

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

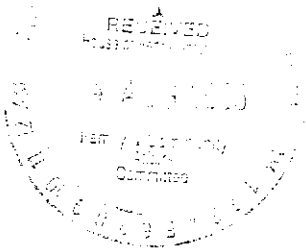
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Secretary:

643 Tallebudgera Creek Rd
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25th July, 2003

The Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Child Custody Arrangement Inquiry
Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra 2600



Dear Sir/Madam,

Before I address the terms of reference of this inquiry I would like to add some points of my own. As the mother of a son who has had to return to the family court many times seeking fairer access to his two children, and who has still not succeeded, I have seen how the legal fraternity and family court operate. This is where your investigation should start. Greedy lawyers, unprepared barristers, formula ruling judges and magistrates, poorly skilled counsellors, useless court orders, blatant perjury, unquestioned violence orders, no recognition of parental alienation and its effect on children, the presumption that men are always guilty, children don't need their fathers and it is the woman's right to ruin the man financially are endemic.

Families return to the courts many times hoping for justice but there is no justice in these courts, only heartbreak and bewilderment and pontification from the courts about the child's welfare. Investigate your courts and the influence of the militant feminists and inept findings of counsellors.

Terms of reference:

a)
i) Equal shared parenting should be mandatory except in circumstances where there is already proven alcoholism, drug dependency, violence or paedophilia. If it is not already proven, the person withholding the child has three months to prove the allegation.

If a parent does not want access there seems no point in forcing the issue.

If a parent, because of work commitments, cannot have regular parenting arrangements a court must decide a fair and flexible arrangement of equal time if the parties cannot agree.

ii) If equal parenting is adopted by the courts the grandparents and other family members will have a good opportunity to see the children regularly making a court order unnecessary.

If it is not adopted, grandparents should be awarded one overnight stay in the week the father does not see the child.

If the grandparents do not live close enough for this arrangement then one week three times a year during school holidays or if not of school age at any time convenient to both parties.

Children should be allowed to attend family reunions, milestone birthdays, christenings, and funerals.

If a babysitter is needed for the child the father or paternal family members should be asked first before the child is left with outsiders.

b)

The child support formula should be based on how much it costs to keep a child at the level the child was accustomed to. Not on a percentage of the father's gross salary which is unjust and indicates vengeance.

The mother, particularly those receiving large amounts, should be made to account for the money. Often school fees are unpaid and fathers have to foot the bill to avoid their children being expelled and traumatised. Clothes are often not bought and dentists not seen regularly. Many of these women have retained the family house, contents and car and with the rising values of houses are getting richer by the day. Fathers on the other hand are left with no money to buy a house and with rising prices less and less chance of ever being able to do so. Most end up in miserable little flats.

A father's contribution to child maintenance should be lowered if the mother is earning good money.

I am the proud mother of three good Australian men brought up with good moral values who have never had any trouble with the law or drugs. Brought up to respect the law and other people. One is in research with C.S.I.R.O. Another a Qantas 1st Officer and the youngest a major in the army. Their grandparents cannot believe the law has treated one of their grandsons so cruelly. Friends of mine have told me they fear for their sons when they see what the courts are letting women get away with today.

What a sad day for Australia when men are being punished by the courts on a vengeful woman's perjured testimony and lazy judges adhering to the every second weekend judgement because anything else is a bit too hard.

One last point. Who investigates the lover moved into the family home once the iniquitous trumped up violence order has been served? NO ONE
Who is the biggest offender of child cruelty and molestation? THE DEFACTO

Yours faithfully,

Leslev Gurnev



c.c. Margaret Mav M.P. Larry Anthony M.P.