

Submission No: 135

Date Received: 16-7-03

Secretary:

1. **Equal time with each parent.**
2. **Greater family relationships**
3. **Violence**

1. **Equal time with each parent.**

1. I would like to continue my life with my children being a part of my life. I would like my children to have me as a part of their lives. This is the most important thing in my life. I am lucky that I currently have equal access to my children but the family court battle is incomplete and I am not confident that the status quo will remain. My experience has led me to believe that many people are of the opinion that children should live with their mother.

At the interim hearing the Judicial Registrar said that it is unlikely that the court will grant shared custody to two parents who do not have a good relationship. I believe that this policy encourages my ex-wife to be augmentative so that the court will give her custody of our children.

I have an excellent relationship with my children and don't know what impact being marginalised will have on this relationship should it occur.

2. **Greater family relationships**

2. My children's Grand parents who also have a good relationship and have a strong interest in their grand children will also be marginalised by the court granting custody to my ex-wife.

3. **Violence**

3. Violence was never an issue in my life until my separation. Since the separation and without any details allegations and abuse of violence are common. These allegations impact on meetings, court and family matters.

It appears to be an acceptable tactic in the family court. I have experienced that the constant repeating of allegations of violence even if no supporting evidence or details are provided other than affidavits from my ex-wife, her solicitor, legal team and councillor does impact on decisions in the family court. The court appointed councillor just acknowledging that the wife has made these allegations gives them credence. I thought a Judge would see through these allegations but it appears if you throw enough mud some of it does stick.

