

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 678

Date Received: 7-7-03

Secretary: .....

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 7 July 2003 2:03 PM  
**To:** Committee, FCA (REPS)  
**Subject:** CHILD JOINT CUSTODY

Please help our Men be Dads!!!!

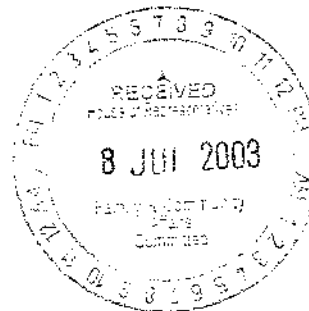
My husband had actually been granted joint custody for his 3 children. However, his exwife continually sabotaged access arrangements and the children's attitudes. We tried negotiating through family lawyers etc, and after many thousands of dollars, ruining us financially, finally accessed the children once again only to find them extremely emotionally disturbed, to the point where the youngest at nine, was being psychologically assessed at the schools request. After some months of trying to re-establish relationships the exwife once again sabotaged access visits, and they have now just disappeared, shifting from their family home. We have no contact as she would refuse to give phone numbers etc. We have no idea where the children are, irrespective of the fact that their father has legal 'joint custody'! He has always tried to maintain contact but it has been made impossible now that they have gone without letting us know where to. We were not even aware they were shifting. Of course the legal system does not support these fathers, and apparently legal documents are not worth the paper they are written on as nobody wants to enforce these rights even when someone is obviously in defiance of court orders. It does not matter whether you speak to local police or federal police. No one wants to know. And the children wonder why their dads 'desert' them. How long do we support a fatherless generation? And how long until our government takes steps to ensure our children's mental health and well being?

Please do something so that future generations have the opportunity to grow up with their dads so they too know how to be an effective father. What role models do our children have if they don't have a father? This is a ticking time bomb.

**PLEASE HELP OUR DADS BY CHANGING LEGISLATION!**

Thanks for taking time to listen

[REDACTED]  
Broken hearted step mum.



8/07/2003