

McGraths Hill Medical Centre

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Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry
Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Fax: 02 45776466	House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
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Secretary:	

Dear Sir/ Madam

Thankyou for the opportunity to submit my thoughts in relation to child custody arrangements in the event of a family separation. I have been in General Practise for many years. I usually see patients a few months prior to the family separation and during the period of the first twelve months after the separation.

I find that the months prior to the separation, the female often connects with her friends, with her family and she is legally better informed, whereas the men are in the state of either denial or too proud to talk to anybody in relation to the difficulties they experience in their relationship.

While the women are pro-active and positive, prior to the separation the men often are on the negative pattern and re-active. During this phase I believe that men are disconnected from their relationships, they are isolated, they are hurt, angry and depressed and still are not seeking any help. I believe that it is during this phase that a lot of harm is done, which leads to physical abuse against the woman during and post-separation time. In the post-separation phase there is a lot of struggle to manipulate and control the children often by the females.

I believe if the system was fair to both separating parents then there is less likelihood of the

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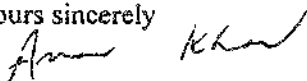
male committing physical abuse against the females and the fairer system would not reward the manipulation and control of the children often by the females.

The fairer system to me is in which the children will spend equal time with each parent and each parent is responsible for the child's financial and emotional needs during that child's stay with that parent. And in the circumstances where one parent doesn't have the financial capacity to pay for the child's need the other parent should pay for the financial need of the children but the money if possible and practical should be directed directly at the child's needs. For example, pay the school fees, the clothing etc. In other words the money is not given to the parent it is rather used to pay the bills on behalf of the child. A lot of parents resent paying money to the custodial parents but are quite happy to pay for their children directly if possible.

Children of the separated parents often have a problem for not having the contact with the grandparents because of the present custody arrangements which rewards more time and contact with the grandparents of the custodial parent and restricts the access to the grandparent of the non-custodial parent.

I believe that managing the men's emotional health months leading to the separation would tremendously help them and in turn would reduce the incidents of physical abuse against the women. And in the post-separation period equal financial contribution for the children by each parent and spending equal time with the children will discourage manipulation and control of the children by the parents.

Yours sincerely



Dr Aman Khan
Copy sent to The Hon Alan Cadman MP