

From: Rob Matthews [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2003 5:08 PM  
To: Committee, FCA (REPS)  
Subject: FW: Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry

House of Representatives Standing Committee  
on Family and Community Affairs

Submission No: 846  
Date Received: 8-8-03

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Rob Matthews  
> Sent: Friday, 8 August 2003 5:04 PM  
> To: 'FCA.REPS@aph.gov.au'  
> Subject: Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry  
>  
> Committee Secretary  
> Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs  
> Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry  
> Department of the House of Representatives  
> Parliament House  
> Canberra ACT 2600  
> Australia  
> 08/08/03  
>  
>

> Dear Secretary,

> Joint custody must be a starting point for any custody arrangements.

>  
> Currently the Family Court factors in the mother's sole custody  
> immediately in the property settlement and then the Child Support  
> Agency enforces a continuing maintenance level higher than the Bureau  
> of Statistics figures of child upbringing. If joint custody was the  
> norm, a fairer property settlement would be arrived at.  
> Then realistic equal support to cover the upbringing of the children could  
> be arranged from both the mother and the father.

>  
> In many cases it is impossible for the father to be at work and to  
> look after the children at the same time. In these cases the custody  
> arrangements must be altered to suit the situation.  
> Equally the same applies in the mother's case if she is involved with a  
> career.

>  
> Most importantly the children would have much more contact with both  
> the mother and father in joint custody. Even though the mother and  
> father are divorced, both parents share equally the responsibility of  
> parenting in its many facets therefore joint custody is extremely  
> important for the best upbringing of the children.

>  
> I have a disability, muscular dystrophy. I continue to work under  
> difficulty, and find the unfair property settlement due to the  
> mother's sole custody, an unusually high child support formula and  
> limited contact with our children most disturbing.

>  
> Joint custody would improve many of the negative aspects of the  
> present system I have described above.

> Yours faithfully,

>  
> Kenneth Robert Matthews  
> 149 Fuller Street.  
> Narrabeen NSW 2101

