

Submission No: 766

Date Received: 8-8-03

Secretary:

Sent: Friday, 8 August 2003 7:11 PM
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)
Subject: Child contact arrangements

To whom it concerns,

After bringing before the Family Court, the issue of contact with my sons, a magistrate declared that although the Court system can achieve many things, it cannot make an unreasonable person see reason! Breaches of an existing order had been more abundant than instances of compliance. The Mother of the children (former spouse) has vowed she will not allow contact between father and sons. **The court did nothing to address the situation, nor applied any penalty, the magistrate merely suggesting the Mother make more effort, and perhaps the children, aged 9 years and 13 years at the time, were close to deciding for themselves.**

My payments to the Child Support Agency have been regular, except for a period when I was made redundant in my employment. There are no overdue payments, and there is no court order against child contact. In short, my obligation has been, and continues to be fulfilled. This should not be a factor, or condition relating to child contact.

My question is this: Why is there no mechanism, or Government funded organization to ensure the obligation of the resident parent to provide reasonable contact? The rights and *real* support of children in the area of Parental contact are ignored by the CSA. Taxpayer funded collection of "Child Support" money, ensures a healthy bank balance for resident Parents, however, some of the fervor shown by officers of the CSA, (in their money grab) should be directed also on behalf of the children, to ensure a reasonable contact arrangement with their absent parent.

Lacking any tangible alternative, Fathers and Children, are are subject to the greedy, mercenary manipulations demonstrated by those connected with the court system, in a symbiosis that I find particularly distressing, disappointing and ultimately disgusting. Biased heavily in favour of the resident parent, all concerned should feel shame for their contribution to the destruction of the Family unit.

