



## The Osiris Group

“Not Obligated”

In the past six I have blessed at The Osiris Group to assist children and families experiencing difficulties in homes, and have personally witness some fathers who have completely walk away from being “Obligated” to provide financial, physical, emotional or psychological support to their children’s. These father’s have an air of I am “not obligated” to doing anything for these children , even though they help to conceived them, and what’s so unsettling about this picture is these children might reside in Mattapan and the bio-dad lives in Roxbury. These dads behave as if their children’s and the mother’s who gave birth to them never existed. They just are not obligated. I want to be very clear here, I am not referring to father’s who have issues with employment, addiction, criminal histories or are personally destitute. These fathers have jobs, or are enrolled in vocational or college programs. The majority are even re-involved with women who have children, or have started a new family by fathering children with their new mate. Yet they are not even remotes obligated to children they helped to conceive up the street, why is this? What are the consequences from such behavioral on the children’s, the mother’s, and our community?

The most common responds I get when I ask why there is no level of support or assistance to the mother of their child/ren is intimacy. Once the sexual involvement is gone, most of these fathers have stated that it’s the man responsibility that she is currently sleeping with to take care of her and “her children”. It’s not mine. Rather you fine their viewpoint childish or selfish; I believe that much of the violence and depression which many of these women experience is the total absence of these fathers to provide some level of support and assistance to these families. This past July I took inventory of the number of families Osiris were providing services to an the number came to one hundred families between the Department of Social Services and Neighborhood Health Plan ( one of the mass-health carriers), what is most telling, there were six biological dads where all the kids in that homes were theirs. All the other homes had multi-fathers and the children to mom ratio were four to one. Is it any wonder that these single moms are crying out for help, they are over-extended? Working forty hours per week, running up to he school when the children act inappropriate, appearing in court, going to sport activities, setting boundaries, enforcing home rule, giving love and emotional support, giving hope and encouragement to their dreams, support the family on one income, insufficient income, to many children for one person to parent. It’s no wonder many of these mother’s are depress. The children will also suffer from having insufficient contact with their father, for example, fathers present help male children to understand what it means to be a man. Fathers their teach male children how to regulate their emotions, how to deal with disappointment, rejection, anger, but equally as important they teach male children why goal setting is very important to their self-development and future ambition.

When fathers are absence from their daughters life they grow up never knowing how to judge and rate future suitors, or how men are suppose to treat them. When young girl grow in homes where their mother has had many male suitors as partners, it can have the effect that these young girls will believe they are not worthy of a man commitment and devotion. When fathers developed this I am “not obligated” perspective the entire community loses.