

EXCERPTS

The **7 LAWS** of RAISING **FINANCIALLY** INDEPENDENT KIDS

*A Practical Guide In Assisting the Fulfillment
of Your Children's Dreams*



BY

KASEY J. CLAYTOR
— WEALTH COACH —

**The
7 Laws
of
Raising Financially Independent Kids**

A Practical Guide in Assisting the Fulfillment of
Your Children's Dreams

Kasey J. Claytor

Osprey Publishing



Introduction

In this short volume on financial independence there isn't enough space to address the many aspects that make up the whole integrated child, so emphasis is on creating a fertile ground that encourages children to become responsible for fulfilling their own financial needs. If you have young children, you may think this is automatic, but...often this is not the case. Our young adults are more technologically educated than any previous generation but only 52% of high school seniors passed a recent national financial literacy test. With soaring credit card debt and college debt they are failing to make sound financial decisions for their lives. In my practice and in my colleagues' practices, we've seen many parents become exasperated because every time they turn around, it seems their adult son or daughter is in another financial crisis and needs their help. The parents feel frustrated and resentful, perhaps even emotionally exhausted. They throw their hands up in surrender at their children's apparent inability to make their own way in the world. These parents may even teeter on the edge of losing their own standard of living. How did they come to this?

That is why I wrote this book. Money flows in and out of our lives and most people don't really understand how it works—they just know they want *more* of it! Your children are born with natural passions and gifts, and within these are the seeds of self-empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

You are invaluable in guiding your children toward their own self-discovery. You can give your children the best foundation so that they are self-actualized, independent, and self-sufficient when they do grow up. You will learn the importance of problem solving, retaining a good imagination; how to foster creativity and fortitude, and why that is so essential to success. You will also learn how you can help your children build self-confidence and self-awareness, and what common parental behaviors can inhibit these qualities.

At the end of this book, I have included my Map of Money Consciousness™, which describes the different levels of experience and understanding with regard to financial self-sufficiency. It loosely correlates to, and was inspired by, different scales of developmental stages used in psychological, consciousness, evolutionary and integral studies, such as Abraham Maslow's *Hierarchy of Needs*, Dr. David Hawkins' *Scale of Consciousness* and the work of Dr. Don Beck, who built upon the theory of Spiral Dynamics derived from the work of Clare W. Graves in the 1960's. Using this Map of Money Consciousness is helpful in achieving ***Financial Harmony*** (where beliefs, desires, and purpose all blend). You will also find a quiz in the back of the book to find out where you fall on this scale. For an interesting experiment, take it now, and then take it again once you've read the book.

There is something magical about money—the way it appears and disappears, grows and shrinks, and, in the way of taming a hesitant wild horse, with calm assuredness and confidence, we not only learn to control it, but joyfully master it.

close family ties to anchor them, to have a sense of purpose, and passion to serve in a way that gives *meaning* to their lives.

So before we even begin discussing money, let us look at the life money will attract or enhance. Money doesn't make people happy. People with certain attitudes and skills attract money naturally and almost effortlessly. These are often the same people that already are happy!!



Law #1

Money Is Not an End in Itself

Purpose & Passions & Meaning

In raising *financially independent* children, the greatest importance to us all is the happiness and fulfillment of our children's eventual adult lives. You would not want your children to become wealthy adults as a result of exhausted, sad, miserable lives, yet this occurs every day. Examples include the tycoon who serves money as a god, losing himself in a busy, frenetic day filled with aggression, competition, and pressure; or, those who would compromise their inner guidance and values to go along and fit in with a dissonant corporate culture. So many people think they will only be happy at some future point (such as when they have the dream car, dream home, perfect job, perfect mate or other external things), and fulfillment seems unattainable. There is always something more they think they need before they can be happy. Most parents would like to envision their children creating a balanced life with strong,



Law #3

Real Experience with Money Must Be Available

Giving and Receiving

Nature's cycle of life provides many examples of giving and receiving. The sun gives us heat and energy; the oceans, rivers and lakes give us water and rain; the plants give oxygen and people and animals give off carbon dioxide that the plants need for survival. Giving and receiving are two different sides of the same coin. One cannot exist without the other. Those who give, also receive. When one receives and does not give, it breaks the cycle and creates stagnation. It doesn't feel good and it engenders the fear of losing what is clutched so tightly.

Until this abstract concept filters down into a child's consciousness, he or she will not totally experience the upwelling of joy derived from giving. Certainly a small child has moments of glee when giving Mom a flower or Dad a birthday card, but when your children become attached to possessions or money for what it represents

(potentials), they can be resistant to the idea of generosity. Giving comes from the heart and works best if it isn't forced. Be a good role model and let them see *you* give—of your time, your attention, sympathy—to charity, to facilitate healing in any form. The Earth child is a natural at giving loyalty and a good ear. An Air child will be the one most likely to give to please because he may worry if someone isn't happy. A Fire child is very generous when in balance, but loves possessions more than the other two types, and when out of balance can be quite stingy! All types of children can give naturally and wholeheartedly when provided with role modeling and opportunities. Just know your child.



Law #5

Kids Shall Be Prepared for Launch

Prepare your child for a successful launch.

I've seen parents push kids aged 18 to 21 out of the house without having taught them the skills to successfully handle living independently. This can create a cycle of failure, with the adult children moving back home again—or worse. I've heard some parents say that is how they learned. They were forced to grow up and struggle all on their own, going through major hurdles and obstacles, until finally reaching some financial solvency, and they believe that is just the way it's done. How extremely difficult that is! So many fail and end up in the lower levels of money consciousness only because they had no skills, no preparation, and no guidance. The fact that you are reading this book indicates that you probably don't fall into this group.

Since the founding of our nation, each succeeding generation has enjoyed a higher standard of living than the previous one. As this

standard of living grows in affluence, it also grows in complexity. The edge of adulthood has always been a daunting time for a young man to figure out how to be a man, how to make a living, how to take care of himself and a new family. And now since the world wars, young women face the same challenges too. Both are expected to be self-sufficient by around age 20-25. With the list of items required just to exist expanding at the speed of light, and knowledge of everything from nutrition, electronics, housekeeping, budgeting and credit cards, safety, car care, and résumé-writing, to getting along well with others at work, it just isn't easy. But it *can* be exhilarating!

From the later teen years to the college years your children will pick up a lot of information, some very helpful. It is your job to make sure they have few gaps in their view of how the world will be when they are out on their own. From 18 years old and up, give them an idea of what kind of information they will need in order to feel secure. Let them know you will be available as a sounding board. If you are confident they will be ready, that will increase their confidence level.

This is such a critical time of life for your children. They are leaping off the edge of childhood and dependency, into that big gulf of the *real world*, and if they haven't a clue about who they are, it will be more difficult for you and them. If, as parents, you trained them to "act in a way that pleases *you*," they may continue to conform to your expectations and delay discovery of their own dreams; or they may rebel—going against your wishes without having a deep understanding of why they are doing this. You see, within each of us there are dreams, passions, and a purpose that only can be found with introspection, self-evaluation, and trial and error. I've always thought it would be a good idea for an emerging adult to take a year to give to a cause like the Peace Corp, or military, or some other structured, service-oriented organization if, at 18 years of age, they don't have a clue what to do with themselves.