

# WHY DAVID CASSIDY WON'T HELP SINGING DAUGHTER

**Partridge Family star insists he's just trying to protect her**



Generation gap: Cassidy and his teen daughter Katie



AFTER suffering through a tough childhood, The Idol David Cassidy has vowed to be a dedicated dad to his teenage son Beau — but he's hit some sour notes with his daughter Katie.

Katie, Beau's half sister, is trying to follow in Cassidy's footsteps and is miffed that her famous dad doesn't support her budding singing career.

The 18-year-old blond beauty (her lovers mentioned on her father's official Web site, and she claims that the former Partridge Family star has turned his back on her). According to Katie's mom, ex-model Shirley Henneman, whose long affair with Cassidy outlasted two of his marriages, he offered no help three years ago when Katie released a cover of his hit single, How Can I Be Sure.

## Pitfalls of fame

But Cassidy, 51, says he's just trying to do what's best for his daughter.

"I couldn't support someone being taken out of school at 15 to go and record her father's song," he explains. "How can anybody disrupt a child's development like that?"

He says he's just trying to protect her from the pitfalls of early fame, something he experienced himself and has seen with other children.

"I don't want my daughter ending up like Michael Jackson, who seems a lost human being with no concept of reality," Cassidy says. "She's been pushed in a direction that I don't approve of, but there is nothing I can do."

He stresses that his rift with

his daughter isn't really his fault. "I wasn't allowed to meet Katie until she was 13," Cassidy notes. "But I have never once not been there for her financially. I've quadrupled what the court asked me to pay for her maintenance for nearly years because I wanted to do the right thing."

Coming from a broken home, Cassidy has vowed not to make the same mistakes his own dad — Broadway

star Jack Cassidy, a serial womanizer and booze addict — made.

"I learned to be a great father by doing everything my own father didn't do," he explains. "My father wasn't around for me, but I make sure

I'm always there for Beau."

Cassidy had Beau, 11, at the age of 40 with songwriter Suzi Shifrin, whom he wed in 1991.

"It's no much better being a father late in life," the former heart throb says.

## 'Huge sadness'

Unfortunately, the warm glow of fatherhood has turned icy with Katie. Since he refused to help her launch her career, he's had no contact with her.

"It's a huge sadness in my life," he admits. "It's sad for her, sad for me and sad for my son, who loved spending time with her. I hope that someday we can be together again. At some point, I hope she will see the sense of what I've said. It will happen, but not until she gets away from the bad influences in her life and goes her own."

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