

Submission No: 369

Date Received: 6-8-03

Secreta

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I'm writing in regards to the inquiry into the child custody arrangement in the event of separation, by the parliamentary committee.

I am 22 years of age, engaged, and have a four and a half year old son, [REDACTED]. Twelve months ago, my fiance and myself were forced into taking legal action against [REDACTED] mother, [REDACTED] for the right to see my son. [REDACTED] and I had an agreement that I saw my son on a regular basis (not through court order), until June 2002, after an argument she put an end to this agreement. It took two months, and thousands of dollars for the court to grant me access to see my son every weekend.

I have listed some reasons below, why I believe I should have equal rights to access to my son:

- My son states 'I hate my house, I don't want to go there' when we have to take him home. Why should he have to stay with his mother for the majority of his time, when he doesn't want to?
- I can provide better care, housing and can spend as much quality time with him due to financial situation and choice of career.
- Although nobody wants to say it or hear it, the government would save money because, instead of laying out so much money on single mothers pension the mothers could work for at least half of the time.
- So that my son can spent adequate quality time with his grandparents
- I would like to be involved with [REDACTED] schooling, but his mother on previous occasion has not informed me of different events i.e. mass practice for his baptism, but would be able to get information from the school first hand.

In closing, I strongly believe that my son would benefit from spending more time with my fiance, his paternal grandparents, and myself. But the legal system, being the way it is, and without your help, it cannot be possible.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

PS If I can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.