

FAMILY REUNION INSTITUTE'S

STICKY REUNION SITUATION

OUR FAMILY REUNION WAS GYPED

May 2022

The Situation:

Our family reunion has a planning committee and most family branches are represented by at least one person on the committee. At our last in-person reunion the committee sold t-shirts and the profits went to the family. During the reunion we noticed family members were wearing reunion hats that matched the shirts. We later found out that a family member created the hats on their own and sold them separately, saying they would split the sales with the family. However, the family account never received any funds from those sales and many of the family members who purchased the hats were upset about that. How do we keep family members from doing something like this in the future?

The Fix:



Doug Harris

This is not a religious forum, but I am reminded of Matthew 18:15-17a which reads: "If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him—work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend. If he won't listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won't listen, tell the church." (The Message Bible). To apply this principle to the hat-selling situation, follow the same steps. Appoint someone to talk to the hat seller one-on-one to negotiate the family getting its share of the proceeds. Remind them what they said about splitting proceeds. If an agreement can't be reached, try a conference call or Zoom meeting with two to three other family members, preferably elders. If this doesn't work draft a Facebook or Group Me message to the family about the situation. It could be as simple as: *Relative X sold hats at the family reunion and implied they'd share proceeds with the family but later changed their mind. Do you think this is OK? Show the hat seller the draft to see if he agrees to make good on his word to share. If he doesn't, POST.*
