program holds a series of support meetings designed to encourage high-risk teenage boys between the ages of 14 and 16 to avoid becoming fathers and to graduate from high school. The state also focuses on responsible behavior through other services. Medicaid recipients with children between the ages of nine and 14 are encouraged to access family planning literature and talk to their children about the consequences of an unplanned pregnancy.

The Family and Medical Leave Act

Nevada has a Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which allows both fathers and mothers time off after the birth or adoption of a child, or during an illness, without fear of losing their jobs. Parents are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave over a one-year period to care for a new child, an ill family member, or to recover from their own illness. All public-sector employers must also provide up to six weeks of leave for the adoption of a

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child. The FMLA protects fathers and mothers who have worked with the same organization for at least one year and have worked at least 1,250 hours within the past year. No provisions beyond those that are federally mandated have been required by the Nevada legislature.^{iv}

Domestic Violence Services

The Committee on Domestic Violence, part of the Nevada Attorney General's Office, certifies programs that treat people who commit domestic violence.^v Private statewide organizations, such as the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence, provide information to direct and indirect service providers in the field of domestic and sexual violence, and provide information, education, and advocacy to the general public about domestic and sexual violence. The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence also generates and disburses funds to direct service programs.^{vi}

Child Custody Policy

The court determines child custody by considering factors such as what the child wants; whether the child is of sufficient age and capacity to express an intelligent preference; whether a parent or guardian has been chosen to have custody of the child; and whether either parent has engaged in any act of violence toward the child or anyone living with the child.^{vii} There is a presumption in the state that joint custody is in the best interest of the child, if both parents agree to joint custody.^{viii}

Paternity Establishment

Paternity establishment ensures a child's right to a range of public benefits, including survivor's insurance, education, health care, and workers' compensation; and establishing paternity gives a child born outside of marriage the same legal rights as a child born to married parents. Nevada has an in-hospital paternity acknowledgement program. When paternity is uncontested, parents can establish a child's paternity either in the hospital or by submitting a notarized paternity affidavit. When paternity is contested, parents must go through a judicial process in which the alleged father may have to participate in genetic testing. In Nevada, paternity may be established at any time prior to the child's 21st birthday.^{ix}

Child Support Assistance

The Nevada Division of Child and Family Services has established the Family-Centered Assessment Process enabling staff to work in partnership with families to make them more knowledgeable of child support procedures.^x

Child Support Enforcement

Nevada can collect owed child support from the noncustodial parent's federal or state tax refund, paycheck, lottery winnings, or unemployment benefits, and may also place liens on the parent's property and/or bank accounts. The state may restrict the parent's driver's, professional, business, or recreational license and report the parent's missed payments to credit bureaus. As arrears continue to rise, the state may deny or revoke the nonpaying parent's passport.^{xi}



Strategies Intended to Enhance Fathers' Economic Stability

Welfare Benefits

Nevada offers welfare benefits to two-parent families on the same basis as to single-parent families. The state imposes a lifetime limit of 60 months on the receipt of benefits. Recipients must begin working within 24 months of receiving cash assistance. Education and training can fulfill this work requirement for up to 12 months.^{xii}

Services Geared Toward Low-Income Noncustodial Fathers

When recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) have significant employability barriers that prevent them from obtaining and maintaining self-sufficiency, they are referred to the state's licensed social workers. Social workers provide case management services for these recipients and conduct a comprehensive assessment of the barriers they face, including substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health issues, teenage pregnancy and parenting, involvement with child protective services, and chronic homelessness.^{xiii}

Job Training and Employment Services

New Employees of Nevada (NEON) is a mandatory program designed to help TANF participants obtain varying degrees of job readiness and experience gainful employment through job readiness assessments, education, life-skills training and community work experience.^{xiv}

Incarceration and Reentry

Services and Programs for Incarcerated Fathers

The Nevada Department of Corrections supports a Family Services Division with the goal of addressing concerns of inmates and their families.^{xv}

Resources

- **Nevada Committee on Domestic Violence.** This Web site provides an overview of state services for domestic violence victims and for programs serving domestic violence victims; available at http://ag.state.nv.us/menu/action_btn/programs/domestic/domestic.htm.



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