

Submission No: 1238

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Inquiry into child custody arrangements, in the event of family separation.

I am not an unintelligent person. However, I am a single mother on the SPP. I have 3 sons aged 11,9 and 7.

Due to the extremely difficult separating circumstance, the only way out of our situation was through the Family Court six years ago.

We now have standing Court Orders, which I accept for our unique situation and am happy to comply with.

I have concerns when the other parent (in my situation, the father) does not do the right thing by the children.

Examples in our case have been,

Family Court Orders, in breach of, many, many times over 6 years.

Magistrate court restraining orders where, he will sit on the fringe to taunt.

Intimidating situations towards me that effect the boys.

Police unable to assist with any of the above.

Child Support Agency system being used, with regard to continual misuse of the 25% third party parenting payments.

Child Protection services having made (unfounded) accusations with regard to the welfare of the children.

I have concerns for the general welfare of my 3 boys when they are in the care of their father. These concerns I have documented with the Community Paediatrician, who states there is really nothing I can do other than document, for if and when needed in court.

I am happy to expand on these issues if needed.

I know each family situation is very different. It concerns me deeply when there are ideas, to put ALL situations legally into the "one type of box" and to then start processing the unique human direction, of children's lives, from this un-unique starting place. Especially when many situations that do reach the court, as opposed to not reaching the court, are at the court because there are usually more different and difficult type circumstances, needing to be sorted for the best interest of the children.

