

INTRODUCTION

I make this submission to this committee as a single father who feels very strongly that the current family law act is long overdue to change to better reflect the needs of all parties involved in the event of family separation.

If parents are unable to resolve the care of their child the child should have the right to have equal access to both parents, not have a parent taken away by the court.

The court should recognise the importance of both parents to allow the child to develop into a well-adjusted adult. The current system supports a winner loser loser situation. The losers, generally being the fatherless child and the father.

Given that the best interests of the child are paramount consideration, I fail to understand with all the latest statistics reflecting it serves the child's best interest to spend as much time as possible with both parents, why does the family court not encourage this.

I am a correctional officer in a men's maximum-security prison and find almost all offenders come from fatherless homes.

I find this very disturbing and believe the lack on an appropriate male role model has in many cases "De-railed" these offenders lives many years before they became an adult.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### RESPONSE

(a)

- (i) Criminal record, character
- Proven Domestic violence (supported by conviction)
- Substance abuse that will impede a parent to take adequate care of the child
- Inability to provide safe, secure and stable accommodation
- A parent is unable to provide adequate care
- Considering where the child resided pre separation neither parent should have the ability to relocate the child if it impedes on the other parent to have a 50/50 contact arrangement
- Breast Fed infants
  
- (ii) Grandparents should have the right to spend the same amount of time with their grandchildren post separation as they did prior to separation. The court should have the ability to make an order if contact is being denied by the parent's. The grandparent's character and ability to care for the children should be considered.

(b)

I believe the current child support formula is unfair. I believe if a 50/50 care arrangement exists, no child support should be payable by either parent. A fair formula would be a sliding scale per level of contact. Based on the current formula of 18% for 1 child.

50/50 - No Child support

60/40 - 3.6%

70/30 - 7.2%

80/20 - 10.8%


90/10 - 14.4%

No Contact - 18%

## SUMMARY

I implore this committee to recommend changes to the family law act to make it a better, fairer system for all involved, in particular the children. This committee must recognise a child's right to have equal access to both parents in most circumstances.

It should be a child's right to spend as much time with both parents as possible, and the courts should actively encourage this and recognise this as serving the child's best interests.



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