

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 1431

Date Received: 7-8-03

Secretary:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 7 August 2003 5:35 PM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: Child Custody Arrangements

Dear Sir/Madam

I received a letter from George Sanderson today regarding a letter that I had addressed to the Prime Minister.

I still believe that you are still missing the points in some of the changes that you wish to make. There is many loop holes that the fathers and members of their family can find to make the situation harder than what it already is. I understand the fact that the so called evidence that children develop best when they grow up in stable, caring, nurturing and loving environments. The reason why most of the break down of marriages happen is because this is what is NOT happening in the home so the mother leaves. Example in my case the father showed NO INTEREST in his daughter at all when I was married to him. I leave, he gets a new wife and he wants to play an extra part in her life. Excuse me but you cannot expect a child to suddenly love this person whom has not had much to do with them from the day they were born. As for Grandparents having time with the child, well that depends on how much contact these people have had from the beginning. What about wanting contact even if they are not personally available for the contact and the child is left in a child care centre, or the care of others? Have you ever thought that it is possible that some of the father's are pushing for more time with the child so that they pay less Child Support?

You say you are looking at the best interest of the child but you cant be. Please explain to me how you would be happy put in the care for a weekend or day of someone you hardly know. This distresses a child. I know I've been there. Children are very happy in there comfort zones. You break this zone and all things happen including their speech starts to regress, they have tantrums etc.

My daughter is in a loving, caring, nurturing and stable environment. She loves her step-dad dearly, in fact she has a better relationship with him than her natural father. We had a family assesment done at Family Court and they said that this is not in the best interest of the child and that myself wanting to be at home and taking care of her for 24 hours a day is NOT healthy. They also informed me that they assessed that the natural Father lacks confidence with her. My daughter has my parents close and my partners parents a few streets away, and she has a great relationship with all of them. Her natural grandparents on my ex-husbands side live about 6 hours away and she rarely see's them, so to put her in the situation of; you are going to go this far away from home to see these people that you hardly know would be very daunting for her.

I know of well educated, religious, wealthy families that have raised the children in a loving, nurturing and caring environment and these children have gone onto drugs, stealing, having children out of wedlock, not respecting their parents or other adults. This is not the answer you can not put every single case in the same category.

What would happen if you put a child in 50/50 care of a person who was abusive to the partner. They say yes I have changed, I have had anger management, it wont happen again, and then they turned on the child and the child got hurt? It is too late to say sorry once it's done. Same policy goes for sexual assualt, these are all things that need to be considered.

Regards
[REDACTED]

20/08/2003