

Submission No: 1540

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Secretary:

Madam Chairman and other members of parliament.

My name is [REDACTED] and my subject is my belief that the Child Support system in a nutshell is an **adversarial** system.

Seated next to me is my lovely daughter. She has a good mum and until recently was in her custody. When she was 4 her mum took her to [REDACTED] and then only recently back to [REDACTED]

To get her back or have joint custody my lawyers said "You can't just get it you have to find something wrong with her mum". For example violence, alcohol, etc. etc. There is really nothing wrong with her mum it's just that our relationship broke down.

I desperately wanted to share custody with [REDACTED] but my lawyers said it was a waste of time. Statistically the courts award custody to the mum.

Since her mum has been ill [REDACTED] has come back to me and [REDACTED] goes to her mum's on weekends. It is the most wonderful experience for both [REDACTED] and I. She experiences a father. I am tougher on discipline. I don't let her do things that her mum does. She is learning about her brothers as her brother lives with me. She is learning about men, we are different.

In conclusion the courts had no right to take [REDACTED] away from me or me away from [REDACTED]. She needs both a mum and a dad influence on a regular basis. We now are in the process on arranging privately joint custody where [REDACTED] will live with me 50% of the time and 50% with mum.

When [REDACTED] left all I thought of was despair. I thought of suicide. Revenge. Do I go and steal my child back. I thought of ownership of children. - We don't own our children. They own us.

It is important to for this committee to understand that **if I knew that it was only a temporary situation and that it would only be a matter of time maybe a week or so before I have access and equal custody of my child I would not have gone into a hole which leads to all of the above feelings.**

Please for the child's sake let the Family Court bring in having a mandatory 50/50 custody rule