



Submission No: 1422

Date Received: 18-8-03

Secretary:

August 18th 2003

Committee Secretary.
Standing Committee on Family & Community Affairs
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA.ACT

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: INQUIRY INTO CHILD CUSTODY/ RESIDENCE
ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EVENT OF FAMILY SEPERATION.**

I welcome the above inquiry as I am currently a victim of a very unfair system where my children and I desperately wanted joint custody arrangements after my children's Mother decided one day she no longer wanted to be married to me.

I have been to hell and back through the emotion and huge financial stresses of dealing with lawyers and the drawn out Family Court system, which lasted over two (2) years.

My lawyer advised me that the Family Court would rarely allow joint custody when the children's mother apposed such arrangements, which I was told would be not be in her best interests financially.

Consequently my limited time with my children is not fair and equal and I long for equal time with my children so I can be a fully responsible parent, not just an occasion parent. I am missing out so much, in seeing them grow up on a more regular basis.

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The children sadly have suffered greatly emotionally and need to spend equal time with each parent as they long for their father's attention and emotional support, which their mother can never provide.

I call on you to push these proposed changes through the system without any delay to prevent the future suffering of all fathers and their children who do not have joint custody arrangements.

Please, please let all fathers have the chance to be equally responsible parents of their children.

Also I am facing in the future due to an agreement which is ceasing early in the new year, more court action from my children's mother regarding Child Support Maintenance payments as she is requesting well above the Child Support Maintenance Formula due to my asset base. Currently the funds I am providing are I believe being used mainly on her lifestyle and support, with only some monies being spent on the children. Obviously I am not happy with this situation and will be fighting this in court and I am hoping you will be addressing this issue with your inquiry as I believe many fathers are financial strangled like myself with unrealistic Child Support payments.

Yours faithfully,

