

Submission No: 582

Date Received: 8-8-03

Lyn Wakeling  
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Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

6<sup>th</sup> August 03.

To Whom It May Concern,

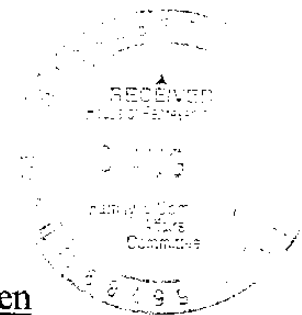
Re: Proposed change to full time residency of children

I have only today heard that we were able to voice our opinions as to whether this legislation is to pass or not. This I think was very unfair of the Government for a start not letting people know of these proposed changes.

I feel that it would be totally disruptive to the children. As it stands it is the mother's right to have the child/ren after all it was the mother that carried those children in her womb, with no help from the father. In saying that I don't deny the fact that fathers do love their children but it is a mother's role to look after and nurture the children, it is the father's role to provide and protect the children.

I feel that every case is different and should be treated differently; therefore they should be treated individually, not generalized as it appears that this change of legislation is trying to do. There are some circumstances where the primary care giver is the father and I think they do a great job. So the old cliché is why try to fix something when it isn't broken. I feel it would be of no advantage to the children and in some cases to the other parent to do a 50/50-share basis.

Imagine how traumatic that would be on the children, how emotionally draining it would be of them. Maybe living too far away and having to change schools 6 months of the year. If the other parent didn't support their sporting activities and wouldn't take the children, who misses out then, the children whereas if they are living with one parent on a full time basis they know exactly what is happening and where. Another point is what happens



if they have been invited to a birthday party, sporting presentation, school function and the other parent doesn't want to or won't take the children, again who misses out, the children.

Has anyone thought of the emotional trauma the children would be put through if one parent didn't like or didn't talk to the other parent, can you imagine the name calling and verbal abuse the children would be subjected to in that instance.

I feel that Legislation should remain as it is, the Courts have decided who the main care giver of our children should be and the government have been quite happy to accept the court's recommendations, so why change things, to gain what, to help who?

I feel that you should get out there and ask the real people, the people that have the children's interest at heart, not a group of people that haven't raised their children solely by themselves, but single parent families. Ask them how they would feel to have their children taken away from them for 6 months of the year when they are guilty of nothing.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Kelly', written in a cursive style.