

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: **532**

Date Received: **8-8-03**



6 AUG 2003.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY  
CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY

MY NAME IS [REDACTED] AND AT CHRISTMAS [REDACTED] I BECAME A MALE SINGLE PARENT TO MY CHILDREN. THEIR BIOLOGICAL MOTHER LEFT WITHOUT SAYING A WORD. THERE WAS [REDACTED] GIRLS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] BOYS [REDACTED] WE WERE LIVING IN A SUBURB OF [REDACTED] N S W, [REDACTED]  
HERE IS MY SUBMISSION AND EVEN IF IT IS LATE PLEASE CONSIDER IT.

A / 1 .  
THERE SHOULD BE NO PRESUMPTION AT ALL . WHAT MAKES PEOPLE THINK THAT EACH OR BOTH PARENTS WANT CUSTODY AND THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT EVEN A WEEKEND OF CUSTODY ENTAILS . MY CHILDREN'S BIOLOGICAL MOTHER DID NOT EVEN WANT ACCESS , A SITUATION THAT IN 1975 , WHEN I SUED FOR DIVORCE , WHICH WAS UNCONTESTED , EVEN THE COURT FOUND HARD TO ACCEPT AND MY SOLICITOR INFORMED ME THAT THE JUDGE HAD ORDERED THAT I WRITE A REPORT ON MY CHILDREN'S PROGRESS AT SCHOOL AND OTHER DOMESTIC MATTERS AND MY SOLICITOR WAS TO PRESENT IT TO THE COURT AT THE NEXT HEARING EVEN THOUGH I HAD BEEN LOOKING AFTER MY CHILDREN ALONE FOR NEARLY 4 YEARS . THEIR BIOLOGICAL MOTHER WAS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT NOTHING , THAT IS IF SHE COULD HAVE BEEN FOUND .  
I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD HAVE OCCURRED IF I HAD BEEN A FEMALE .  
I WOULD HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST ALLOWING THIS PERSON CUSTODY AND IT WAS A RELIEF WHEN SHE DID NOT EVEN SEEK ACCESS TO MY CHILDREN .

I BELIEVE THE PRESUMPTION THAT A PARENT OF EITHER GENDER SHOULD BE AWARDED EVEN ACCESS WITHOUT ESTABLISHING THEIR CAPABILITY AND GENUINE DESIRE TO PROVIDE THE LOVE AND AFFECTION THAT A CHILD EXPECTS FROM A PARENT IS WAY OUT OF ORDER . SOME PARENTS DO NOT LOVE THEIR CHILDREN AND I WAS MARRIED TO ONE SUCH PERSON .  
HOW CAN YOU PRESUME THAT A PARENT OR PARENTS LOVE THEIR CHILDREN . THIS COUNTRY HAS ONE OF THE WORST RECORDS OF CHILD ABUSE ON THIS EARTH .  
IN ALL THE YEARS THAT THIS FEMALE HAS BEEN APART FROM HER BIRTH CHILDREN SHE HAS NEVER ONCE SENT ONE OF THEM A BIRTHDAY OR A CHRISTMAS CARD .  
WHEN SHE LEFT I MADE CONTACT BY LEAVING MESSAGES WITH HER ACQUAINTANCES AND IT WAS ALWAYS THE SAME MESSAGE , "PLEASE CONTACT THE CHILDREN" THAT WAS ALL THAT I REQUIRED OF HER AND THAT WAS NOT FORTHCOMING . MY CHILDREN WERE SHATTERED AND COULD NOT ACCEPT WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THEM AND STILL CAN'T .  
WHEN YOU BECOME A PARENT YOU SHOULD ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WHAT YOU CREATED , CHILDREN , BUT IT DOES NOT HAPPEN , TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU WITHOUT THE ROSE TINTED GLASSES ON . TOO MANY PEOPLE LIVE SHELTERED LIVES AND DO NOT KNOW WHAT GOES ON IN THE REAL WORLD . *for 28 years straight*  
I HAVE BEEN A LICENSED SYDNEY TAXI DRIVER FOR 43 YEARS AND I KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT . I DROVE AT NIGHT AND USED TO TAKE MANY AN ABUSED MOTHER AND CHILDREN TO A REFUGE AS THEY FLED IN THE LATE AND EARLY HOURS .  
I HAVE GIVEN SHELTER TO A NEIGHBOURING BATTERED CHILD AND EVERY CHILD IN MY STREET KNEW THAT SHE WAS HIDING IN MY HOME BUT NOT ONE CHILD TOLD THEIR PARENTS . THE COURT TOOK BOTH HER AND HER YOUNGER SISTER FROM THE PARENTS AND GAVE THEM TO THE GRAND PARENTS . I WAS SENT TO CONVENTRY BY MOST OF THE ADULTS IN MY STREET BUT I DIDN'T CARE .  
I CANNOT GET OVER YOUR ASSUMPTION THAT THERE IS A PRESUMPTION THAT EACH PARENT SHOULD SPEND TIME WITH THEIR CHILDREN . I WOULD HAVE PAID MY CHILDREN'S BIOLOGICAL MOTHER TO FOREGO ANY COURT ALLOWED ACCESS OR CUSTODY .

(Amended by author)

IT IS NOT A MATTER OF REBUTTAL OF SUCH A PRESUMPTION OF CUSTODY BUT ONE OF PROOF OF THE GENUINE LOVE AND AFFECTION AND RESPONSIBILITY THAT A PARENT HAS FOR A CHILD THAT MUST BE THE BENCH MARK FOR CUSTODY OR ACCESS AND NOTHING ELSE .

A / 2 .

NONE , THE COURT SHOULD STAY OUT OF SUCH MATTERS AS THEY ARE FAMILY AFFAIRS AND THE GRAND PARENTS HAVE TO ACCEPT WHATEVER HAPPENS EXCEPT IN THE INSTANCE OF CHILD ABUSE AND THEN IF THE GRAND PARENTS CAN PROVIDE THE AFFECTION AND LOVE THAT THEIR GRAND CHILDREN NEED THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN CUSTODY I HAVE NOT USED THE TERM NEGLIGENCE AS THERE APPEARS TO BE DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF WHAT IS NEGLIGENCE BUT ABUSE HAS ONLY ONE INTERPRETATION .

B .

CHILD SUPPORT ? . I RECEIVED NONE FROM EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR MY CHILDREN'S BIOLOGICAL MOTHER . MALE SINGLE PARENTS WERE NOT RECOGNISED WHEN I BECAME ONE AND MY CHILDREN'S BIOLOGICAL MOTHER COULD NOT BE LOCATED TO EVEN REQUEST CHILD SUPPORT AND I AM TOLD BY THE FAMILY COURT THAT , NOW THAT I CAN LOCATE THIS PERSON , I CANNOT CLAIM CHILD SUPPORT FOR ALL THOSE YEARS OF NO CHILD SUPPORT .  
WOULD YOU TELL ME WHY THIS IS SO AS IT IS UNJUST ?.

ADULTS MAY DESERT ONE ANOTHER BUT THEY SHOULD NEVER DESERT THEIR CHILDREN , THERE IS SO MUCH I COULD TELL YOU OF THE HAVOC THAT SUCH AN OCCURRENCE WREAKS ON CHILDREN'S LIVES FROM WHICH THEY NEVER RECOVER .

