



**For Immediate Release**

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**Mother-Child Relationships not Affected by Non-Standard Work Schedule**

*Results Conflict with Previous Research, Change of Policy may be Needed*

**University Park, Penn. – December 21, 2006** – The number of families with two working parents is increasing and more than half of these families have at least one spouse with a non-standard work schedule. A recent study in *Family Relations* takes a closer look at the link between parents' work schedules and parent-adolescent relationship quality by measuring the intimacy, conflict, parental knowledge and involvement the effects these schedules have on parent-adolescent relationships.

The findings were decidedly split. While no significant negative results emerged between shift work and the level of intimacy between mothers and their children, the opposite was true of fathers. It was found that fathers were less knowledgeable about their children when working a non-standard shift as opposed to a standard, daytime schedule.

These findings conflict with previous research, which has reported that families of non-standard shift workers report worse overall family functioning and difficulties with children, illustrating the fact that new policies may be needed for practitioners working with families in that shift work may not be as detrimental to family relations as previously thought.

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**This study is published in *Family Relations*. Media wishing to receive a PDF of this article please contact [journalnews@bos.blackwellpublishing.net](mailto:journalnews@bos.blackwellpublishing.net).**

Joyce Arditti is the Editor of *Family Relations*. She can be reached for questions at [Arditti@vt.edu](mailto:Arditti@vt.edu).



A premier, applied journal of family studies, *Family Relations* is mandatory reading for family scholars and all professionals who work with families, including: family practitioners, educators, marriage and family therapists, researchers, and social policy specialists. The journal's content emphasizes family research with implications for intervention, education, and public policy, always publishing original, innovative and

interdisciplinary works with specific recommendations for practice. *Family Relations* is published on behalf of the National Council on Family Relations, [www.ncfr.org](http://www.ncfr.org). For more information about the journal, please visit [www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/fare](http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/fare).

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