

28TH July, 2003.

Committee Secretary,
Standing Committee on Family & Community Affairs,
Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry,
Department of the House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
Canberra A.C.T. 2600,
Australia.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
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Secretary:	

To Whom It May Concern.

I would like to present my submission in favour of shared parenting. As a grandmother of 7 grandchildren, I believe the fathers of split situations should have every right to bring up their children as the mother does. I as a female don't think the mother always has the right to withhold her child from the father and dish out his custody of the child when it suits her moods. My son is going through this situation at this time. It is affecting his health badly and peace of mind. He never knows one week from the next when or if he is going to see his son. Mind you my son has been principal carer from when his son was born three years ago. His child has special needs as he was born cystic fibrosis and requires constant attention and care to make sure he gets looked after properly. My son took it on himself to want to be carer while his partner had a business in Byron Bay and went back to work part-time. If my son had not been around she wouldn't have had the loving care given to the child from the child's birth that he had been able to give my grandchild. At the moment a tug of war is going on which I believe is affecting the child, as he loves his dad as well as his mother and she constantly withholds him from his father and it must be causing the child untold trauma. She is one of those mothers that won't answer the phone and has everything on the answering machine, so my son can't converse with her on the child's health, but she constantly hands him computer printouts of her demands etc. He has even been harassed by her solicitors when the child was late back as no one would pick up the phone to let him know if they were home. So my grandson chose to stay with his father one more night. I don't know how fathers can keep going through this torture of their mind, body and spirit, and the sooner the law is changed so that they can have equal share the better. It would make it even better for the grandparents as it makes it very unpleasant when you are the mother of one party or the other, so communication even becomes difficult while all this tug of war is going on.

I know I am only one person in this fight but I am sure there are thousands that would like to see this law changed for the good of the parents and not the solicitors who may be representing one party and don't give a damn about the other who may not have resources to fight through the family court, who don't seem to do the right thing by both parties at times. So lets see some sanity reign in 2003. and bring on a change for the better to benefit both parents but most of all this is for the child first and foremost.

Yours truly,
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